

Canadian Population Studies Group

Report of Research in Progress

by Herbert J. MAYS

The Canadian Population Studies Group (CANPOPS) was formed in the fall of 1973 to facilitate communications among scholars who are engaged in the historical study of populations and whose methodology has a quantitative bias. *Histoire sociale—Social History* has made space available for the annual publication of a report on "Research in Progress" and a "Cumulative Bibliography."

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

1. *Reconstitution de la population canadienne-française à l'époque préindustrielle*, Hubert CHARBONNEAU et Jacques LÉGARÉ, Département de démographie, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Québec.

Pour fins d'études démographiques, on veut établir, à l'aide de l'ordinateur, un registre de population fait de dossiers individuels. Chaque dossier comprendra la liste des événements démographiques auxquels un individu a participé, soit comme sujet d'acte soit comme témoin, ainsi que les caractéristiques de cet individu, fournies par les sources exploitées.

Depuis le microfilmage des sources manuscrites jusqu'à la production de tableaux statistiques, toute une série d'opérations précèdent l'analyse démographique. Celle-ci portera d'abord sur le XVII^e siècle, c'est-à-dire sur près de 250.000 mentions nominatives tirées de 30.000 actes d'état civil et des recensements nominatifs de 1666, 1667 et 1681 qui ont été dépouillés et mis sur bande magnétique. Un code phonétique des noms de famille a été mis au point pour vaincre les difficultés dues aux variations orthographiques et de nombreux programmes d'ordinateur ont été faits pour automatiser les opérations de reconstitution des familles. Grâce à la qualité et à l'abondance des documents anciens, les résultats de cette recherche devraient permettre de renouveler nos connaissances sur les deux premiers tiers de l'histoire démographique du Canada et, par conséquent, sur le comportement des populations en milieu de colonisation. Pour plus de détails, voir:

LÉGARÉ, Jacques, LA ROSE, André et ROY, Raymond, « Reconstitution de la population canadienne au XVII^e siècle: méthodes et bilan d'une recherche », *Recherches sociographiques* (à paraître au début de 1974).

Depuis le début de cette recherche, une quinzaine d'articles et notes de recherche ont été publiés. La plupart de ces titres sont disponibles en tirés à part.

Des sommaires du Programme de recherche en démographie historique ont été soumis pour publication à *Historical Methods Newsletter* et à *The Family in Historical Perspective Newsletter*.

2. *The Hungarian Ethnic Group in Canada*, N. Fred DREISZIGER, Department of History, Royal Military College, Kingston, Ontario.

3. *A Quantitative Analysis of the United Empire Loyalists of the American Revolution who settled, subsequently, in the province of New Brunswick*, Jo-Ann FELLOWS, Department of History, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Work began on this project in January 1974.

4. (a) *Urban social structure in southwestern Brittany, 1700-1800*. (b) *A quantitative study of the geographical and social origins of the French maritime population in the 18th century*, T. LE GOFF, Department of History, York University, Downsview, Ontario.

(a) A study of the evolution of socio-economic groups in the town of Vannes (Morbihan), essentially from *capitation* rolls.

(b) A study of the origins of French seamen, from the matricules of the Bureau des Classes.

Not previously reported elsewhere. Reports are not yet available.

5. *The Peel County History Project*, David P. GAGAN, Department of History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

The Peel County History Project was begun in the fall of 1971 to reconstitute the population of Peel County, Ontario from 1800 to 1891. Social and economic analysis and the techniques of family reconstitution are employed in this study which attempts to deal with fundamental questions concerning the quality of life in a mid-Victorian County. What, for example, was the extent and impact of geographic mobility? What was the role or function of the family unit? How did it operate? What were the reasonable expectations of children born into this society?

The research design calls for the collection and analysis of all routinely generated records for all of the families living in Peel at each decennial interval from 1800 through 1891. These records generally include: Census returns, land and mortgage records, wills, assessment and collectors' rolls, county directories, land petitions, and church records (birth, marriage, death).

Previously reported in the *Canadian Historical Review*, LIV (March, 1973), 27-47. Annual reports are available in limited quantities upon request.

6. *Literacy and Social Structure in the Nineteenth Century*, H. J. GRAFF, Department of History and Philosophy, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, Ontario. [Ph.D. dissertation.]

This study examines literacy and its various societal relationships from a number of different perspectives. The goal of this research is to reconstruct the place of "literacy skills" in the mid-nineteenth century and to determine how important they were to an individual member of society.

To achieve this end, the study is divided into two parts. In the first instance a comparison of the literate and illiterate segments of the population attempts to isolate differences in work patterns, family size and structure, social and geographic mobility, and in the expectations of children (work or school attendance). The second portion of the study is concerned with broader areas which are affected by reading and writing. Problems to be considered include the role of religion, literacy and occupation, literacy and crime, and the teaching of reading.

The primary focus of this research is quantitative. Data is drawn from three cities and two counties in Ontario. A prominent place in the research is given to routinely generated documents of the nineteenth century such as manuscript nominal census returns (1861 and 1871), agricultural census returns, assessment rolls, crime registers, and employment contracts.

Previously reported in *The Family in Historical Perspective*, notes in *Historical Methods Newsletter*, *Urban History Review*. Articles in *Histoire sociale — Social History*, *History of Education Quarterly*. Reports available upon request.

7. *Population of Huntley Township, Ontario, 1842-71*, Julian GWYN, Department of History, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6N5.

Not previously reported. No progress reports available.

8. *Native-born Migration through Boston, Mass., 1850-1880*, Peter R. KNIGHTS, Department of History, York University, Downsview, Ontario.

This project attempts to supply a partial answer to one of the major unresolved questions of U.S. historiography: what became of people who left communities? After all, for most of the 19th Century, less than a majority of any given urban (and likely many a rural) community remained there as long as ten years. Where did these out-migrants go, and how well did they fare afterward?

The study samples some 2,700 native-born white male heads of household who resided in Boston, Mass., in 1860 and 1870 (every tenth

such male), and attempts to trace them from birth to death. It uses manuscript censuses, city and business directories, vital-statistics records, tax records, newspapers, printed family genealogies, credit reports, and life-insurance company records. Results will be presented in book form as a continuation of the series commenced with *The Plain People of Boston, 1830-1860: A Study in City Growth*.

Not previously reported. No progress reports are available, but those interested may write for information.

9. *Neighbourhood Development in Toronto from 1880*, James T. LEMON, Department of Geography, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.

This study focuses upon the "Annex" of Toronto in the period after 1880. It explores questions relating to the social composition, the development and redevelopment process and draws comparisons in the levels of city participation in these processes.

Additional information may be obtained in an article appearing in a book on the Annex. The article deals with the period 1880-1923, and makes extensive use of assessment data, especially for the years 1910, 1923.

10. *Families and Land in Toronto Gore Township, Peel County, Ontario, 1820-1891*, Herbert J. MAYS, Department of History, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. [Ph.D. dissertation.]

This study is an exercise in quantitative social history which attempts to identify the experience of three generations of ordinary men who lived in a rural township in Victorian Canada. Through an examination of the major events in a family's "life cycle" — an individual's childhood, youth, marriage, parenthood, widowhood, and death — the study seeks to isolate those cultural changes which may exemplify broader patterns of development in a family-centred society.

Toronto Gore was chosen, in part, because it was small enough to permit an exhaustive examination of the records of *all* the families who lived in the township over a seventy-year period. Rural indebtedness, demographic processes, and the relationship between families and the land are all subjected to analysis.

Previously reported in the *Canadian Historical Review* LIV (March, 1973), 27-47. Further information available through the Peel County History Project.

11. *The making and breaking of the Western Canadian working class, 1896-1921*, F. David MILLAR, Department of History, York University, Downsview, Ontario, M3J 1P3. [Ph.D. dissertation.]

This study relies, for the most part, upon literary, visual, and oral-history evidence but should raise some important questions which can only be settled by quantitative research. For example, questions of "case," class and intermarriage, and changing occupational and status structures are all subsumed within the study.

Not previously reported. Progress reports available upon request.

12. *Illegitimate fertility in western society since 1700*, Edward SHORTER, Department of History, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario.

For a description of this project see "Female Emancipation, Birth Control, and Fertility in European History," *American Historical Review*, LXXVIII (June 1973), 605-640.

Progress reports are available upon request.

13. *The Canadian Social History Project*, Ian Winchester, Department of History and Philosophy, The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Toronto, Ontario.

The general purpose of this project is to analyze the impact of industrialization on urban social structure and social mobility using Hamilton, Ontario, as a case study. It deals with the years 1851 through at least, 1881; its basis is coded information about all, and not a sample, of the individuals listed in the manuscript census, assessment rolls, newspaper, city directories, marriage records, church records, records of voluntary societies and cemetery records. These individuals are studied at differing intervals in an effort to trace the most common patterns between important social features such as occupation, wealth, religion, ethnicity, family size, and school attendance.

Previously reported in the *Canadian Historical Review*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* and *History of Education Quarterly*. Annual reports available upon request.

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