

Preface

Island papers of this era are especially important to genealogists. Although new settlers were still arriving from Europe, the out-migrations from Prince Edward Island were beginning. Opportunities elsewhere, particularly in the industrial centres of the “Boston States”, were attracting youth in search of employment and a better future. The US Civil War saw many PEI boys leave home to fight. Such movements are often difficult to trace through other sources. As well, the older generations, those that appear in the death and funeral notices, comprised many of the earliest immigrants and Island natives. They arrived, were born, and married at a time for which few church or other records survive. Thus, the vital statistics seen here may provide the only information we have on them, especially their ages and places of birth.

The *Vindicator* was published at Charlottetown by Edward Reilly and J.C. Doyle. Reilly is the same gentleman who later published the *Herald* (the subject of my first compilation). Unlike its successor, the *Vindicator* did not profess any neutrality in religious matters: it was from the outset a Catholic newspaper. Many of its pages – that space not taken by world and local news, etc. – were devoted to topics of a religious (read: Catholic) matter. However, the vital statistics reported in the *Vindicator* were not limited to Roman Catholics alone.

This book is the second of this genre that I have completed. It follows, with little alteration, the same format. As with its predecessor I hope that it, too, will prove to be a useful and beneficial tool for those researching their Island roots.

Also available is *The Herald, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island: Vital Statistics, Oct. 1864 to Oct. 1871*. Please contact me at the mailing address or e-mail address shown at the front of this book for further information.

Introduction

This book is a compilation of vital statistics data from the *Vindicator*, a weekly newspaper published in Charlottetown between 1862 and 1864. It includes the transcriptions of 433 articles, from birth, marriage and death announcements to a variety of other entries such as Coroner's Inquiries, Shipping News, and Local News. The dates covered are from its inaugural issue of 17 October 1862 until its final issue of 5 October 1864. All articles have been transcribed in their entirety. The original spelling and grammar has also been preserved, right down to the errors. Finally, there is an index listing the more than 900 personal names that appear in the enclosed articles.

Each surviving issue of the *Vindicator* was reviewed for vital statistics information. The main criteria were that the individuals involved had a direct connection to Prince Edward Island – current or former residents, native-born Islanders living or working elsewhere, or relatives of Island families. And, without exception, all entries appearing under the headings of “Birth”, “Married”, and “Died” were transcribed. Some vital statistics have been excluded, but only those for which there was no obvious link to PEI. Since the purpose was to compile Island statistics for Island researchers, I believe most readers will forgive such omissions.

The articles are arranged chronologically, and in the same order as they appeared in the original newspaper. Thus, an item that referred to a preceding entry in the original will do the same here. The page and column numbers are not included since the paper consisted of but 4 pages. Generally, announcements appeared on page 3 while other types of articles were found on pages 2 and/or 3.

The day and date of publication for each issue is given. Titles and section headings have been maintained, but not all articles had titles. All titles are in **bold** print. Articles that did not have a title are denoted with a “☞” symbol, similar to the one old newspapers used to highlight stories of special interest. Individual articles are separated by a line break.

Items appearing in multiple issues have been cross-referenced to each other. These, and other notes I felt necessary to add, are in *italicized* print, enclosed in square brackets. My initials (DLM) at the end of these notes identify them as mine, since the originals also included italicized print and notes in square brackets.

Readers should note that many newspapers of the time copied or exchanged articles with other papers. These can be found by the addition of the name, often abbreviated, of the original source at the end of the article. As well, requests may appear for other papers to copy specific material from the *Vindicator*. Researchers can use these to locate additional information on the people in question from other sources.