

At present, the probate court records of Newfoundland are the least accessible, although this is being corrected. The original documents are housed in the Court of Appeal Building in St. John's, and the Probate Court is not equipped to handle research. Only probate court staff are allowed in the vaults, and only specific files can be requested. For some time persons interested in wills and administrations referred to volumes in which these categories of documents were transcribed. The staff of the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland is currently engaged in an ambitious project of microfilming and indexing all the original probate materials which they are expected to finish in 1984. Though sketchy, these materials involve estates from all over the island.

Other legal sources which researchers may wish to consult include mortgages of both real and personal property; marriage, birth, and death records; lists of indigents and insolvents; land grants, legal proceedings and related documents. These can be found by contacting archives, court houses, county seat offices, registry offices, and government buildings. By studying these records, much information can be gained on individuals who go unrecognized in conventional historical sources. Citizens whose activities did not make newspaper headlines form the majority of every society yet little is often known of their everyday life. Their personal papers were rarely considered important enough to retain. Historians have become increasingly aware that no picture of an era is complete if it does not include a view of every segment of society. The use of legal sources to develop this picture is a recent trend that continues to grow in popularity for despite its limitations, the possibilities it provides for augmenting our historical knowledge are truly exciting.

Julia Cornish

New Brunswick Newspaper Study of Imports, 1800-1860

During the summers of 1982 and 1983 the National Museum of Man in cooperation with the New Brunswick Museum sponsored a major survey of newspapers for data relating to the material history of the province. The study recorded information from New Brunswick newspapers pertaining to goods arriving at Saint John during the period 1800-60. The project was modelled on the computer-based format for newspaper advertisements developed by the Newfoundland Museum. (See V. Dickenson and V. Kolonel,

"Computer-Based Archival Research Project: A Preliminary Report," *Material History Bulletin* 10 [Spring 1980]: 31-61). The information provided by advertisements in New Brunswick newspapers was transcribed according to categories outlined on a data sheet for later computer entry and easy access by researchers. The project employed students interested in historical research and museology and was funded by the federal government's Career-Oriented Summer Employment Programme.

Rules and procedures were determined during the first summer to ensure that all data sheets would be compatible. No services were entered unless such a service was included within an advertisement mentioning imported goods. If the researcher was able to assume that an advertised product was an import (by having seen the product previously listed as such, by having reason to suspect the product was an import because of its name [for example, Cuban sugar], or because the advertiser was known to the researcher as an importer) then this advertised product was recorded even if the advertisement itself did not specifically say that the item was an import.

The order of classification for an import advertisement (including ships for sale) was determined to be as follows: prime term, adjectives, quantity, price (specific prices only, not general remarks such as "low price" or "for sale cheap"). The description of a commodity was always transcribed in the format of general to specific. For example, "one hundred pounds of large lemons" was transposed to the data sheet as "lemons, large, one hundred pounds." The order in which the adjectives were recorded did not really matter. If "yellow" had been added to the foregoing description, the phrase would have been recorded as either "lemons, large, yellow, one hundred pounds," or "lemons, yellow, large, one hundred pounds." General remarks, such as "for sale at reduced prices," the name of the ship's captain, or descriptions of what commodities were carried by what ships, were recorded in the "remarks" field on the data sheet for clarification and accuracy.

Commodities were also recorded in a data file known as the Any Files similar to that compiled by the Newfoundland project. Any new terms were looked up in the *Oxford English Dictionary* and nineteenth-century lexicons to ensure that these words would be defined in their nineteenth-century sense. The advertisements were recorded exactly as they appeared including any oddities in spelling or punctuation. No attempt was made to use twentieth-century place names or to transcribe written or Roman numerals to Arabic.

Newspapers were provided by the New Brunswick Museum Archives and included the following: *New Brunswick Courier*; *Saint John Gazette and General Advertiser*; *Royal Gazette*; *City Gazette and General Advertiser*. Most papers were read for the period 1800-28. The *New*

Brunswick Courier was also read for 1828-30, 1833-34, 1839, 1842, 1860-61. Each paper had issues missing and these gaps were carefully noted.

During the course of the project entertaining words and phrases were recorded on a Bizarre Words List, for example, bastard sugar, gold beaters skin, invisible cloths, a corrected edition of Dilworth's Spelling Books, spiders, second-hand surgical instruments, one bale of curled hair, live leeches, beer engines, morphine lozenges, ground paint brushes, badger hair blenders, hair grainers, flesh brushes and tongues crapers. Other words and phrases which have not yet been defined (or which may be spelling or typographical errors) were placed on an Unknown Words List that includes canendiet, chambers, emminetts, eukier genion, frentignac, herkings, morsens, netis, palmereems, palmyrenes, quillinet, renverteens, sating, and iriroil.

A third summer will be necessary to complete the project. Currently researchers can conduct manual searches of the documentation. It is hoped that eventually the data will be available in a machine-readable form. Those interested in obtaining further information about the project should contact the History Department of the New Brunswick Museum, Saint John, or the History Division of the National Museum of Man, Ottawa.

Tina Rolande Roy

German-Alsatian Iron Gravemarkers in Southern Ontario Roman Catholic Cemeteries

At least eleven Roman Catholic cemeteries in southern Ontario contain cross-shaped iron gravemarkers created in the Germanic tradition by local blacksmiths. With the exception of a few severely simple structures of iron bar, these forms are enhanced by coiled strap foliage, cast-iron figures, and sheet-work cut-outs of religious motifs. Transforming stone-filled cemeteries into paradise gardens full of *Lebensbäume*, or Trees of Life, these iron markers symbolize the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of everlasting life.

In Waterloo County (Waterloo Region), Germanic iron crosses are found in abundance at St. Agatha's churchyard, St. Boniface's churchyard, Maryhill, St. Clements Cemetery, and, in undetermined number, at St. Joseph's churchyard, Macton (see below). These works were created for South German and Alsatian Roman Catholics who in the 1830s

and 1840s settled around the area previously acquired by Swiss-German Mennonites from Pennsylvania. In the 1840s and 1850s some of these settlers moved about 100 kilometres north to Bruce County, where their settlements produced a cluster of six cemeteries at Mildmay, Deemer-ton, Carlsruhe, Riversdale, Chepstow, and Formosa. The last site, at Immaculate Conception's churchyard, is the richest and most varied of those studied, with Maryhill a close second. One site outside these two areas is the Roman Catholic churchyard at Zurich, Huron County.

The numbers and condition of the crosses vary from place to place. Those at Formosa and Maryhill, perhaps because of their abundance, are in excellent condition, carefully painted and maintained. Riversdale, with only two crosses, contains the smallest deposit in Bruce County, while Macton, which reportedly once had several, contained but one in 1982. This last remnant, while intact and still bearing its crucifix, had been removed from its concrete base and placed against a shed behind the church, presuma-

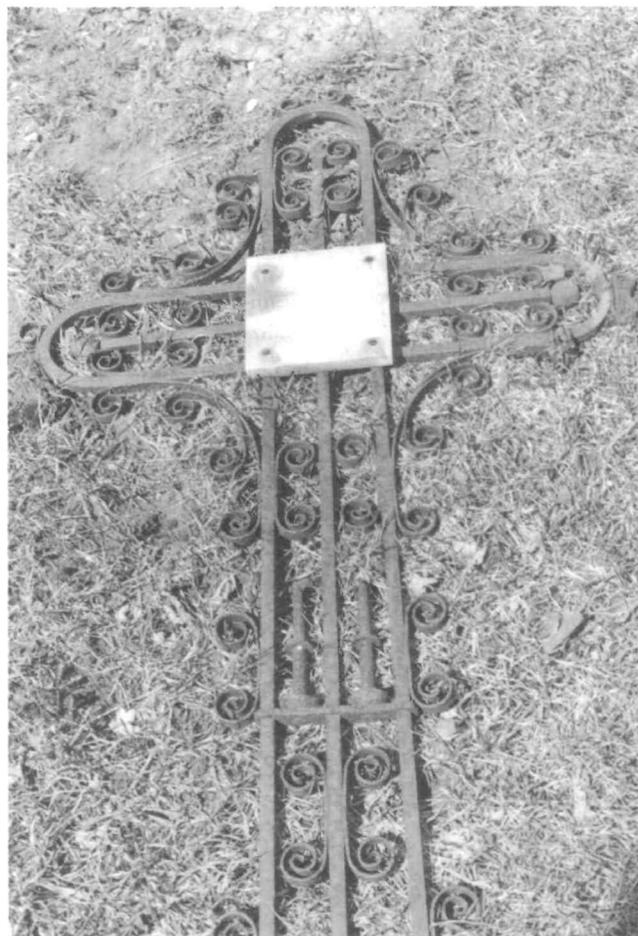


Fig. 1. Uprooted iron cross, the last of its kind at Macton, photographed by the author in 1982. The epitaph reads: "W^m JOSEPH McGOEY/DIED SEPT. 11/1899/AGED 22 Y'RS/& 6 MO'S/Rest in Peace.