



Silhouettes

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The Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick



A BORING VIEW?

**NOT AT ALL: EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS
OF MONCTON'S TIDAL BORE**

Silhouettes

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A BORING VIEW? NOT AT ALL: EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS OF MONCTON'S TIDAL BORE

“The very water, shining placidly beyond the wide expanse of soft clay, seemed waiting in expectancy, and, struggling to our ears from the far distance, came a faint suggestion of sound, a whisper in the ear of Mother Earth. A moment more and this sound was augmented ten-fold; then, at the curve of the stream just below, a flash, a sparkle in the clear moonlight. Another instant, and all across the wide riverbed, in a mad rush of tremendous rapidity, came the wall of water, at least four feet in height, roaring on and on, a great white-crested wave, reflecting the clear moonlight.”

— Eliza B. Chase (1902) *In Quest of the Quaint*,
Philadelphia: Ferris & Leach.

When these lines were published just after the turn of the twentieth century, the Tidal Bore or *Le Mascaret*, as it is called in French, was not a well-known phenomenon, even in Moncton where the scene was witnessed. After arriving in the young city by train and not knowing where to view it, the writer Eliza Chase asked around. “No one at the station or hotel could enlighten us,” she wrote, and even ordinary people on the street did not seem to know where it could be witnessed. “Accosting some urchins,” she wrote, “with the query, ‘When does the Bore come in?’ they look blank, ‘Don’t know,’ and as they follow in our wake one questions the other, ‘I say, what is the Bore anyway?’” Eventually, Miss Chase learned when and where to see it from helpful staff at the post office.

The place to see it was, of course, by the river, the Petitcodiac River, a tidal river which flows into the Bay of Fundy via Shepody Bay but which is also, in effect, an extension of the bay — the river becoming a release valve for a portion of the tremendous volume of water which fills the huge bay twice daily. The tidal bore phenomenon is not uncommon around the world — there are other famous bores on the Severn in England, the Amazon in Brazil and the Hooghly in India, just as three examples. And of course, the term *Le Mascaret* refers originally to bores on French rivers such as the Garonne and the Dordogne, in the southwest region of France where the Acadian peoples originated from.

Cover photo: *Moncton's Tidal Bore* by Percy Crandall, c. 1899.

A bore, is the result in effect a reversal of the tide: instead of the river flowing toward the sea, the sea flows inland. In this respect, the tidal bore is akin to the Reversing Falls of Saint John. While the Bay of

Fundy's great tidal range has long been noted and the tidal bore was known about,¹ it probably received the first significant attention when *Scientific American* published an article about it in 1899. That article

includes two photographs of the bore, unfortunately unattributed, one showing low tide and the other showing the bore from a slightly elevated position.

But so far as I can determine, the first published photograph of the Tidal Bore appeared two years earlier in 1897, in *McAlpine's Illustrated Tourists and Traveller's Guide* as seen below.² Note that the image shows the edge of the wharf where the photographer stood to get the picture.

After these two images were published, it seems there must have been a contest between two local photographers—Clarence Northrup and Percy Crandall—to see who could get a more dramatic picture of the bore, one captured nearer to sea level. In 1910, a travel writer named G.F. Afalo, who purchased a Northrup image for publication, wrote about the difficulty involved in achieving such a picture:

¹ For example, Eliza Chase mentions the tidal bore in an earlier book, *Over the Border: Acadia, the home of "Evangeline"* (1884). But she chose not to visit at that time, “not receiving answer to our application for accommodations.” Besides, she said amusingly, she and her friends “could see a bore any day.”

² Sincere thanks to James Gow of The Odd Book in Wolfville, Nova Scotia for providing this image from his rare edition of *McAlpine's Illustrated Tourists and Traveller's Guide* (page 377).



THE RUSH OF WATERS, OR THE "BORE," FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES HIGH, AT MONCTON, N. B.



THE BORE (SHOWING RIVER BEND) MONCTON, N. B.

“[the tidal bore] is no subject for the photographer who is here today and gone tomorrow [as Afalo was]. I had ... suspected something of the difficulty of standpoint and perspective ... and ... I was obliged to visit Mr. Northrup, a local photographer, who, after three years of disappointments, at length obtained a picture of the bore that is a triumph of photography under difficulties. To get it in this aspect, he had to stand, with his tripod in the ooze, and then, having

taken his picture, to bolt like a rabbit behind the angry waters ... I am glad to give a reproduction of Mr. Northrup's picture, which is admittedly the best ever taken of the bore.”³

The book was published in 1911 but the photograph was likely made before 1901 because that was about the time Northrup retired as a photographer. Below is the resulting image as published in Afalo's book.



Photo by CE Northrup for F.G. Afalo "A fisherman's summer in Canada"(ca 1911)

³ G.F. Afalo (1911) *A Fisherman's Summer in Canada*, London: Witherby & Co., pp. 95–96.

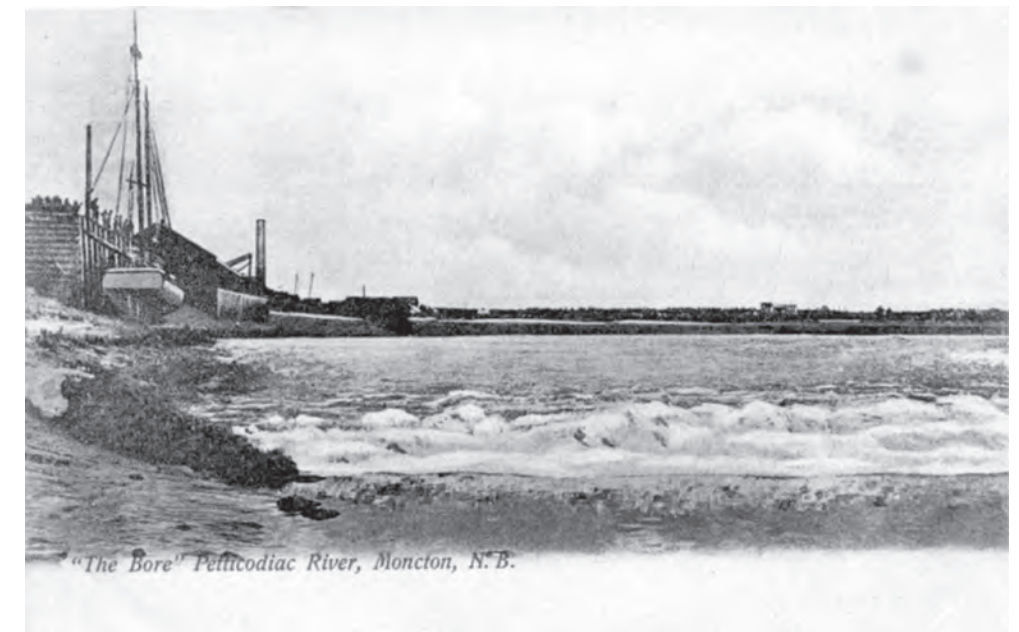
Afalo commented that this is “the best ever taken of the bore,” which suggests he may have been comparing it to the *Traveller's Guide* or *Scientific American* examples. Afalo's book was not the first time the picture was published, however. As published, the picture is very dark, but the skyline is the same in the two postcards shown below, and the foreground features on the left are similar, suggesting they are derived from the same shot.

All three of these images have been re-worked. Notice they all contain different clouds. Clouds were added because, at that time, photographic chemistry did not capture the contrast of the colour blue, so the sky and clouds tended to register as white. It was a common practice to add clouds at the printing stage.

The lead photo for this article displays the featureless sky, typical of the period. Captured by Percy Crandall,



Postcard dated 1908.
(CEAAC collection via Wikimedia Commons.)



Postcard postmarked 1912,
published by City Bookstore,
Moncton. (Author's collection.)

"The Bore" Petitcodiac River, Moncton, N.B.

it seems to be contemporary with that made by Northrup, though perhaps slightly earlier. Evidence for this comes from a cabinet card with the year 1899 written on the back.⁴

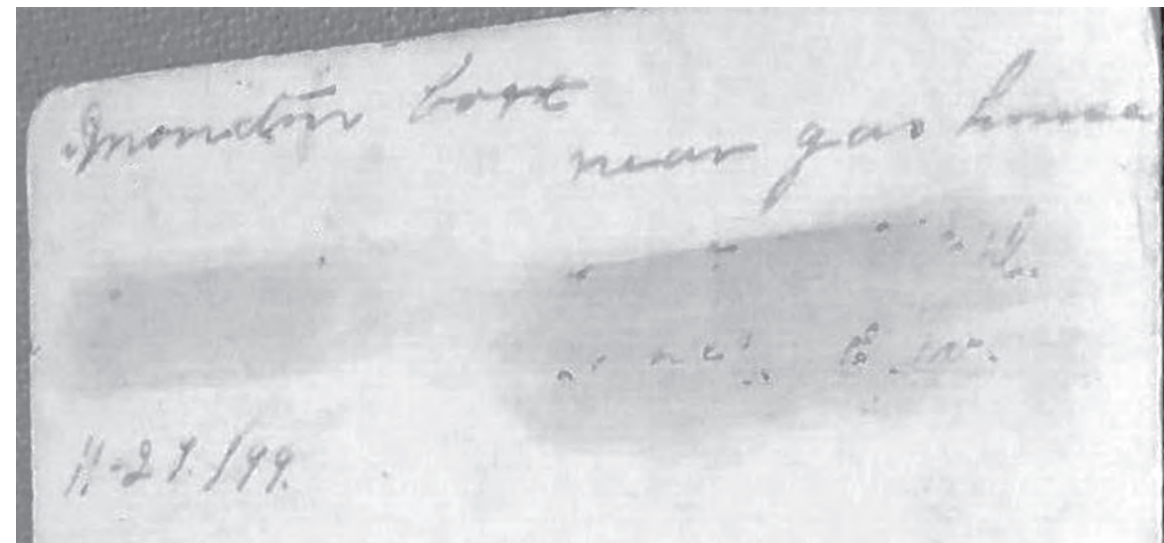
After this date, it seems that Crandall either sold or licensed his image to photographer Isaac Erb of Saint

John. In 1904, Erb published a catalogue of views from around the Maritimes which included the Crandall image, titled “No 553. The famous tidal bore.”

Evidence that the title refers to the Crandall image comes from the fact that a full-size negative is preserved by the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick



Cabinet card bearing the Crandall imprint.



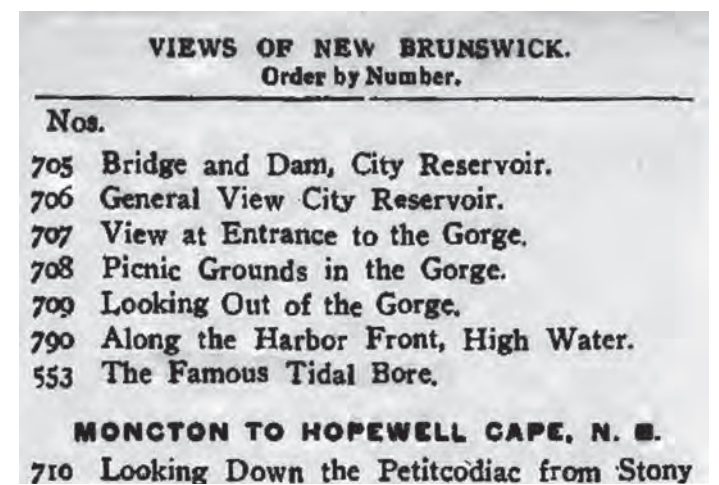
Handwritten notation: Moncton ??? near gas house 11-27/99.

⁴ The cabinet card was offered for sale in 2019 on eBay, from which these images were obtained.

in the Erb collection. Intriguingly, the negative, as shown below, shows slightly less of the shoreline than the Crandall original but all of the foreground elements, notably the distinctive rock.



While the Crandall and Northrup versions seem to have been the most commonly reproduced, other images of the tidal bore were produced around the turn of the century and are worthy of note. First is a postcard published in England by the Raphael Tuck & Sons, a major manufacturer of picture postcards. Foreground rocks on the left side of the image are the same as



Excerpt from Erb's 1904 catalogue. It is interesting that this catalogue was published just as picture postcards were starting to be common. It could be a fascinating study to determine how many of these images were photographed by the Erb studio, and how many ended up un-credited on postcards.

those in the Crandall image, and the wave is in the same location. This is clearly the same base photograph, but the large rock in the water has been edited out and replaced by what looks like pieces of wood protruding from the water. This was presumably to avoid a claim of copyright infringement.



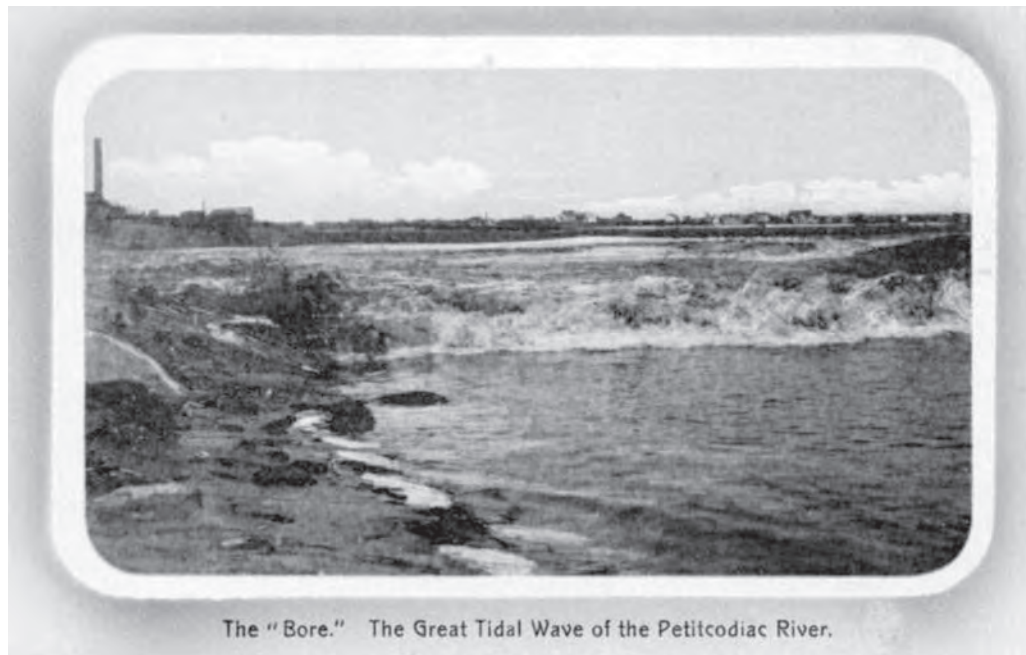
Postcard manufactured by Raphael Tuck & Sons, postmarked 1916. This seems to be based on Crandall's original negative, with the distinctive rock in the foreground edited out.

Though also captured “in the ooze” at sea level, the following view is similar but can be distinguished by the small flat rock in the water near the shoreline. It is a dramatic looking wave and it would therefore be of interest to find a larger version. This postcard was published by Valentine & Sons Publishers and sold by R.R. Colpitts in Moncton.

The final image is from a lantern slide in the Smith Studio collection at the Archives. Taken from the same general position as the images noted above, the photographer (probably Albert Hickman, 1878-1957) tripped the shutter a little earlier than the others, obtaining a slightly less dynamic image. This might not have been seen as a problem as the image would have been projected onto a screen and thus might have seemed more impressive.

I welcome other examples and insights from readers. Have you seen earlier examples than those presented here? Are you aware of other early photographers who captured images of this fascinating natural phenomenon? ■

JEFF WARD



The “Bore.” The Great Tidal Wave of the Petitcodiac River.

Undated postcard published for Moncton stationer R.R. Colpitts.

(NB Museum item no. X14023.)



Lantern slide showing the tidal bore in the middle distance.

(Provincial Archives of New Brunswick Smith Studio No. P12\139.)

FINDING CLARA

AT PANB

The hardcover notebook at the top of the open box caught my eye. A recordbook? A ledger? A diary? The George A. Rawlyk Library at Crandall University was in the early stages of a major renovation, and the archives and special collections were being boxed up, including this set of as-yet-uncatalogued items. Unable to resist, I turned the pages and discovered that it was the journal of a young nineteenth-century New Brunswick woman. Clara Northrup was born in Springfield, Kings County in 1845, and began keeping this journal in 1864, when she was 19 years of age. She wrote regularly for the next few months, and then made entries occasionally—often on the anniversary of her religious conversion—for the next 30 years. Trained as a teacher, Clara taught in Kings and Queens Counties, and married Charles W. Pearce in 1865, and the couple made their home in Cambridge Narrows, Queens County.

Clara’s journal was primarily an aid for her religious reflection. Raised a Methodist, Clara and Charles became active members of the Second Cambridge Narrows Baptist Church. Clara confided to the journal, often in the form of prayers, about her struggles with breast cancer, her experience as a young teacher, the destruction of their home by fire, and her increasing leadership in women’s missionary societies, among more quotidian themes.

Each year, I teach a course on how historians think, research, and write. I decided to make Clara’s journal the centrepiece of the 2023 edition of the course: “Finding Clara: Telling the story of a nineteenth-century New Brunswick woman, her diary, and her world.”

Students began by transcribing the journal, then crowdsourced a chronology of Clara’s life, and identified themes for further research. Several people shared their expertise along the way. Colleagues at the Centre d’études acadiennes Anselme-Chiasson at the Université de Moncton digitized the journal. Professor Catharine Wilson of the Rural Diary Archive at the University of Guelph gave us a primer on the value of reading journals as historical sources. Professor Emerita Gail Campbell of UNB shared from her

experience researching *“I Wish to Keep a Record”*: *Nineteenth-Century New Brunswick Women Diarists and Their World*, a text for the course.¹

On a Saturday in October 2023, we took the Finding Clara project on the road. The first stop was the Baptist Cemetery at Cambridge Narrows on the banks of Washedemoak Lake. There in the community where Clara had spent her life and devoted her considerable energy, we found her grave marker. Students laid flowers in her memory, sang a verse of one of Clara’s oft-quoted hymns,

and chose a few short readings from the journal, such as this entry from March 1864: “I think that perhaps these lines which I am now penning may be read by some loved one when the hand that penned them is cold in death.” It was a chance to make a personal

“I think that perhaps these lines which I am now penning may be read by some loved one when the hand that penned them is cold in death.”

¹ Rural Diary Archive, University of Guelph, <https://ruraldiaries.lib.uoguelph.ca/home>. Gail G. Campbell, *“I Wish to Keep a Record”*: *Nineteenth-Century New Brunswick Women Diarists and Their World* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2017).

Teachers Names	Class			Locality
	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Locality
Nelson, Maria DeWolf	"	2	"	St John
Nelly, Hugh	"	2	"	Woodstock
Northrop, Clara F. A.	"	2	"	Springfield
Nugent, Catherine. #	"	"	3	St Martin
Nugent, John	"	2	"	Cambridge
Nasmyth, Mary A. #	"	2	"	Lancaster
Nowlan	"	"	"	Woodstock
Nash	"	"	"	Woodstock
Nils	"	"	"	Woodstock

h do
NORRIS JOHN, brace, bit and auger maker, 38 Brittain
 North John, laborer, h St. Patrick
 Northrup C. E., painter, bds 104 Carmarthen
 Northrup Eli, laborer, h 40 Brussels
 Northrup Elijah P., shoemaker, h 104 Carmarthen
 Northrup James, carpenter, h 26 Exmouth
 Northrup S., shipearpenter, h Middle, Carleton
 Norton John, laborer, h Bay shore, Lancaster
NOTMAN JAMES, photographer, 18 P...
 Lancaster
 Nowlan Robert

do all we can to give it
 in every Christian heart
 I think I hear the response
 to Clara Pearce
 Treas.

connection to the person and place we had been getting to know.

Then, on to Fredericton, to find Clara at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

It is hard to overstate how welcoming and helpful the PANB team was—even for this Saturday field trip. Senior Provincial Archivist Joanna Aiton Kerr offered us a behind-the-scenes tour of the building: the lab-like room where documents are repaired, the creative chaos in which audio-visual media are transferred, and the tables at which sense is made of shoe boxes of donated records. We were all in awe of the Repository. Beyond the sheer size of the space, one student wrote afterwards: “It was truly awe inspiring; endless amounts of stories, lessons, tragedies, and triumphs that define our people, organized with such care and precision.”

Extra reference archivists were on hand to help students find Clara beyond the journal. In the weeks leading up to the visit, we worked with staff to identify collections of interest and likely avenues of research. Students were able to find Clara’s name on the register of teacher licenses for Kings County (RS 115 13.8 Teacher Licenses). They learned more about her involvement as the Treasurer (and later County Secretary) of the Women’s Missionary Society, a force for grass-roots activism in Cambridge Narrows and throughout the Maritimes (MC231 Minutes WMS 1870-1872 MSIC). Students found references to her father’s business as a shoemaker in Kings County and in Saint John in the McAlpine City Directories. And among other details, they saw references to her husband’s involvement with the local temperance lodge and began looking at maps and poll tax data to locate the site of their farm. Together with research that we had been able to do online and with the help of other

archives, students were able to piece together a more complete picture of Clara’s life beyond the journal. It was energizing for all of us to occasionally hear an excited “Hey, look at this!” or “I found Clara!”

I am glad to report that we also experienced our share of frustration and tedium and encountered several dead ends or gaps in the archival record. Glad? This was, after all, a class on how to actually do historical research, and alongside the thrills of discovery and making connections, students were also able

to really see the importance of persistence, thoroughness, and patience as they followed clues. And though it was only a half-day on site, students were able to work with an impressive range of primary sources and research media: ledgers, government documents, maps, teacher licenses, church records, city directories, newspapers, microfilms, and photographs, to name just a few. The reference archivists not only shared their expertise, but also invited students into the research process.

Finding Clara was a collaborative project. Students worked together to transcribe the journal, to crowdsource a biographical chronology and folder of sources,

planned their PANB research, and created in-house podcasts on Clara’s life in historical context. Driving away from Fredericton that day, passing Clara’s Cambridge Narrows on the highway back to Crandall, we had also gained a new gratitude for the meaningful role that archives and archivists play in historical research. ■

“It was truly awe inspiring; endless amounts of stories, lessons, tragedies, and triumphs that define our people, organized with such care and precision.”

KEITH GRANT
 Associate Professor of History
 at Crandall University

ANITA AND TED JONES LIVES WELL LIVED

It is a life well lived when family, friends, and acquaintances remember you for the ways you contributed to their lives. It is even more accomplished if your

work touches those beyond your immediate circle. Then there are those rare people who reach that stratum in multiple ways. Anita and Ted Jones were such people. As teachers, they impacted hundreds of students with their love of learning and passion for helping them realize a path to their goals. Sometimes even identifying what goals might be possible. As well, they supported and participated in many community groups including the York-Sunbury Historical Society, The Interment Camp Museum, Wilmot United Church, and School Days Museum. Despite this abundance of activity, it may well be through their writing that their most-lasting contribution will be felt. All their writing stands as a testament to the work necessary to write history, but their “Fredericton Flashback” column in the *Daily Gleaner* had the widest distribution. Bringing Fredericton’s past to life and shining a light on a litany of little-known facts had many a reader turning to their column as the first thing to see in the paper.

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Those who worked at PANB became familiar with the Joneses over the years and their visits became an exchange of information, puzzle solving, and usually a few laughs. Their visits brought a smile to staff on duty and their energy was contagious. Both Anita and Ted were keen observers of current events and the connections to past events were not lost on them. Readers seldom have any inkling of the time and painstaking searching it requires to produce any historical composition and remember, much of the Joneses’ writing was before or at the very infancy of online sources and searchable collections. Their enthusiasm and dedication made them a dynamic duo, something their low-keyed demeanour concealed. Researchers like the Joneses play an important part in the satisfaction archivists garner from helping the public. The affinity Anita and Ted had for archives and fostering the historical endeavour was demonstrated on many occasions but none more so than in their bequest of their research files to PANB in

the Fall of 2023. They will be missed by all those who knew them and including, the staff of PANB, but their historical, written legacy will last for generations to come. ■

FRED FARRELL

NEW AT THE ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

RS76 Records of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. 1 report: “Observations of the Chief Justice of New Brunswick on a Bill to Establish a Supreme Court for the Dominion of Canada”, presented to Parliament on 21st May 1869 by the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald. 1870. (0.1 m)

RS178 New Brunswick Liquor Corporation Records. Canadian Association of Provincial Liquor Commissioners annual conference minutes, 1944–1988. (0.4m)

RS427 Saint John Municipal Records. Boards and Commissions records, including Planning Advisory Committee, Zoning Appeals Board, Housing Commission, Transit and Transportation Committees, and the Heritage Review Board, 1925–2011. (5.8m)

RS610 Records of George F. Stanley, Lieutenant Governor. Proclamation declaring May 18th Loyalist Day, May 18th, 1983 (English and French); Proclamation declaring the black-capped chickadee an official bird of New Brunswick; August 13th, 1983 (English and French). (0.01m)

RS684 St. George Municipal Records. Council meeting minutes, 1988–2009. (0.3m)

RS741 Records of the Office of Protocol. Certificate signed by Princess Anne – June 1998; Certificate signed by Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip – October 11, 2002; Certificate signed by Governor General Michaëlle Jean and Viceregal consort Jean-Daniel Lafond – May 15, 2007. (0.01m)

RS1006 Department of Intergovernmental Affairs: Administration Records. Records pertaining to Premiers meetings with provincial, territorial, and federal leaders, including the National Aboriginal Organization, discussing various topics including climate change (2015–2017). (0.15m)

RS1136 Shippagan Municipal Records. Council Minutes and other records, 1946–2015. (11.2m)

PRIVATE RECORDS

MC4599 Briggs and Little Woolen Mill Ltd. fonds. 1857–2016. 60 cm. Includes financial records, correspondence, product information, promotional material, photographs, and certificates.

MC4617 Emma A. Randall fonds. 1970–2007. 18 cm. 14 bound diaries (dated 1970–1972; 1995–2003; 2004–2005, 2007). Diaries capture the daily life of smaller rural communities across New Brunswick, conversations with friends and neighbours, the weather, etc.

MC3476 Delta Kappa Gamma Society – Delta Province fonds. 1956–2019. 1.5cm. Cross border meetings, Provincial Executive meetings and AGM minutes.

MC4618 Isabella McBride fonds. 1884–1927. 20cm. Correspondence received by Isabella McBride, the daughter of Irish immigrants.

PHOTOGRAPHS

P1007 Bob Kenny fonds. Golf photos of Archie Skinner, Babe Ruth, and Gordie Howe.

P194-2801.1 Launching of Alexander Morrison's wooden barque, the "Molilamo" in 1875. Northumberland County.

P998-5 Daguerreotype of Esther Elizabeth Wetmore (1830-1867). One of PANB's finest daguerreotype portraits in terms of composition, identification, and preservation.

AUDIO-VIDEO RECORDS

MOVING IMAGES

MC4047 Beaverbrook Art Gallery Collection.

Ads incorporating the work of makeup artist Anthony Clavet. He worked for big clients like L'Oréal, and David Bowie on a couple of his album covers. It was part of BAG exhibit.

MC4111 QHINB Oral History of Richard Blaquiere.

Social justice/activist/teacher, awarded the 1993 New Brunswick Human Rights Award and the YM/YWCA Peace Medallion.

MC3064 Grand Manan Archives. Thirty six 16mm films of early 20th century Grand Manan shot by Dr. George Hodge (1900-1953). Contents mostly of Grand Manan but may also contain Second World War footage in Europe.

SOUND RECORDS

MC3150 Don Roberts collection. "Musical Memories" radio programme, radio show on CHSR by Don Roberts.

MC4563 Music & Musicians of New Brunswick.

New accessions includes material created by Fred McKenna, Mike Bravener, and Irvine P. Lewis (My Home on the Tobique).

MC223 Anglican Diocese of Fredericton fonds.

- 1) The Rev. Terry Fullan at Saint John's Stone Church, Parish of St Mark: "Unity & Stewardship".
- 2) The Anglican Parish of Coldbrook and St. Mary & St. Bartholomew's Church, Rev. David E. Dean – Special Vestry Meeting.

MC4047 Beaverbrook Art Gallery fonds. Files on artists such as Jack Humphrey (research materials on his life), Miller Brittain (correspondence and clippings), Bruno Bobak (exhibits and brochures). ■