

Nova Scotia

Research Outline

Table of Contents

Records Of The Family History Library
Research Strategy
Archives And Libraries
Cemetery Records
Census Records
Church Records
Directories
Emigration And Immigration Records
Genealogy
History
Land And Property Records
Military Records
Naturalization And Citizenship
Newspapers
Periodicals
Probate Records
Societies
Taxation Records
Township Records
Vital Records
For Further Reading
Comments And Suggestions

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Nova Scotia. As you read this outline, study the *Canada Research Outline* (34545), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by *FHL*, the abbreviation for *Family History Library*. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. Using the "Computer Number Search" is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.

RESEARCH STRATEGY

When researching in this province, you should begin by checking the following records in the order suggested:

1. Vital records
2. Census returns
3. Church records
4. Township records
5. Land records
6. Immigration records

For Acadian research, see the “Emigration and Immigration” section of this outline.

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

The following archives and libraries may have useful genealogical information for Nova Scotia:

- National Archives of Canada

395 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0N3
CANADA
Telephone: 613-996-7458

- Personnel Records Unit

Researcher Services Division
National Archives of Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N3
CANADA

- Public Archives of Nova Scotia

6016 University Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 1W4
CANADA
Telephone: 902-424-6060
Fax: 902-424-0628

- Centre d'archives de la Capitale

2424 Watt St.
Sainte-Foy PQ G1P 3T3
CANADA
Telephone: 418-683-5784

- Le Centre d'études acadiennes (Center for Acadian Studies)

Université de Moncton
Moncton, NB E1A 3E9
CANADA
Telephone: 506-858-4085
Fax: 506-858-4086

- Nova Scotia Museum

1747 Summer Street
Halifax, NS B3H 3A6
CANADA
Telephone: 902-424-6471
Fax: 902-424-0560

- Planters Studies Center

c/o Acadia University Library
Mrs. Patricia Townsend, Archivist
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0
CANADA
Telephone: 902-585-1412

- Family History Library

35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

Most microfilms available at the library can also be distributed to local Family History Centers. A current list of Family History Centers in your area can be obtained from the Family History Library.

Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive E-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Nova Scotia in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.

Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of September 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- Canada GenWeb

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwggw>

A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county and province.

- Canadian Genealogy Resources

<http://genealogy.about.com/hobbies/genealogy/msubcanada.htm>

Lists county, provincial, and national sources, personal pages, and publications.

- Roots-L

<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/canada.html>

A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

CEMETERY RECORDS

Tombstone inscriptions from many cemeteries in Nova Scotia have been copied and are on file at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Some copies are on microfilm at the Family History Library, some are kept by individuals, and some have been published. Annapolis, Colchester, Halifax, Kings, Lunenburg, Pictou, and Queens counties have extensive cemetery listings. The northern portion of Cumberland County has been recorded. The *Antigonish Casket*, which has an index of deaths for the eastern portion of the province, is available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

Since most cemeteries in Nova Scotia are church cemeteries, requests can be made directly to the clergymen of the individual churches. Many churches have burial registers.

CENSUS RECORDS

The Nova Scotia censuses before 1703 are helpful in providing a deceased person's name, age, and relatives. The censuses from 1703 to 1861 list only the head of a household, with a few exceptions. The more useful local censuses are listed below:

1671	Acadia: lists names, ages, and places of origin.
1686	Acadia: lists names, ages, and animals.
1693	Acadia: lists names, ages, and animals.
1698	Acadia: lists names, ages, and animals.
1701	Acadia: lists names, ages, and animals.
1752	Ile Royal: lists names, ages, and places of origin.
1752	Halifax: lists head of household.

- 1770 Many counties: lists head of household. This census has been published in:
Richard, Bernice C. *Nova Scotia 1770 Census, Some 1773 and 1787*. . . Chicago: Chicago Genealogical Society, 1972. (FHL book 971.6 A1 #18 film 962273 item 10 computer number 153446)
- 1817 A few counties: lists head of household.
- 1818 Part of Cape Breton Island.
- 1827 Many counties: lists head of household. It has been published.
- 1838 Most of the province: lists head of household.
- 1851 Only Kings, Halifax, and Pictou counties: lists head of household. An index has been published for Kings, Halifax counties (FHL book 971.6 X22n; computer number 417828). There is also an index for Pictou county (FHL book 971.613 X29p; computer number 404424).
- 1861 Whole province: lists head of household.
- 1871,1881 Whole province: lists all household members. The census gives each person's name, sex, age, country or province of birth, religion, occupation, and marital status. (1871 is incomplete for Shelburne County.)
- 1891 Lists all household members. The census lists each person's name, sex, age, marital status, relation to head of family, country or province of birth, French-Canadian descendency, place of birth of father, place of birth of mother, religion, and occupation.
- 1901 Lists all household members. The census lists each person's name, sex, color, relation to head of family, marital status, date of birth, country or province of birth, age at census, year of immigration to Canada, year of naturalization, nationality, religion, occupation, and native language.

Censuses from 1911 to the present are not available to the public.

A source for early censuses is:

Trahan, Charles C. *Acadian Census, 1671–1752*. Rayne, La.: Hebert Publications, 1994. (FHL book 971.5 X2t; computer number 725095.) Acadia covered what is now Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island.

CHURCH RECORDS

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has many original church registers as well as microfilm copies. The Protestant registers generally cover 1780–1914. There are Catholic records 1679–1914. A list of these holdings can be found in *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia*, by Terrence M. Punch (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

Church records, besides those above, are generally found in the individual parishes or congregations or in church-diocesan archive centers. For more information concerning the whereabouts of certain registers, contact the appropriate denomination below:

Anglican

Diocese of Nova Scotia
Attention: Archivist
5732 College Street
Halifax, NS B3H 1X3
CANADA
Telephone: 902-420-0717
Fax: 902-425-0717

Written authorization is required to use these records. Some searches can be made by mail.

Baptist

Vaughn Memorial Library
Acadia University
Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0
CANADA
Telephone: 902-585-1249
Fax: 902-585-1073

The Atlantic Baptist Historical Collection does not contain birth, baptism, marriage, or death certificates. The most useful genealogical information is the list of church members; it usually gives the dates members were received into the church, their date of baptism, and, if applicable, the date of their dismissal from the church.

Catholic

Most registers are still found in the individual parishes. Sometimes information can be obtained from:

Archdiocese of Halifax
P.O. Box 1527
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3
CANADA
Telephone: 902-429-9800
Fax: 902-423-5201

Presbyterian

Presbyterian records are usually found in the individual churches. For more information, contact the church in the community in which you are researching.

United Church of Canada

Maritime Conference Archives
32 York Street
Sackville, NB E4L 4R4
CANADA
Telephone: 902-429-4819

For registers of other denominations (such as Adventist, Congregationalist, Jewish, and Lutheran), determine the location of the church, and then arrange to see any records that may exist.

DIRECTORIES

Many Nova Scotia directories up to and including 1900 are available on the following microfiche:

Pre-1900 Canadian Directories. Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, 1988. (On 4,219 FHL fiche beginning with 6360453; computer number 758652. These fiche do not circulate to Family History Centers.)

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Passenger lists before 1881 for Nova Scotia are practically nonexistent; however, the Public Archives of Nova Scotia does have a few scattered lists for ships arriving from Great Britain (no more than 30). These cover many of the years between 1749 and 1864. There is one list for ships arriving from France in 1636. Two valuable indexes for this early period are:

Smith, Leonard H. *Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867*. 2 vols. Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992–1994. (FHL book 971.6 W2S; computer number 654000.)

Norton, Judith A. *New England Planters in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, 1759–1800: Bibliography of Primary Sources*. Toronto; Buffalo [N.Y.]: University of Toronto Press in association with Planters Studies Center, Acadia University, 1993. (FHL book 971.5 W23n; computer number 673376.)

The passenger lists from 1881 to 1900 for ships arriving at Halifax are available on microfilm at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, the Family History Library, or local Family History Centers (on 12 FHL [films beginning with 1642682](#); computer number 216659). Many arriving passengers are also mentioned in Halifax newspapers.

Canadian Border Crossing Records

The United States kept records of people crossing the border from Canada to the United States. These records are called border crossing lists, passenger lists, or manifests. There are two kinds of manifests:

- Manifests of people sailing from Canada to the United States.
- Manifests of people traveling by train from Canada to the United States.

In 1895, Canadian shipping companies agreed to make manifests of passengers traveling to the United States. The Canadian government allowed U.S. immigration officials to inspect those passengers while they were still in Canada. The U.S. immigration officials also inspected train

passengers traveling from Canada to the United States. The U.S. officials worked at Canadian seaports and major cities like Québec and Winnipeg. The manifests from every seaport and emigration station in Canada were sent to St. Albans, Vermont.

The Family History Library has copies of both kinds of manifests. Because the manifests were sent to St. Albans, Vermont, they are grouped under *St. Albans District Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory*. Despite the name, the manifests are actually from seaports and railroad stations all over Canada and the northern United States, not just Vermont.

Border Crossing Manifests. Manifests may include information about each passenger's name, port or station of entry, date of entry, age, literacy, last residence, previous visits to the United States, and birthplace. The manifests are reproduced in two series:

- *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895–1954.* (608 rolls; FHL films 1561087–499; computer number 423848.) Includes records from seaports and railroad stations all over Canada and the northern United States. These manifests provide two types of lists:

—Traditional passenger lists on U.S. immigration forms.

—Monthly lists of passengers crossing the border on trains. These lists are divided by month. In each month, the records are grouped by railroad station. (The stations are listed in alphabetical order.) Under the station, the passengers are grouped by railroad company.

- *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific Ports, 1929–1949.* (25 rolls; FHL films 1549387–411; computer number 423848.) These list travelers to the United States from Canadian Pacific seaports only.

Border Crossing Indexes. In many cases, index cards were the *only* records kept of the crossings. These cards are indexed in four publications:

- *Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries through the St. Albans, Vermont, District, 1895–1924.* (400 rolls; FHL films 1472801–3201; computer number 423848.)

The Soundex is a surname index based on the way a name sounds rather than how it is spelled. Names like Smith and Smyth are filed together.

- *Soundex Index to Entries into the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1924–1952.* (98 rolls; FHL films 1570714–811; computer number 423848.)
- *St. Albans District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory: Records of Arrivals through Small Ports in Vermont, 1895–1924.* (6 rolls; FHL films 1430987–92; computer number 423849.) The records are arranged first by port and then alphabetically by surname. Only from Vermont ports of entry: Alburg, Beecher Falls, Canaan, Highgate Springs, Island Pond, Norton, Richford, St. Albans, and Swanton.
- *Detroit District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory: Arrivals at Detroit, Michigan, 1906–1954.* (117 rolls; FHL films 1490449–565; computer number 432703.) Only from Michigan ports of entry: Bay City, Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie.

Acadian Genealogy

The area comprising present-day New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island was once known as Acadie. Eventually the name became Acadia. The area was first settled by the French, who established Port Royal (present-day Annapolis) in 1605. The territory passed back and forth from French to English hands many times: 1632 (French rule), 1654 (English), 1667 (French), 1690 (English), 1697 (French), and 1713 (English). In accordance with the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, France ceded the Nova Scotia peninsula and the New Brunswick area to England. England did little to settle the area, and the French-speaking Acadians were the majority until about 1750. France still retained Ile Saint-Jean (now Prince Edward Island) and Cape Breton Island (now part of Nova Scotia), where Louisbourg became the capital.

A large number of the Acadians were deported by the English from 1755 to 1760. To escape deportation, many fled to Québec, or what is now New Brunswick. In 1759 the Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island areas fell to Britain; their settlers were deported to France. In 1763 France ceded most of its maritime lands to England, and the area became known as Nova Scotia.

In 1769 a separate province, Saint John's Island, was established. It became Prince Edward Island in 1799. In 1784 the New Brunswick area also became a separate province. About this time many Acadians who had been deported agreed to sign the oath of allegiance to England and were allowed to take up lands in the Maritime Provinces. They worked primarily as farmers and fishermen. For the most part, they continued to speak French and uphold their Roman Catholic faith.

Because of this great dispersion, the Acadian records are only complete for the early years of settlement. There are some good church registers from the late 1600s to 1755. Registers exist for Port Royal only for the earliest years.

The most important remaining sources for Acadian research are:

Parish Registers. Most of the remaining registers are housed in the Centre d'archives de la Capitale in the city of Québec and in Le Centre d'études acadiennes (Center for Acadian Studies) in Moncton, New Brunswick. (See the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline for addresses.)

Census Records. See the "Census" section of this outline for information about Canadian censuses.

Land Grants. These can be found at the Archives des Colonies in Paris, France, as well as on microfilm at the National Archives of Canada.

Notarial Records. Most of these records have been lost or destroyed as a result of the exile of the Acadians from Canada. There are, however, some records for 1687–1758. These are available at Le Centre d'études acadiennes (Center for Acadian Studies) and the National Archives of Canada.

Other Records. Several sources exist which are primarily Acadian records. These are lists of deported Acadians, Acadians in transit, and Acadians in the British Colonies; petitions of Acadians in Massachusetts; and allegiance lists. These may be found in periodicals published by various historical and genealogical societies.

Good sources for research are Placide Gaudet's *Acadian Genealogy and Notes* and Archange Godbout's genealogical collection. They are both located at Le Centre d'études acadiennes (Center for Acadian Studies) and the National Archives of Canada. Another good source for Acadian

research is *Histoire & Généalogie des Acadiens*, by Bona Arsenault (FHL book 971.5 F2aa; film 873863 items 1–2; computer number 93754).

GENEALOGY

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has a large collection of published family and local histories. Manuscript Group 1, “Papers of Families and Individuals,” can be very helpful. This section consists of manuscript sources such as Bible entries, notes, family journals, personal correspondence, papers, and documents. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has published the following report concerning these and other manuscript sources:

Inventory of Manuscripts in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Halifax: The Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1976. 2 vols. in 1. (FHL book 971.6 A5P; film 1036635 item 2; computer number 153449.)

A recent index to many published biographies, cemetery records, census records (through 1881), church records, directories, family histories, genealogies, immigration lists, local histories, Loyalist listings, marriage records, periodicals, probate records, and vital records in newspapers is:

Elliot, Noel Montgomery, ed. *The Atlantic Canadians, 1600–1900: An Alphabetized Directory of the People, Places, and Vital Dates*. 3 vols. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994. (FHL book Ref area 971.5 D22a; computer number 718304.) Indexes over 500,000 names from various sources for the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Labrador, and Prince Edward Island. Sources are listed at the end of each volume.

HISTORY

1497	Nova Scotia was rediscovered by John Cabot and claimed for England.
1534	Jacques Cartier explored the northern shoreline.
1604–1605	DeMonts and Champlain established a settlement at Port Royal (present-day Annapolis Royal).
1621	The first attempts at British colonization were made; they failed.
1629	First settlements were made by the British at Charlesfort (near Port Royal) and at Rosemar.
1654	French settlements were seized by New Englanders.
1670	The Treaty of Breda gave lost territory back to France.
1686	Ninety French Acadian families were located at Port Royal.
1690	Port Royal was captured by New Englanders.
1713	Through the Treaty of Utrecht, France gave Acadia to Britain.
1749	Halifax was settled by the British.
1752	The first newspaper in Canada, the <i>Halifax Gazette</i> , was published.
1755	Most French Acadians were expelled by the British. Many returned later.

1758	Louisbourg was captured by the British.
1763	Cape Breton and Prince Edward Island were annexed to Nova Scotia.
1773	The first Scottish settlers arrived.
1783	American refugees of the American Revolution, who were also known as United Empire Loyalists, came to Nova Scotia. Cape Breton and New Brunswick enjoyed separate governments.
1815–1850	Some 55,000 immigrants, mostly Scottish and Irish, came to the province.
1818	Dalhousie University was founded in Halifax.
1820	Cape Breton was annexed to Nova Scotia.
1848	Nova Scotia was the first British colony where the principle of responsible government was recognized.
1867	The Province of Nova Scotia was formed, being one of the original four provinces to join the Confederation.
1876	The railway from Halifax to Quebec was completed.
1917	A French ship collided with a Norwegian steamer. The collision caused an explosion of TNT, explosive acid, and benzene. A large part of the northern section of Halifax was destroyed.

LAND AND PROPERTY RECORDS

Land records up to about 1900 in Nova Scotia are available at land registry offices and at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Records after 1910 are only found in the registry offices. There are also some indexes available. Deeds found in the registry offices generally mention dates, names, locations, occupations, and so forth.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has an alphabetical file of draft land grants and petitions for land. This file covers the years from 1763 onward. There are indexes for 1784–1877. Petitions often mention a petitioner's name, country of origin, date of arrival in Nova Scotia, and other information.

Nova Scotia. Department of Crown Lands. *Land Records, 1763–1914; Index, 1784–1877*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983–1984. (On 95 FHL films beginning with 1378554; computer number 220295.)

Nova Scotia. Department of Crown Lands. *Crown Land Grants, 1854–1967*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1968. (On 14 FHL films beginning with 465201; index on film 466413; computer number 206190.)

There is also a land record book containing 3,300 petitions for Cape Breton entitled, *Cape Breton Land Papers and Index, 1787–1843, and Miscellaneous Land Papers, 1820–1864*. (FHL film 1378276; computer number 508155.) The land papers are on 13 FHL films beginning with 1378277; computer number 508155. These records are at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia.

A list of the Americans who received land as refugees from the American Revolution is found in:

Smith, Clifford Neal. *Whereabouts of Some American Refugees, 1784–1800: the Nova Scotian Land Grants*. 7 vols. McNeal, Ariz.: Vestland Publications, 1992. (FHL book 971.6 R2S; computer number 690908.)

MILITARY RECORDS

Most military records for Nova Scotia are in the National Archives of Canada. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has a few muster rolls, pay-lists, and order books for various units.

World War I (1914–1918)

Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) service records are available through the Personnel Records Unit of the National Archives of Canada (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address). These service records contain detailed information on each individual's enlistment and demobilization (discharge). Information may include date and place of birth, address at time of enlistment, name and address of next of kin, marital status, occupation, personal description (eye and hair color, height, weight, distinctive marks or scars), and religion. When requesting information from the Personnel Records Unit, please include the individual's name, rank, and regiment (where known).

NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Until 1947, British immigrants from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland automatically became citizens of Canada; they did not need naturalization. Non-British immigrants, however, were required to make oaths of allegiance before receiving land grants. Files containing these oaths and petitions for citizenship covering the years 1817 to 1846 are found at the Provincial Archives.

Records created after 1917 are more detailed than earlier records and are found at:

Department of Citizenship and Immigration

Public Rights Administration

360 Laurier Ave West 10th Floor

Ottawa, ONK1A 1L1

CANADA

Telephone: 888-242-2100 (in Canada only; outside of Canada, write to the above address)

Record Group 18, series A in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia contains many oaths of allegiance taken between 1862 and 1915. The following records are available at the Family History Library:

Naturalization Papers, Nova Scotia, ca. 1849–1917. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (FHL films 1376184 items 2–3; 1376185 item 1; computer number 243157.)

Record Group 49 in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia contains citizenship records after 1900 for seven counties.

NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are a helpful source when church and community records do not exist or are incomplete. Up to the late 1800s, few births were reported, and most marriages and deaths reported were of people in high social positions. The majority of the early newspapers for the whole province are at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (many on microfilm). The Family History Library has the following:

Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers. Halifax: Genealogical Committee of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, 1978-. 13 vols. (FHL book 971.6 V29p; beginning with fiche 6099917; computer number 203557.) The volumes cover 1813–1854.

Tratt, Gertrude E. N. *A Survey and Listing of Nova Scotia Newspapers, 1752–1957*. Halifax, Nova Scotia: Dalhousie University 1979. (FHL book 971.6 B33t; fiche 6087817; computer number 406447.)

Nova Scotia Newspapers: A Directory and Union List, 1752–1988. Halifax: Dalhousie University, School of Library and Informational Studies, 1990. (FHL book 971.6 B33n; computer number 60979.)

PERIODICALS

Many local periodicals are indexed in:

PERiodical Source Index (PERSI). Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987-. (FHL book 973 D25per; 1847–1985 on fiche 6016863 [set of 40]; computer number 444407; 1986–1990 on fiche 6016864 [set of 15]; computer number 658308.) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details, see the *PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide* (34119).

PROBATE RECORDS

Probate records such as wills, inventories, and administrations are very helpful. Many of these records (especially wills) give names, dates, residences, possessions, and relationships. Probate registration began in Halifax in 1749. The probate materials are usually found in the county courthouses. Record Group 48 in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia consists of many probate records. The Family History Library has microfilms of probate records for all counties, often up to the 1930s or 1960s. A list of deeds and probates held at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia is found in *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia*, by Terrence M. Punch, page 86 (see the “For Further Reading” section of this outline).

SOCIETIES

The following societies may have useful genealogical information for Nova Scotia:

Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society
c/o Public Archives of Nova Scotia
6016 University Avenue
Halifax, NS B3H 1W4
CANADA
Telephone: 902-424-6060

Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 641
Station Central
Halifax, NS B3J 2T3
CANADA
Telephone: 902-454-0322

Cape Breton Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 53
Sydney, NS B1P 6G9
CANADA

TAXATION RECORDS

Poll taxes were small sums of money taken from each adult male in a district. For 1770 and 1827, for which no adequate censuses exist, these head-of-household tax records can provide at least the location of individuals.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has a good collection of poll records for the districts situated in the western and middle areas of the province. These cover 1790 to 1796. The Public Archives of Nova Scotia has indexed the 1790s poll tax records. The archives has a computer-generated index which personnel will search for a small fee. Some other tax lists have been published. Look in the Locality Search of the Family History Library Catalog under NOVA SCOTIA - TAXATION.

TOWNSHIP RECORDS

Early township books can contain vital records of the founding families. Records of births, marriages, and deaths were usually interspersed among other records such as land records. Although the vital records are not always complete, these books can often contain helpful information. For a list of township books on file at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and the dates they cover, see *Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia*, by the Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1981, pages 10–11 (see the “For Further Reading” section at the end of this outline).

VITAL RECORDS

In 1864 an attempt was made to register vital statistics. From 1867 to 1874 these records are fairly complete. In 1877 birth and death registration was discontinued and in 1908 it began again. Birth and death records from 1864 to 1877 are indexed by and within the family name by county. The Family History Library has the following birth and death records:

Nova Scotia. Board of Statistics of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. *Births, 1864–1877*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (On 37 FHL films beginning with film 1318341; computer number 192230.) The records organized are by county, then town, then year.

Nova Scotia. Board of Statistics of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. *Death Records 1864–1877*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1980. (On 38 FHL films beginning with 1293436; computer number 62237.) The records organized are by county and then by year.

Marriage records from 1864 to 1908 are indexed by county and (within the county) by the family name. The Family History Library has these records:

Nova Scotia. Board of Statistics of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. *Marriage records, 1864–1875*. Salt Lake City; Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1982–1983. (On 17 films beginning with 1317402; computer number 182032.) The records organized are by county and then by year.

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia also has marriage licenses from about 1849–1851 to the county cutoff dates. These are available at the Family History Library on the following microfilms:

Nova Scotia. Board of Statistics of Marriages, Births, and Deaths. *Marriages Licenses, 1849–1918*. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1981–1982. (On 535 FHL films beginning with 1301853; computer number 82989). The records are organized by county and then by year. The cutoff dates are:

Annapolis	1908
Antigonish	1910
Cape Breton	1912
Colchester	1914
Cumberland	1913
Digby	1909
Guysborough	1906
Halifax	1916
Hants	1916
Inverness	1908
Kings	1909
Lunenburg	1908
Pictou	1917
Queens	1910
Richmond	1918
Shelburne	1908
Victoria	1918
Yarmouth	1908

Records of marriages after these cutoff dates (as well as of births and deaths after 1908) can be obtained from:

Vital Statistics

Department of Business and Consumer Services

P.O. Box 157

Halifax, NS B3J 2M9

CANADA

Telephone: 902-424-4381

Fax: 902-424-0678

Marriage bonds exist for 1763–1863 (specifically for the years 1763, 1765, 1770–1780, 1782, 1784–1799, 1801–1850, 1854–1856, and 1858–1863). They are arranged in chronological order, and no index is available. They are located in the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and are on the following microfilm at the Family History Library:

Transcripts of Marriage Bonds Issued at Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1763–1871. Salt Lake City: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1983. (On FHL film 1376196 items 2–3 and film 1376197 items 1–3; computer number 242173.)

FOR FURTHER READING

For more detailed information on records and research in Nova Scotia, see:

Baxter, Angus. *In Search of Your Canadian Roots.* Baltimore, Md: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989. (FHL book 971 D27ba; computer number 518106.) Chapter 15 is about Nova Scotia.

Canadiana Company Limited, a subsidiary of Grolier Society of Canada Limited. *Encyclopedia Canadiana.* 10 vols. Ottawa, 1957. (FHL book 030.71 En19; computer number 597759.)

Le Centre d'études acadiennes. *Inventaire Général des Sources Documentaires Sur les Acadiens.* 3 vols. Moncton, N.B.: Editions d'Acadie, 1975–1976. (FHL book 970 F2u; computer number 223520.) This is an inventory of documents concerning Acadians up to 1976.

Jonasson, Eric. *The Canadian Genealogical Handbook.* 2nd ed. Winnipeg: Wheatfield Press, 1978. (FHL book 971 D27j 1978; computer number 31188.)

Morris, Julie. *Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia.* Public Archives of Nova Scotia. Halifax, 1981. (FHL book 971.6 D27m; computer number 244916.)

Punch, Terrence M. *Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia.* 3rd ed. Petheric Press Ltd., Halifax, 1983. (FHL book 971.6 D27p 1983; computer number 96605.)

Punch, Terrence M. *Genealogist's Handbook for Atlantic Canada Research.* Boston, Mass.: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1989. (FHL book 971.5 D27pt; computer number 555557.) The third section is about Nova Scotia.

COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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