

# *Addenda et Corrigenda\**

Mr. Douglas H. Bocking, former Associate Provincial Archivist with the Saskatchewan Archives Board and current archivist of the Anglican diocese in Saskatoon, has kindly forwarded additional information which indicates that the first Spiritualist marriage in Canada occurred on or before 28 February 1914, when Mr. Bocking's aunt and uncle were married in the Winnipeg Spiritual Research Church. Accordingly, the first three sentences of the third paragraph on page 75 (and endnotes 43 and 44 on page 82) should be replaced with the following:

Provincial legislation relating to the solemnization of marriages has not always been so restrictive. For example, Manitoba's *Marriage Act*, first enacted in 1883, provided that,

The ministers and clergymen or pastors of every church or religious denomination duly ordained or appointed according to the rights and ceremonies of the churches, denominations, or religious bodies to which they respectively belong and resident in the Province may . . . solemnize or perform the ceremony of marriage between any two persons not under a legal disqualification or disability to contract such marriage.<sup>1</sup>

The first Spiritualist marriage in Manitoba apparently took place in 1914 in Winnipeg. At the time a newspaper wedding announcement reported that "the first purely Spiritualist marriage in western Canada" was solemnized at the Winnipeg Spiritual Research Church on 28 February.<sup>2</sup> The first Spiritualist marriage to be solemnized under British Columbia's more restrictive legislation apparently took place on 14 February 1940 in Victoria's Open Door Spiritualist Church. The newspaper wedding announcement erroneously reported it as "the first wedding ever performed in a Spiritualist Church in Canada."<sup>3</sup> Further research is required to determine the date of the first Spiritualist marriage in Canada and the date on which the Spiritualist denomination was granted marriage rights in each province. In 1954 the Reverend Ada Garrad of Vancouver, a past president of the NSA, reported in a newspaper article that "British Columbia is the only province where Spiritualist ministers are authorized to perform marriage ceremonies."<sup>4</sup>

The authors would be happy to receive corrections and additional information from individuals who have knowledge of the Spiritualist movement in Canada or sources related to its study. Communications should be sent to Walter J. Meyer zu Erpen, 1012-865 View Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3E8, Canada.

### Notes

- \* Walter J. Meyer zu Erpen and Joy Lowe, "The Canadian Spiritualist Movement and Sources for its Study," *Archivaria* 30 (Summer 1991), pp. 71-84.
- 1 *Statutes of Manitoba*, 1883, c. 18, s. 1.
- 2 "First Spiritualist Wedding," *Manitoba Free Press*, 3 March 1914, p. 20, and [Winnipeg Spiritual Research Church, *Manitoba Free Press*, 7 March 1914, p. 24. William Manton, the officiating minister, solemnized the marriage between Alan Ganin Roberts (died ca. 1984) and Mary Eliza (May) Bocking (1895-1961).
- 3 "First Spiritualist Wedding Held in Canada," *Victoria Daily Times*, 15 February 1940, p. 6. The Reverend Walter L. Holder, Pastor, solemnized the marriage between Pearl Irene White and Bertram Ronald Mayell. The *British Columbia Gazette* (25 January 1940, p. 159) indicates that Reverend Holder, a minister ordained by the NSA, was first authorized under the British Columbia *Marriage Act* to solemnize marriages within the Province about January 1940 (certificate number 2171).
- 4 "Practicing [sic] Medium States Spiritualism Is Religion," *Daily Colonist* (Victoria), 12 January 1954, p. 13.