

Back to the Sources: Using Primary Source Materials in Leisure History Education

Susan Markham-Starr

School of Recreation Management and Kinesiology, Acadia University

Why? Who Cares?

A profession needs to know about its roots!

“The young people entering the field of recreation will need considerable faith in themselves and in their profession. Knowledge of earlier development, of the progress that has been made, and of the men and women who made it possible may provide future leaders with roots from which to grow in strength and wisdom to face the challenges that lie ahead.” (McFarland, 1970, p.1)

History is a discipline in which people living in the present time seek to understand the significant communication of people in past societies (Sanderlin, 1975, p.1)

What are those “significant communications”?

Let’s go back to the sources!

Primary sources are first hand accounts:

- Official records – pamphlets, bylaws, minutes
- Personal records – letters, diaries
- Published accounts – newspapers, periodicals
- Visual records – photographs, maps
- Oral traditions – stories, reminiscences
- Original materials – games, equipment

Do we use primary source materials, or do we just rehash a few old textbooks?

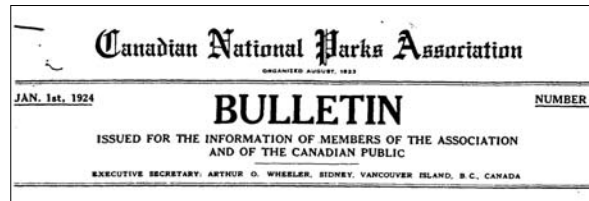
But where can you find primary source materials?

<http://openarchive.acadiau.ca>

We scanned the documents, converted them to .pdf files, and used CONTENTdm to organize them on the Acadia University Archives website



One Example Canadian National Parks Association



The objects of the Association are

- (a) The preservation of the National Parks of Canada in their entirety for the use of the people of Canada and of the world, and the prevention of detriment to them through the invasion of commercial interests.
- (b) The spreading abroad of propaganda with the object of attracting people to them.
- (c) The preservation of their natural beauties for the benefit of mankind, and of the fauna and flora intact, for educational, scientific, artistic and recreational purposes. To maintain them inviolate as symbols of the great heritage we possess in this wide-spreading Dominion of Canada. (CNPA, 1923)

Selby Walker

- member of the first CNPA executive
- Western Vice-President, 1923-26
- President, 1926-27.
- Executive-Secretary, 1927-52
- realtor and insurance agent by trade
- committed environmentalist



The Good Stuff – The Documents



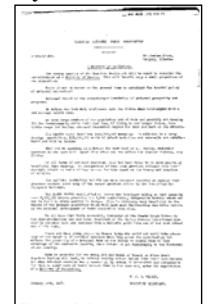
<http://ace.acadiau.ca/~markham/CNPA>



Collection	Number of Items	Accession Number	Accession Date
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1924	1924
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1925	1925
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1926	1926
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1927	1927
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1928	1928
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1929	1929
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1930	1930
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1931	1931
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1932	1932
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1933	1933
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1934	1934
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Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1945	1945
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1946	1946
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1947	1947
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1948	1948
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1949	1949
Canadian National Parks Association Bulletin	1	1950	1950



A Ministry of Recreation!!!



There are now over 370 more primary source documents from 16 collections at 6 archives at <http://openarchive.acadiau.ca> and <http://ace.acadiau.ca/~markham/CNPA>