

church registers, community, cemetery, census, education, land, deeds, probate, and map records. Genealogists interested in Nova Scotia are especially fortunate in having at their disposal a collection of vital statistics not usually available to research except through the provincial registrar general's office. These cover births for 1864-76, deaths for 1864-77, marriages from 1764 to 1917, as well as marriage bonds from 1763 to 1864.

The probate records, the originals of which are usually found in the various county court houses, have in most cases been microfilmed and are available at the PANS. Rarely before the late nineteenth century are death dates noted in such records; they nevertheless provide information on a minority of male wealth holders, and on a few spinsters and widows. References to offspring and to heirs are available in the probate papers usually only if the decedent made a will. Dr. Marble has established that in the eighteenth century almost 60 per cent of those whose papers are found in the probate records died intestate.¹

Each of the published volumes is between fourteen and eighteen pages in length; and if carefully used will save both genealogist and archivist a great deal of time, still our most precious commodity. The series responds to real need; perhaps the format might be adapted by other provincial archives in Canada, where there is a great need to respond to genealogical inquiries on an increasing scale.

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1 Allan E. Marble, *Deaths, Burials, and Probate of Nova Scotians, 1749-1799, From Primary Sources* (unpublished manuscript, 310 pp.), p. 4.

Inventory of the Government Records Collection of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador. SHELLEY SMITH, comp. [St. John's]: Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador, 1988. iii, 30 p.

This inventory has a fourfold purpose. Most important, it includes all Newfoundland government records transferred to the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador since 1983 and hence not listed in *A Guide to Government Records of Newfoundland*. These new acquisitions total almost 150 metres of material, ranging from GN 58 (Forest Resources and Lands) to GN 84 (Municipal Government). In fact, the whole range of Newfoundland government services and departments is listed. Second, government records held by the Provincial Archives in 1983 but not listed in the 1983 Guide are enumerated in Appendixes I and III. These records occupy more than 160 metres of space. Notable record groups listed are GN 5 (Court Records) and GN 39 (Department of Rural Development), which include 24 metres of outpost resettlement files. Third, Appendix II includes all non-Newfoundland government records under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Archives' Government Records Collection. Records from Great Britain, Canada, France, Spain, the United States, and the provinces of Quebec and Prince Edward Island make up this listing. Finally, Appendix IV consists of two conversion lists to reorganized records in

GN 13 (Department of Justice) and GN 38 (Secretary to the Commission of Government). Taken together with *A Guide to Government Records of Newfoundland*, this inventory is a valuable tool for students of Newfoundland studies.

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Emporium of the North: Fort Chipewyan and the Fur Trade to 1835. JAMES MCPHERSON PARKER. Regina: Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism (in association with) Canadian Plains Research Centre, 1987. xv, 208 p. ISBN 0-88977-0441.

In this study, James Parker describes the role of a major fort in the history of the North American fur trade. Fort Chipewyan, situated near the southwest end of Lake Athabasca, appeared in various manifestations between 1778, when Peter Pond first explored this region, and 1821, when the Northwest Company and the Hudson's Bay Company amalgamated. Both companies used the general location of present-day Fort Chipewyan to spearhead their efforts to dominate the fur trade in the northwest. Beginning his study with the early exploration of the region, Parker examines the role of the fort(s) in the fur trade to 1835. By this time, he contends, the fur trade had stabilized under the monopoly conditions of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Emporium of the North is based on Parker's master's thesis, completed in 1967 at the University of Alberta. The research is based on published journals and travel literature of the area's early explorers and traders, as well as the fort's journals, reports, and accounts held mainly, but not exclusively, by the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. The book contains chapters on the locations and various structures of the forts; how Fort Chipewyan maintained its link to the eastern section of the fur trade circuit; and the individuals involved in the trade, white and native. Within his general framework, Parker analyses the effects of competition and monopoly on the Fort Chipewyan region. Patricia Myer adds a bibliographic essay which assesses in general terms the last twenty years of fur trade historiography.

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From Sissons to Meyer: The Administrative Development of the Yukon Government, 1948-1979. JANET MOODIE MICHAEL. Whitehorse: Yukon Archives, 1987. 166 p. Free.

This publication was prepared by Janet Michael for the Yukon Archives to provide researchers with an overview of the administrative development of the Yukon government from 1948 to 1979. In 1948, the commissioner was once again installed as the head of the Yukon administration. The author chronicles the slow evolution of government from that date to the 1979 landmark when a fully elected cabinet first entered office. In eight chapters, she discusses the emerging government, the federal takeover of health care, the development of a corrections program, the reorganization of government, the beginning of devolution, the maturing of government, and political maturity. She also provides some excellent appendixes, the most useful being an administrative outline which lists chronologically a short description of