



NBGS MIRAMICHI BRANCH NEWS LETTER

FALL 2016

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that summer has gone by so quickly and Fall is here once again. Although we had no formal meetings during the summer, it was once again a busy summer as we participated in the Irish Festival and coordinated the activities of a summer student.

Fall means election time for the Branch. Both the President and Secretary positions will be vacated - please consider offering for one of these. Miramichi Branch cannot continue to operate without an executive. We have been a strong, vibrant branch for 25 years – let's keep it going for another 25!

Now that our Branch meetings have resumed for the year, we hope to have you join us. Come share your information and meet others who may be able to add another piece to your genealogy puzzle.

Submitted by: Faye Baisley, President

CONDOLENCES

NBGS Miramichi extends condolences to member **Sally Davidson** on the death of her daughter, Margaret Davidson, who passed away on September 25, 2106.

We were saddened to learn of the death of one of our 'members from away' - **GAIL HARE** who passed away in Thunder Bay, Ontario on September 17, 2016. (August 24, 1950 - September 17, 2016)

Gail was the daughter of the late Wilson Hare and Della (Hare) MacLean (nee Mills). Born and educated in Newcastle, NB, Gail lived in Aylmer and Ottawa before settling in Thunder Bay in 1977. After working for Canada Car & Foundry (now Bombardier) for a few years, she was employed by Service Canada and retired in late 2010 after 27 years of service.

Very proud of her east coast heritage, Gail enjoyed researching the family's genealogy and sharing stories of her ancestors. We extend condolences to her family and friends including her brother **Blaine Hare** who recently joined Miramichi Branch.

MEETING BY MEETING

NBGS Miramichi Branch would like to update local members who have not been able to join us at monthly meetings, as well as those from 'away" on the activities of the group. With this in mind, we will let you know about the interesting speakers we have had lately and those who are booked to speak at upcoming branch meetings. If you are in the area, plan to drop in. Our meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday evening of the month (with the exception

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of July, August and December) at the Chatham Public Library, King Street, Miramichi East at 6:15 pm.

May - In May, **Charlotte Loggie** was our guest speaker. Charlotte spoke about her story delving into her family history here and overseas – with a lineage dating back nearly 1,000 years.

June – regular business meeting. The Saturday preceding the meeting, we held the Sally Armstrong Event. *(See write-up on the event on page 6)*

July & August – no regular meetings held. In July, the Branch participated in the Miramichi Irish Festival. This year the Chatham Library very kindly offered us the use of their conference room for Friday and Saturday. All Branch holdings were on display as well as a collection of Irish books. Anna MacDonald once again coordinated this event for us and manned the display for two days with help from our summer student and a number of branch member volunteers.

September – regular business meeting where we caught up after a couple of meeting free months. We also held our Annual Meet & Greet and presented our volunteer recognition award (see below).

Submitted by: Judy Vautour

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DECEMBER 2016

This year, 2016, marks the 25th anniversary of NBGS Miramichi. Throughout the year we have had a number of events as part of our year-long celebration. At the April monthly meeting we had an anniversary cake which was cut by one of our charter members, Velna Dickson, and members reminisced about their time in the group. In June, we hosted an afternoon with Sally Armstrong (*see page 6*). To close out our anniversary celebrations, we will be having a Christmas Social on Saturday, December 3rd, at the Seaman's Hospital. This will be an afternoon event and we hope to have members, past and present, join us for this get together. More details will be provided in the coming weeks as plans are finalized.

MEMBER VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD 2016

Each year Miramichi Branch recognizes a member for their contributions to NBGS Miramichi with our annual volunteer recognition award. This year the Branch recognized long time member and dedicated volunteer **Dianne Mullin**. As her profile in this publication clearly shows, Dianne leads a busy life but continues to serve on the Branch Board as a Director and at the Provincial level as Membership Chair. She is always one of the first to volunteer for branch activities. However, perhaps Dianne's greatest contribution is managing our publication sales. Her tremendous work in this area is certainly one of the primary reasons our Branch maintains a healthy bank balance. Thank you, Dianne for your continuing work on Branch activities. It is much appreciated!!

Submitted by: Faye Baisley

MEMBER/PAST MEMBER PROFILES

In recognition of our 25th anniversary this year, Miramichi Branch wanted to recognize some of our charter and early members as well as those who have remained members over the years. Below are some profiles that appeared in early editions of the newsletter, as well as a few new ones.

Carman Willison is the person directly responsible for the creation of NBGS-Miramichi. Carman's interest in genealogy was sparked about 30 years ago by the fact that his grandfather had 5 siblings

that had all died in the same year due to various illnesses. Another sibling died about a year later. Because he had spent most of his life away from home (in the armed forces), he found on his return that he really didn't know many family members. He worked on his own for many years piecing family history together and wondered why nothing had been transcribed from microfilm for general use in this area. When he discovered that Carl Landry was involved in compiling genealogy records for St. Michael's Museum, the two men collaborated so the same material would not be duplicated. Carman became interested in forming a genealogy group on the Miramichi and visited various branches of the NBGS. He spoke to Parker Manderson and put a notice in the local newspaper for anyone interested to attend a meeting. Our Miramichi Branch of the NBGS was formed a few months later in 1991. Carman was listed as a qualified researcher for many years, but is no longer actively involved in that work. He was the editor of *Generations* for 2 years, president of Miramichi Heritage for 10 years and vice-president for 8 years and president of NBGS-Miramichi for 7 years. He and his second wife, the former **Nellie Waye** live in Miramichi and they both have published books on their families.

Avadne Connolly was one of the three founding members of NBGS-Miramichi Branch. Avadne became interested in genealogy when she joined an Ottawa genealogy group with her son-in-law in 1969. After she moved back to live on the Miramichi, she joined the Capital Branch of NBGS because there was no genealogy society on the Miramichi. When the Miramichi Branch formed in 1991, Avadne was one of its first members. She started to record Northumberland County cemetery information for our local branch in 1991 and covered most of Miramichi. She was very helpful finding information for other members, especially if someone new came on board. She was a homemaker, a member of Knox United Church, Loggieville, a former member of the UCW of that church; a member of the Miramichi Historical Society and the Natural History Museum. She passed away in 2001 at the age of 84. Among her legacy was a collection of obituaries from the local newspapers which our group has typed and added to our obituary collection.

Velna (MacKnight) Dickson is also one of the founding members of branch and is still active in the society today. Velna's interest in genealogy was sparked by sitting at the end of the couch listening to her uncle, **George MacKnight**, telling how the Macknight's came to Tyrrell's Point or listening to her father and her uncle, **Wesley**, from Saint John telling family stories. Velna had called **Carmen Williston** for a Fowlie-Williston connection and Carmen asked if she would be interested in a genealogy society on the river. She was interested, attended the first meeting and became Carmen's successor as President; a position she held for seven years.

Velna is a retired teacher and is involved not only in genealogy, but has held the positions of an organizational leader with the Napan 4-H Club, treasurer of Carmel United Church, and Superintendent of Sunday School. A Sunday school teacher and Past President of the Jolly Knitters, she still finds time to spend visiting her grandchildren and assisting seniors. She is coauthor with Sharon Connors producing three volumes of *the Family of Samuel McKnight and Elizabeth Halliday* and contributed and promoted the publication *The Jardines of Atlantic Canada*.

Della O'Neill was born in Black River Bridge to Thomas Adams and Mildred MacDougall. She joined the NBGS Miramichi Branch on June 4, 1991 and is one of the charter members. She married John Patrick O'Neill of Escuminac and they have five children and several grandchildren. Her hobbies are oil painting, planting flowers and vegetables and reading (biography and mystery novels) and genealogy. She and her sister Doris Taylor attend our meetings regularly.

Harry McEachern was born in Chatham, NB in 1924 to Chas. A. and Josephine M. (Burbridge)

McEachern. He attended Chatham Grammar School, graduating in 1941; was awarded the Highland Society of NB at Miramichi scholarship, so entered UNB, Fredericton; graduated in 1945 with a BSc. degree in Chemistry. He joined the army and was discharged late that year. He is now retired from the Canadian Synthetic Rubber Co later known as Polysar Ltd. Harry joined the Miramichi branch of NBGS in 1993. He is also a member of PEI Genealogy Society, Genealogy Association of NS, Hudson Genealogy Society, Highland Society of NB, Miramichi. His hobbies are golf, genealogy, assisting at gardening, and maintaining a 130-yearold farm house in Hudson, Ohio.

Dianne (Matchett) Mullin was invited to her first meeting by member Villa Matchett in 1999. She had been researching since 1978 and at that first meeting was asked how many names she had in her genealogy data base. She spoke up and said “14, 590” and the other members just glared at her. Mr. Williston came to her defense and acknowledged, "Yes, she probably does, as the Matchetts are related to everyone in the parishes of North and South Esk and every other Matchett in New Brunswick”. Over the years she has volunteered with several organizations which include director on the NB Arthritis Society’s provincial Board, to various positions at NSER Home & School, Miramichi’s Arthritis Support Group, past president of the Alumni and Friends of NSER. Within our branch, she has held various positions from President, Vice President, Treasurer, Summer Student Co-coordinator and at present is a Director. She has been in 115 cemeteries in this county and also manages the book sales for our branch. She is also the membership secretary for NBGS Inc. She and her husband Jackie live in Cassilis and she is postmistress for Canada Post at Red Bank.

Penny Creamer has been an important part of our research team since she joined on February 22, 2000. Penny was an editor of our first newsletter, member of the census committee, and served as a director on our executive. After member **George Kingston** passed away, she became the sole member of the Census Committee. Without Penny we would not have had the census transcriptions of Northumberland County available to members. She has tramped through cemeteries with us transcribing tombstones and actually Dianne has seen her on her hands and knees digging up tombstones with a spoon, stick or whatever she can find! She has interviewed and supervised summer students, volunteered at the Scottish and Irish festivals, answered queries on our forum and posted obituaries on our site. With the help of a small team submitting information, Penny has indexed, formatted and produced **all** the books we have published. Penny spends time every day editing the thousands of obituaries so we can produce these in book format and on our site for members to access. Penny is unable to attend our meetings now but continues to work for our branch. Thank you, Penny, for your dedication.

Our out-of-town members are a vital part of this branch. One member is **Ann Matchett- Moriarty** from Barrie, Ontario who joined our branch in 1999. She too is researching her Miramichi roots. She is our “Lifesaver” when it comes to locating “*Strays from Away*” for the Miramichi Branch. She scours newspapers and funeral home sites for this information. She types, edits these, and emails them to Penny who formats them for our branch. She typed obituaries from the late Avadne Connolly collection of newspapers. These tasks are also done on a daily basis and are very time consuming. Thanks Ann for your dedication to our branch.

Another dedicated founding member was **Pearl Wilson**, who rarely missed a meeting before she passed away in 2003. I am sure she is rejoicing in God’s eternal home.

This tiny, attentive lady appeared to be very shy. With a twinkle in her eye for anyone who knew her, she would share her genealogy research or a story of years ago; she just needed to be asked. Pearl was a very humble person who liked the simple thing in life, such as spending time with her family, in her garden and enjoying nature at her Black River

residence. Pearl, with your little smile and loving personality, she will always be greatly missed by her fellow genealogy members.

G. Andrew Stillman, U.E. was born in Fredericton in 1967 to George and Dora (Palmer) Stillman. At an early age, during regular visits to his maternal grandparents in Ludlow, Andrew became fascinated with the stories the old timers exchanged about family members. When his mother and several other family members purchased copies of “The Descendants of Edmund and Jane (Webb) Price” by Keith, Amos and Perry in 1978-79, being descended from this couple no less than 3 ways, he was irrevocably hooked. When the Boiestown Branch of the NBGS was formed in March 1985, he was an inaugural member and served as the Branch’s Secretary until its unfortunate demise. Andrew continued to be a member of the Capital Branch while completing his undergraduate degree. Upon moving to Toronto and the formation of the Miramichi Branch, Andrew became a member of this branch. In 1985, Andrew published a history of his mother’s paternal family, entitled “A Genealogy of Palmers”. Through the use of DNA testing, Andrew was able to establish that his Stillman ancestors were actually descendants of a German family which settled in Pennsylvania in 1751, by the name of Dillmann from Neureut, Baden. Andrew has received his United Empire Loyalist certificate based on his ancestor, George Adam Dillan/Stillman who settled in Cumberland County, NS following the American Revolutionary War. He currently lives in London, England.

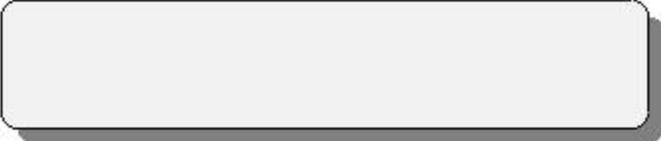
Ernie & Helen (MacNaughton) MacLean were also founding members. According to Ernie, the first MacLean to come to the Miramichi was John MacLean and his wife Catherine from the Isle of Mull, Scotland. They had three children, John II, George and Hugh. John II met and married in NS Sara Jane Lavendor (who came to NS from North Carolina with her United Empire Loyalist parents), the widow of another UEI Richard Godfrey. Sara Jane and Richard had two children, Enoch and Susan, and these two children came here to the

Miramichi with John MacLean II and **Helen MacNaughton**’s ancestors came from Perthshire, Scotland in 1819. An interesting fact that Helen shared with us is that the first family to come over from Scotland was a mother and her three sons. The genealogy bug has been in Helen’s family for many years. Her father John MacNaughton also did genealogy. After her marriage to Ernest, Helen became more interested in genealogy. It was another love they both shared. Ernie’s interest in genealogy began with his interest in his property... who had the original grant? When? He discovered he owned the original grant of John MacLean II, who was granted this land in 1812, 21 years after his family, came to Miramichi... and the rest, as they say, is history! Ernie and Helen are both deceased.

Bertie Isabel McKnight-McLean was born in Lower Napan, NB, the second child in a family of thirteen. Her paternal grandparents were George McKnight and Alice Fowlie; Bertie’s maternal grandparents were George Dick and Janet Whyte of Upper Napan. The Dicks came to Upper Napan and the Whytes to Black River. They changed their name from LeBlanc to Whyte and moved to Napan. Most of the families were descendants of Scottish heritage from Dumfriesshire and Pulmont areas. Bertie’s interest in genealogy was sparked by the conversations of grandparents and other family members, especially those who visited from Western Canada and the New England States. Her younger sister, Halliday had compiled a large amount of family information and, upon her death, her charts were passed on to Bertie who has taken on the continuation of her family’s tales. Bertie had been a member of NBGS Inc. since 1985 before this branch was formed. She served as Secretary- treasurer for several years. She was a retired teacher and she passed away in 2013 at the age of 92.

Marie (Sirois dit DuPlessis) Sutcliffe Twenty-five years ago....that would be about 1991

and I already begun searching my family roots ten years before. My father, Harold Duplessis (Chatham), had died in 1981 and the finality of his



death caused me to realize I knew nothing of his earlier life. What of his childhood, relatives and friends? I never asked and dad did not offer, being a humble quiet family man. And what did I know about my grandparents other than Lucille Whyte on my mother Stella's side. I began with only the names of my two sets of grandparents. Imagine— I had never heard of the words family tree, roots, or genealogy.

My brief annual trips from Ontario were spent gathering approximate dates, names of places, pouring over microfilm in the Archives and questioning any relative or resident of Chatham who might have information to share. Many a graveyard I walked and church rectory door I knocked in the Miramichi, Bathurst, Baie Ste Anne and Shippagan in those early years, slowly gathering relationships and stories of people long gone. Surnames like Duplessis, Hersey, Ahern, Grant, McKendy, Powers, Maillet, Thibideau, LeBlanc, Sippley, Prendergast, Jenkins, McDonald, Brideau and Robichaud filled my notebooks.

Soon I was addicted to a search that I knew I would never complete, but it did not deter me. A growing library of reference material was sought and memberships were joined. In the latter case, I began to focus on the N.B. Archives and the Miramichi Branch of the NBGS, which were rich in information closer to "home". I learned that ancestors included both French Canadians in Quebec and Acadiens in the Maritimes. I discovered Irish roots through my grandmother, Hannah, and that the heritage AHERN family home exists today as a restaurant (Le Vieux Moulin) in Nigadoo, near Bathurst. Eventually, names and numbers became special people who once lived and contributed to my being here today. The wonder of it all...

Submitted by: Dianne Mullin (with research support by Jo Ann Kenny)

Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles, it takes away today's peace.
AN AFTERNOON WITH SALLY ARMSTRONG

June 25, 2016 was a very special day for us at NBGS Miramichi Branch. We had sent out an invitation to all NBGS members so that all members had an opportunity to join us at our event. The event, as you may recall, was the visit to Miramichi by Sally Armstrong, that gifted author, journalist, documentary filmmaker, educator and human rights activist who has won nearly every award available in this country.

Sally gave a wonderful speech – it drew us in to her special world as she spoke about her book *The Nine Lives of Charlotte Taylor* and we got a glimpse of her story-telling talent. She spoke of her childhood, hearing tales of Charlotte and how she felt a closeness to her ancestor that just had to be told. It was not an easy story to tell, she said, for it took much research to get as accurate as possible. After all, Charlotte's life took place a very long time ago. Charlotte's legacy lives on in the hearts and lives of her descendants who still live in the town of Tabusintac, New Brunswick. And for the rest of us... pick up a copy of the book and you will not be sorry.

After a break, which included a book-signing, Sally moved on from that famous historical novel to speak of the present and future and of the work she has been doing with women and girls in war-torn countries from Bosnia to Afghanistan. Her latest book, *Ascent of Women*, describes the dramatic and empowering stories of women making change to end poverty, violence, discrimination, oppression and conflict. Sally has been working in some very unsafe places all over the world to uncover these changes in the status of women. There is much work yet to do.

It was a great pleasure to meet such a fine Canadian.

It wasn't without some risk that we attempted this event. It was graduation week, and with holidays

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starting, we were worried about attendance. As the organizers, we feared we wouldn't get enough people to our event – and we would be embarrassed in front of this highly regarded woman; on the other hand, if too many people came, the hall would be over-filled and we would be embarrassed in front of our NBGS colleagues. Happily, everything went well – we had an audience of 75 people; the weather was perfect, and so was Sally.

My thanks to all who helped make that day perfect.

Submitted by: Judy Vautour

Editor's Note: A special thank you to Judy who scored a coup in securing Sally for this presentation and for looking after all the set up details. Everything was perfect. Tremendous job, Judy! Thank you also to Donna & Elsie for volunteering at the event and all members who took time on a hot June Saturday to attend.

SCOTTISH PORTAL UPDATE

In 2012 the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association embarked upon a journey to discover our Scottish heritage and history through an initiative called the New Brunswick Scottish Portal Project. The goal of this project was to tell the untold stories of the Scots who came to New Brunswick in the late 18th and early 19th century by way of a website. A committee was established with representation from around the Province. Over the next couple of years a lot of information was collected, many wonderful stories were discovered and some surprises along the way.

On its launch in late 2014, the website was named simply **New Brunswick Scottish History** <https://www.nbscottishhistory.ca/> .

When we launched we were able to provide only 1851 and 1861 Census data for persons of Scottish origin in 7 New Brunswick counties. As of March 2016, we are pleased to now say that 1851 and 1861 Census data for all 14 counties are available. We collected the whole household if there was even one Scot in it, so you can see the person of interest in the context of spouses, children, aged parents, other relatives, lodgers and servants.

In addition to the Census databases for 1851 and 1861, we have 5 other databases:

-You can search the names of 119 members of the 18th century 42nd Highland Regiment, most of whom settled on the Nashwaak River.

-Search through the names of 134 Scots who immigrated to New Brunswick aboard “The Favorite” in 1824.

-Search the names of 1,043 Scots who petitioned for land after settling in New Brunswick, many of whom did not survive to be included in the 1851 census.

-James Brown's Diary contains interactions with some 90 New Brunswickers of Scottish descent. His writings provide valuable insight into the lives of these early settlers.

-The Petitions of some 185 Scottish Teachers provide an intimate glimpse into the lives of these individuals and their personal circumstances. For each of these databases, there is a one page or less narrative about the data source. Written by our project director, Koral June Lavorgna, they are hilarious!

To see all the occurrences of a given surname and/or given name across all our databases, just click on “Search Data” and type in a name and on the right of the page you get a list of the different databases where this name appears. Then just scroll down to look at what it says about this name under the different results from each database. In the Census category, to find out who lives in the household with this particular individual, just click on “Household” in blue on the right.

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We have also added to the search functions so that it is possible to do ‘Sounds Like’ and wildcard (*) letters to better cover off the various spellings of names.

In the near future we will add a narrative about Scottish migrations to New Brunswick, based on the first chapter of Lucille Campey’s 2007 book, *With Axe and Bible*. Then, on a regular basis, we plan to add stories about early Scots and their families, as funds permit.

Another feature of NB Scottish History are the videos of 2 (so far!) annual lectures, the first about a murder mystery in late 19th century Saint John and the second by a current day relative of the famous William Davidson (a.k.a. John Godsmann), earliest Scottish settler on the Miramichi.

Even if you are familiar with what the 1851 and 1861 Censuses have to say about a Scottish ancestor, our other databases and stories may add an extra something that you hadn’t already found.

*Submitted by: William “Bill” Donald
Member of the New Brunswick Scottish
History Advisory Committee.*

WHO LIVED IN THE COUNTY HOME?

In the former town of Chatham, which is now part of the city of Miramichi, there was a County Home. It was also referred to as the Poor House or the Alms House.

Most of us do not expect to find any ancestors on the rolls of the poorhouse inmates. We never even think of such a possibility- probably because of the inaccurate stereotypes. However, in the 19th century, poorhouses served a vast array of people, many for only a short time, others until they passed on.

Who lived there?

- homeless families (who may have been burned out or affected by a flood at their dwelling)
- destitute families (who, for a time, could not afford to buy food or clothing or fuel for their homes) -victims of domestic abuse
- unwed mothers -orphans
- elderly people who were frail or ill and had nobody to care for them
- seasonal unemployed workers (who often were single men needing housing for the winter)
- injured workers (who had worked on log drives, roads, lumbermen, etc.)
- handicapped people (who were mentally ill, blind, or physically disabled)
- sick people (who had no money for treatment, etc.)

These may be the people hiding behind our “**brick walls**”.

Often these residents did not leave a paper trail. They did not vote in local elections, missed sometimes by the census takers and may not have regularly attended church. There was no estate to settle, so therefore no need for a will.

My first encounter came when I was surveying the map of the Riverside Cemetery, which would have been next door to the Alms Home on Water Street in Chatham. The entire map had family surnames of family members interred in a certain plot but in a few cemetery plots on the back right hand corner of this location was printed “reserved for the Alms Home”. Upon observation, I saw there were no existing tombstones or markers. I then proceeded to ask Mr. Lou Dickson who was showing me the map of the land “Who was buried there”. He commented, “Sadly, there is no record”. He proceeded to tell me this cemetery was a Community Cemetery but there were more Protestants there than other denominations. He felt most local Catholic occupants of the Alms Home were buried at St Michael’s Cemetery but some Catholics from out of town were just interred next door here.

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So one of my genealogy projects is to find out who lived in this home and where they are buried. Therefore, when you are researching if you come across a relative who lived at this home, would you please let me know as I am compiling a list.

Please email me at dmullin@nbnet.nb.ca and in the subject line type ALMS HOME.

Submitted by: Dianne Mullin

RCMP GRAVES WEBSITE

An interesting site for any genealogist looking for RCMP members in their family history is www.rcmpgraves.com This site is easy to access and self explanatory. It also contains their military history

SUMMER STUDENT REPORTS

This summer NBGS Miramichi was fortunate to receive funding under the Federal student grant program. Unfortunately, for the first time in many years we did not have a student under the Provincial SEED program. This year the provincial program was revamped and, rather than employers receiving a grant, students were given vouchers for 8, 10 or 12 weeks of work. They then sought out an employer from an inventory list. Our position was posted on the list but we were not successful in

securing a student. There was a lack of communication on the changes and many employers experienced issues with the program. Hopefully, we will fare better next year.

Below are two reports on the summer program – one from the student; the second from our summer program supervisors. Our thanks go out to **Donna Kelly and Dianne Mullin** for all the hours they put in this summer in supervising the student and coordinating work.

Student Report

My name is **Jo-Ann Kenny** and I have worked with NBGS Miramichi as a summer student for two summers. I consider myself lucky to be chosen for this grant, especially two years in a row! Last summer I worked on obituaries from the 1920's right up until the 1990's and this summer I worked on updating the cemeteries in my area. I also did some work involving military marriages, Alm's home deaths and funeral home records.

This summer, working on updating cemeteries was an interesting assignment. For example - I came across a particular stone while working in Blackville parish. Before this, I had seen a lot of old stones, but this person had passed away in 1843! 173 years ago! I mean, I always thought that my mom was old, but I guess she really isn't as old as I thought! It's quite an eye opener to see stones and dates like that; working on this grant has really made me think about my lineage, my ancestors and well, my genealogy!

I was also glad that I could be a part of the Irish Festival in Miramichi for two summers. Being from Irish descent myself, it was rewarding to be able to help people find a missing link in their family tree, track down an ancestor or simply share with them the bountiful Irish history that we have here in Miramichi.

As a 2016 graduate of North & South Esk Regional High School, I have plans to attend UNB in the fall and work towards getting my Bachelor of Arts. With so many interesting courses to choose from and plenty of years to pick a major, who knows, I might major in something genealogy related!

The past two summers have been two great ones. I have worked with many great people and I have so many people I would like to thank for giving me this opportunity and trusting me with this responsibility. I like to think that I have contributed to NBGS in some way and I have hopes that next

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summer I can work with the Miramichi Branch once again!

Submitted by: Jo Ann Kenny (summer student)

Student Coordinators' Report

This year the student:

-completed the transcription of existing tombstones in the parishes of Derby, Blackville, South Esk and some of North Esk. Some of these parishes were also indexed. By next spring the newer version should be ready to publish.

-started a database to collect military marriages of anyone married in Northumberland County. Many marriages were members of the Armed Forces while based in CFB Chatham; some are local, but not all.

-started a database for those born or died while living at the Alms Home (County Home) in Chatham as many of these residents were buried with no stone in the Chatham area. Some families did take them to their own parish. (*Dianne Mullin would appreciate any info you may have on any names of the above in your personal family research, as this is an ongoing process.*)

-worked at the Chatham Library with our Irish Festival display.

-worked with Donna in doing an inventory of the holdings in our cabinets at the Chatham Library.

-worked with Donna on the scanning of family histories.
-checked many newspaper articles Dianne had on hand to see if the obituaries contained had been documented and put on our website.

Submitted by: Donna Kelly & Dianne Mullin

HERITAGE DAY 2017

Inviting Canadians to celebrate “My Canada!”

While I have found nothing on the Provincial Heritage Week Celebrations, I did find the following notification. It appears that this year’s theme is a good fit for our Association and it invites Canadians to “celebrate their roots and tell their stories.” We certainly have a lot to contribute to this and will need to plan activities for the week. The full press release appears below:

Ottawa, March 16, 2016 – The National Trust for Canada is pleased to announce the theme “My Canada!” for Heritage Day 2017. In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Confederation, “My Canada!” is designed to inspire Canadians to embrace, explore and enjoy their own heritage places and spaces across the country. Celebrate *your* Canada during Heritage Week, February 13-19, 2017.

“In 2017, celebrate your roots and the places that tell your story,” said the National Trust’s Executive Director, Natalie Bull. “This milestone anniversary is a great time to recognize the places that matter in connecting each of us to Canada’s past and future.”

The National Trust’s Heritage Day 2017 hashtag *#mycanadais* can be used to tell each story and how each of us sees ourself reflected in the mosaic that is Canada. Stay tuned for more information.

FAMILY PROFILE – GEORGE ALEXANDER MCKENZIE

One of the interesting things about doing family research is that you can uncover some fascinating stories about your ancestors. The following was submitted by NBGS Miramichi Branch member **Judy Vautour** and is about her great uncle George. It is a brief story about a Saint John boy who did well. If you have a profile of an interesting person in your family history and would like to share it in a future issue of the newsletter please e-mail it to us. (fayebaisley@hotmail.com).

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George Alexander McKenzie's story, or part of it, has been documented by author Charles Nutt in his massive book, *The History of Worcester and Its People*, published in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1919.

George Alexander McKenzie

As the author of that widely-read story of theatrical life, “The Stage Baby”, and as an amateur photographer Mr. McKenzie is widely known and appreciated. Photography may be termed his “hobby”, and so far has he progressed that he possesses one of the finest amateur outfits, a “Graflex 3 A”. His reputation far exceeds local limits, and his services as a skilled graflex operator were asked for by the United States Government.

Mr. McKenzie is a son of Kenneth McKenzie, who was born in Prince Edward Island, and grandson of Duncan McKenzie, who came from Scotland to the Maritime Provinces. Kenneth was a contractor all his life and died in St. John, New Brunswick, aged seventy years. He married Malinda Porter, who died in 1882. They were the parents of four children: George A., of further mention; Ida, married (Henry Noakes) and died at the age of forty-

three years, leaving two sons, Harry and Stanley; William, of Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada, a farmer; Laura, married Henry Matheson, of St. John, and they are the parents of nine children.

George Alexander McKenzie, eldest son of Kenneth and Malinda (Porter) McKenzie was born in St. John, the commercial metropolis of the province of New Brunswick, Canada. After the death of his mother in 1882, he went to Bangor, Maine and attended school, also beginning his business life as a printer in the city. In 1888, he left Bangor and came to Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was in the employ of various printing houses until 1902, when he established in business for himself. He has occupied his recent location, No. 554 Main Street since 1906. His business, music, amateur photography and his home fills his measure of life and enjoyment to the brim, and he has society nor

political connections. He is an accomplished cornetist and a member of the Worcester Brass Band and the Eighteenth Regiment Band. Both he and his wife are communicants of Old South Congregational Church and members of the choir.

Mr. McKenzie married in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, September 4, 1902 Anna Louise Crawford, born in St. John, New Brunswick, February 12, 1871, daughter of William Wallace and Charlotte Mary (Brown) Crawford, both deceased. Her father, dying in Gagetown, New Brunswick, aged eighty-six years, is the son of the Crawford emigrant from Scotland. Mrs. McKenzie learned the printing trade with her husband and has been his partner ever since. The family home is at No. 6 Glendale Street, a house recently purchased by them.

Anna Louise (Crawford) McKenzie died in 1930 and was buried August 19, 1930 in Hope Cemetery in Section 88 at the age of 59. George married his second wife, Ella M. Brown, on July 30, 1938 in Worcester but died only 3 weeks later at the age of 64 and was buried September 26, 1938.

The grandchildren of George McKenzie's sister Laura Matheson have been interested in researching George's life. Many portrait-style photographs of the Matheson sons have been found in their family collections. A search was made for a copy of "The Stage Baby", but the only one found is in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

PROVINCIAL WEBSITE – NEW ADDITIONS

NBGS Inc., has recently added some new material to their website all of it in the public domain. This includes the George Hayward collection (21 publications) as well as early NB marriage records for the York, Sunbury, Carleton and Queens counties.. One of these marriage registers dates from 1766 to 1888. So, if you are researching



ancestors in the southwestern part of the province you may find this material helpful.

PROVINCIAL ARCHIVES – 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2018

In 2018 the Provincial Archives will celebrate its 50th anniversary and the Associates would like to help in these festivities. To identify appropriate events or actions to mark this momentous occasion, they would like your input on what activities or events might best mark such a commemoration. Although not limited to the following choices, these types of actions would be examples: exhibits, enhancing access to specific records that you are aware of, acquiring a specific body of records or a category of record, or holding a symposium about archives and how they are use. Do you have any ideas? If so, please send your ideas along to the archives.

2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2017. Our membership fee of \$35.00 is due as of January 2017. This will insure you receive copies of the provincial publication *Generations*, as well as our branch newsletter, access to our library, and networking opportunities

FAMILY HISTORIES

We have a large number of family histories in our Branch library and this is continually growing. If you or someone you know has family history information and would like to share it, we would love to have it. It doesn't have to be in 'fancy' published form. Whether it's typed, handwritten, in a duo-tang folder - the information you have could be just that missing piece that some other genealogist is looking for!

To donate your material, please contact Dianne Mullin (dmullin@nbnet.nb.ca) or any member of the local branch executive.



CALLING ALL LOST MATERIAL FROM NBGS LIBRARY

Over the past year materials have once again disappeared from the NBGS Library. In reading an old newsletter (February 2003), I came across the article below and since it's still relevant, chose to reprint it :

«Some books, resource materials, etc. have gone missing from the library. It would be greatly appreciated if these materials found their way back to the cabinet. In case anyone has any doubt about the rules concerning the use of the cabinet :

- Only members are to access, show membership card to the Librarian and receive the key.
- View materials in the LIBRARY. Take notes. Be sure to quote your sources.
- Put material back where you got it. Lock the cabinet.
 - Give key back to the Librarian at the desk.
- The material is not to leave the Chatham Library.

- There is a photocopier at the Library if copies of the material are needed.

If find you have taken material home by mistake along with your research material, please return it at once to the cabinet. Thank you.

Life is like a ten-speed bicycle. Most of us have gears we never use. – Charles M. Schultz

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DONATION TO NBGS LIBRARY

Our Branch recently received a copy of the publication *Atlantic Canada's Irish Immigrants: A Fish and Timber Story* from the author, Lucille H. Campey. When researching the book, Dr. Campey contacted NBGS seeking a picture of Dr. John Vondy which was supplied to her. This picture appears in the book and NBGS Miramichi is thanked in her acknowledgements. In this book, the author paints a different picture of the immigrant Irish – not “helpless exiles lacking in ambition” as most authors contend, but rather they worked hard and did well in their new home. This book is an excellent resource for anyone doing Irish family history research. The author plans two additional books on the Irish with publication due in 2018 and 2020.

Dr. Campey is also the author of a number of books on Scottish immigration, including *With Ax and Bible* which we have in our library holdings.

***A Tip of the Hat &
Thank You***

Thank you to all those who submitted articles for inclusion in this edition of the newsletter. The next edition of this publication will be mid-February 2017. We are always looking for material – so if you have something you'd like to have included, please send to me at fayebaisley@hotmail.com

(We would also like your feedback on this edition of the newsletter – please send your ideas, suggestions, comments, questions or articles.)

Those who have read the last couple of editions of *Giver Magazine* (September and October) will have noticed that genealogy was given a prominent place in the publication. Our thanks to **Penny Creamer** for supplying the submissions and to **Stacy Underhill** for having them published. This is great PR for the Branch.

NEW BOOK RELEASED

Letters from Beaulieu by Melynda Jarratt is the 23rd volume in the New Brunswick Military Heritage Series and is co-published with the Gregg Centre for the Study of War and Society and Goose Lane Editions. This book has a strong Irish connection and would be of special interest to those researching Hennessy's.

During the Second World War, hundreds of New Brunswick woodsmen joined the Canadian Forestry Corps to log the Scottish Highlands as part of the Canadian war effort. Patrick "Pat" Hennessy of Bathurst was one of them. For five years, Pat served as camp cook with 15 Company of the Canadian Forestry Corps near the ancient town of Beaulieu, Scotland.

A middle-aged New Brunswick farmer and lumberman with a third-grade education, Pat saw more of the world than he had ever dreamed of, visiting ancient battlefields he had learned about as a child, travelling to his ancestral Ireland, and attending a course of lectures in British history at Oxford University.

While in Scotland, Pat regularly corresponded with his family in New Brunswick. Drawing from this unique collection of more than three hundred letters, as well as hundreds of archival documents and photographs, Melynda Jarratt provides a rare glimpse of what life was like for Canadian servicemen overseas and for their relatives at home.

This book is being launched in various locations throughout the province during the month of October - including October 21st at the Newcastle Legion.

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GENEALOGY POEM

I found this poem on the internet. I thought it was something most of us doing research could relate to.

I went looking for an ancestor, I cannot find him still.

He moved around from place to place
and did not leave a will.

He married where a courthouse burned.

