

The section outlining the additional fifty-eight collections lists only collection titles and MG numbers. Grenke might have commented on the criteria which determined in which section the descriptions of collections were placed.

A valuable item in the guide is the list of archives which hold important collections relating to German language groups in Canada. Not all the guides in this series include this section. It is important that the development of regional and ethnic archives be acknowledged by the NA for their role in preserving the various aspects of Canada's history and heritage.

The final section, the bibliography, includes published sources, theses, and an annotated section on the periodical press of the German Canadians. It is these works which can give a researcher the essential context for dealing with the various collections listed in the guide.

Jean-Pierre Wallot notes in the foreword that the "thematic approach is intended to provide a reasonably accurate picture of source material on a particular topic, enabling researchers to formulate their interests more precisely before they begin their research." This intention has been admirably fulfilled for those seeking textual sources but, considering the range of sources collected by the National Archives, this series of guides could be significantly improved by including in the descriptions, where applicable, all media belonging to a collection.

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Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources County Guide Series. Halifax: Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1988-. No. 1: *Halifax County*, by PHILIP L. HARTLING and JULIE MORRIS comps.. ISBN 088871-110-7. No. 2: *Kings County*, WENDY L. THORPE comp.. ISBN 088871-099-2. No. 3: *Lunenburg County*, PHILIP L. HARTLING comp.. ISBN 088871-101-8. No. 4: *Pictou County*, ALLAN C. DUNLOP comp.. ISBN 088871-103-4 \$2.50 each.

For genealogists as for historians, there are few happier places to research than the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The rich collection of primary materials, either on microfilm or in original form, is manageable partly with the help of an extensive array of finding aids, which undergo improvement every year. The archivists at the PANS, owing to the heavy demands placed on them especially by genealogical enquiries, decided to prepare easy-to-use and logically presented guides to the range of sources available for each county. Each volume follows the same format, so that there is a good deal of repetition among volumes in the series, which will number nineteen titles when it is completed in 1992. There are sections on published genealogies (here the reader is referred to Allan E. Marble's 1984 publication, *A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotian Families*) on community and county histories, on directories and newspapers. Incidentally, genealogists in Nova Scotia have actively been publishing for some years, as separate volumes, guides to births, marriages, and deaths as recorded in newspapers from 1769 to 1854, with further volumes being prepared. The county guides list and describe the principal manuscript sources, such as the private papers of individuals and families, the

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