

# Nova Scotia Archives

## **Finding Aid - Peter Barss and Joleen Gordon fonds (Sound: Accession 1987-028)**

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<https://memoryns.ca/index.php/peter-barss-and-joleen-gordon-fonds>

# Peter Barss and Joleen Gordon fonds

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## Summary information

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**Repository:** Nova Scotia Archives  
**Title:** Peter Barss and Joleen Gordon fonds  
**ID:** Sound: Accession 1987-028  
**Date:** [ca.1975]-1977; 1980 (date of creation)

**Physical description:** \* 23 cm of textual records  
\* 95 photographs  
\* 27 sound recordings

**Dates of creation,  
revision and deletion:**

**Note [generalNote]:** Joleen Gordona's research files on this project were transferred to the Nova Scotia Museum Library collection.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Peter Barss was born on 4 July 1941 and is a descendant of the Barss family of Lunenburg County. He emigrated from Massachusetts in 1973 and has a BA and MA in English Literature from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. He studied photography in 1971-1972 under Lee Broman at the School of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Barss is an accomplished photographer, having operated the Barss Photographic Studio in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia for many years. He is the author of Images of Lunenburg County.

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

Joleen (nee Aldous) Gordon was born 7 July 1945 in Toronto, Ontario, the daughter of Dr. John Gray and Eileen (Hooley) Aldous. She received a BSc (Hon) from Dalhousie University and a Masters of Marine Biology from the University College of North Wales. She is a gifted teacher and lecturer. She has worked as a research associate with the Nova Scotia Museum since 1972 and is the author of a number of books, articles and reviews, principally about material culture in Nova Scotia. She is a founding member of the Helen Creighton Folklore Society and the Nova Scotia Basketry Guild. She was awarded the Portia White Prize in 2007.

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## Scope and content

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Fonds consists of the research done by Barss and Gordon for "Older Ways: Traditional Nova Scotia Craftsmen" published in 1980. Between 1975 and 1977 they interviewed and photographed 30 artisans who were practicing a traditional craft in Nova Scotia, which produced a practical item (i.e. folk artists were eliminated). Included are: images taken by Barss of the craftspeople at work; interviews with the craftspeople conducted by Barss and Gordon; the creator's grant applications and correspondence, press clippings, etc., relating to the 1977 exhibit at Mount St Vincent Art Gallery based on their research; and a copy of their final publication. Of those interviewed, 19 artisans were from Lunenburg County, five from Kings County, and three from both Queens and Annapolis Counties. Their crafts include the making of fish nets, sails, knives, baskets, butter churns and tool handles. During their interviews, they discuss the technical aspects of their craft as well as modern lifestyles and values as compared to traditional ones.

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## Notes

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### Title notes

### Immediate source of acquisition

Donated by Joleen Gordon in June 1987.

### Restrictions on access

The fonds is accessible to researchers for consultation; written permission is required from Joleen Gordon for use or reproduction until 2025.

### Finding aids

"File list of manuscripts and photographs is attached.":<https://novascotia.ca/archives/lists/peter-barss-and-joleen-gordon-fonds.pdf>

"Sound recording file / item list is attached.":<https://novascotia.ca/archives/lists/peter-barss-and-joleen-gordon-sound-recordings.pdf>

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
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## Series descriptions

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Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
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MG 1 vol 2165 item 1	Item - Textual records: "Traditional Nova Scotia Craftsmen" correspondence	1975
MG 1 vol 2165 item 2	Item - Textual records: Canada Council "final explorations" application	1975
MG 1 vol 2165 item 3	Item - Textual records: "Older ways" (post exhibit)	1977
MG 1 vol 2165 item 4	Item - Textual records: Photographic project	1969
MG 1 vol 2165 item 5	Item - Textual records: Bass River Chairs 80th anniversary catalogue (#46) and Dominion Chair Company Limited of Bass River, Nova Scotia	1860
MG 1 vol 2165 item 6	Item - Textual records: "Older ways" and "Traditional Craftsmen of Nova Scotia" resource kit	1979
1987-028/001-01	Item - Photographs: Boland, Grover (born 20 November 1922) carving ox yokes, Liverpool, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-02	Item - Photographs: Bush, Carl (born 25 February 1906) mending fish nets, Lahave, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-03	Item - Photographs: Bush, Victor (born 2 May 1902) creating witherod eel pots, Lahave, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-04	Item - Photographs: Ernst, Arthur (born 18 May 1894) - wheelwright, Blockhouse, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-05	Item - Photographs: Finck, Perlus (born 26 June 1903) making decoys, East Ironbound Island, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-06	Item - Photographs: Gates, Harold (born 10 August 1906) making canoes, Middleton, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-07	Item - Photographs: Gates, Ray (born 6 September 1911) with barrels - Ross Farm Museum, New Ross, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-08	Item - Photographs: Herman, Sam (born 2 February 1903) with hayrakes, Italy Cross, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-09	Item - Photographs: Hiltz, Alex (born 18 October 1907) making wooden spoons, The Forties Settlement, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-10	Item - Photographs: Hiltz, Jane (born 24 May 1914) making braided hats, The Forties Settlement, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-11	Item - Photographs: Keddy, Clarence (born 18 June 1894) making sheen brooms, Camperdown, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-12	Item - Photographs: Lohnes, Everett (born 12 June 1901) making sails, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-13	Item - Photographs: Lowe, Peryle (born 31 May 1907) weaving, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia	between 1975

1987-028/001-14	Item - Photographs: Mahar, Ralph (born 25 July 1911) making apple ladders, Halls Harbour, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-15	Item - Photographs: McKnight, Archie (born 15 May 1903) - blacksmith, Milton, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-16	Item - Photographs: Minard, Freeland (born 20 May 1884) - blacksmith, Barss Corner, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-17	Item - Photographs: Mooers, Andrew Jackson (born 7 May 1900) making crooked knives, Milton, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-18	Item - Photographs: Mossman, Bernard (born 17 February 1907) making witherod baskets, Lower Kingsburg, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-19	Item - Photographs: Reeves, Ashton (born 30 December 1925) making butter churns at Ross Farm Museum, New Ross, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-20	Item - Photographs: Russell, Grace (born 14 September 1906) making quilts at Forest Hill, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-21	Item - Photographs: Russell, Stanley (born 8 August 1905) making ox whips at Forest Hill, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-22	Item - Photographs: Sarty, Wilson (born 9 February 1906) making snowshoes at Italy Cross, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-23	Item - Photographs: Smith, Noel (born 10 May 1917) making apple / potato baskets at Hantsport, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-24	Item - Photographs: Stevens, Harold (born 13 July 1911) making sails, Second Peninsula, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-25	Item - Photographs: Tupper, Durward (born 16 February 1902) making shingle sleds at Lake George, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-26	Item - Photographs: Wile, Anne (born 2 September 1895) hooking a mat at Dayspring, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-27	Item - Photographs: Wile, David (born 22 September 1897) making tool handles at Wileville, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-28	Item - Photographs: Young, Bernard (born 14 January 1918) making a harness at Kentville, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-29	Item - Photographs: Young, Eva (born 8 November 1896) making lobster mitts, East Ironbound Island, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-30	Item - Photographs: Zillig, Edith (born 4 August 1915) - sheepskin tanner at Scotch Village, Nova Scotia	between 1975
1987-028/001-31	Item - Photographs: Unidentified man with hayrake (possibly Clarence Keddy)	between 1975

1987-028/001-32	Item - Photographs: Unidentified man with ox yokes	between 1975
2011-036/001-01	Item - Older Ways exhibit - remarks at the opening	1977
2011-036/001-02	Item - Older Ways - correspondence	1978
2011-036/001-03	Item - Older Ways - promotional items	1977
2011-036/001-04	Item - Older Ways - publication documents (dust jacket notes)	ca. 1978
2011-036/001-05	Item - Older Ways - press coverage and reviews	1977
2011-036/001-06	Item - Older Ways - tour schedule	1977
2011-036/001-07	Item - Older Ways - biographical information and obituaries of interviewees	1993
2011-036/001-08	Item - Older Ways - exhibit images, 1977	photocopied 2011
2011-036/001-09	Item - Older Ways - donation to the Nova Scotia Archives	1987
2011-036/001-10	Item - Older Ways - exhibit images	1977