

How to Approach writing a Parish History

Think about the following 5 "w"s and how they apply to your situation and goals.

Who: Who are you writing it for? What do you hope it will accomplish?

Who are you? What is your relationship to the Parish and the prospective audience?

What:

What do you seek to record? Preserve? Tell? Hand on? Communicate? Accomplishment? Is it the past? The Present? The work of the Spirit in the congregation? The story of particular individuals?

Where:

A particular Parish? Or church within a Parish, a particular congregation? Or the congregation within the broader community?

When:

What is your timeframe? Your life time? Your experience? The last 50 years? 100 years? or the entire time span of the Parish?

Why:

Why create a history? Is it dates? Events? People? Is your willingness to work at this history proportionate to the cause? Is your goal worth all the time required?

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Sources: SPG,(The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts, the original Anglican missionary Society founded in 1701 which helped found and expand the Anglican Church in New Brunswick); the clergy they paid for decades had to send two reports a year to England) DCS, (The Diocesan Church Society, founded in N.B. in 1836 it funded church expansion throughout the Province, itrequired annual reports from Parishes),Synod, (founded in 1871) WA/ACW, (founded early on in the 20th century) WW 1(1914-1918, look for non-church sources for info, eg local newspapers) WWII, Diocesan Newspapers (including "The Church Witness" from the 1850 and 60's); PANB, (Provincial Archives of N.B.), which holds and maintains our Diocesan Church records, Vestry Minutes found in PANB on Microfilm.

Media: How will you publish your history? Will it be written, photographic, recorded, oral, or internet, eg a video on Utube.

Framework & Organization of Material: Don't be overwhelmed, organize and categorize material, start with a rough plan of what the finished product will 'look like" and then be willing to modify the plan as you go along.

Finances: will vestry and or individuals devote time and money to this project? Or is it just another - "it would be nice if someone did that" idea? The quality of the finished project will directly reflect the amount of effort expended.

Don't be discouraged or overwhelmed; pray and persist, persevere and pray!