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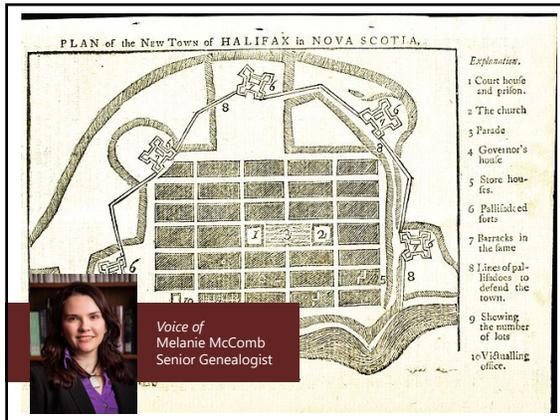
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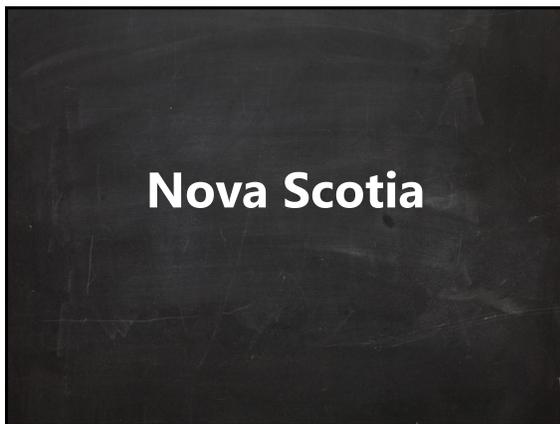
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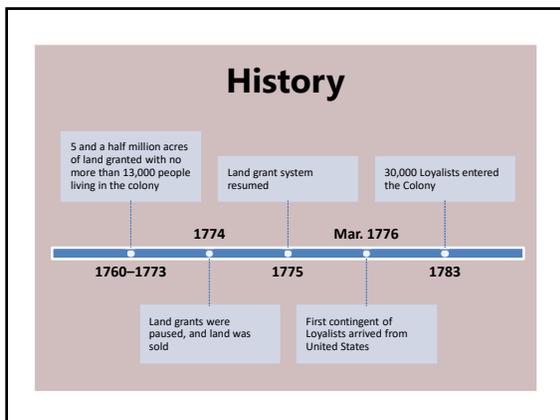
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## Nova Scotia Land Papers

- Petitions for crown land made between 1765 and 1800 by individuals or groups of people
- Petitions include their name(s), country of origin, and date of arrival in Nova Scotia
- Database is online on Nova Scotia Archives website with a searchable index and contains over 11,000 names!

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archives.novascotia.ca/land-papers

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archives.novascotia.ca

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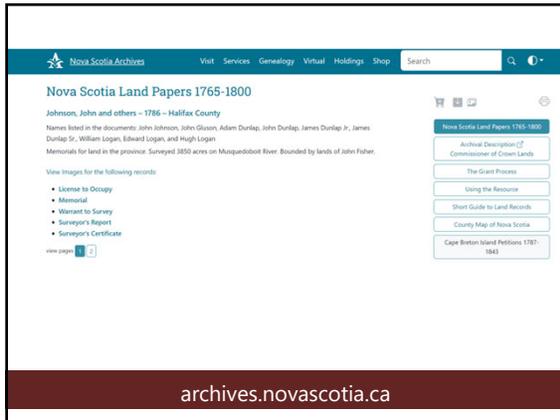
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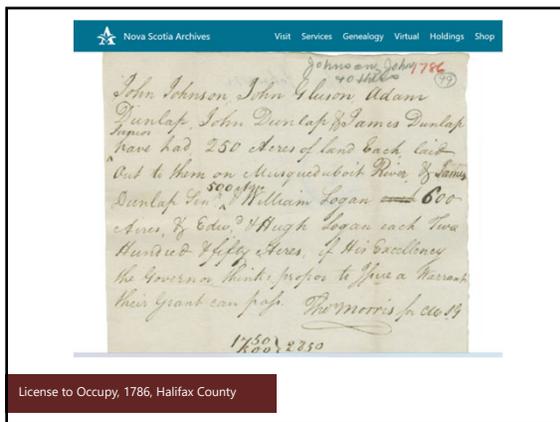
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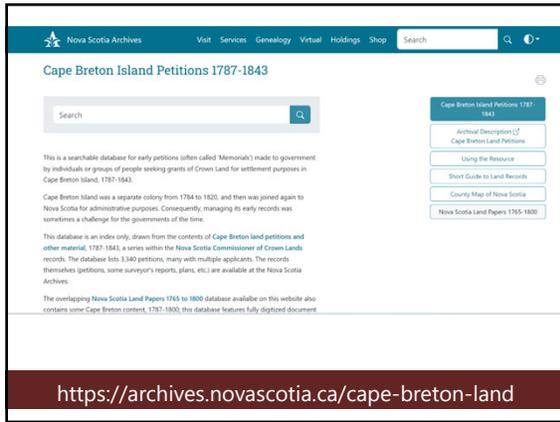
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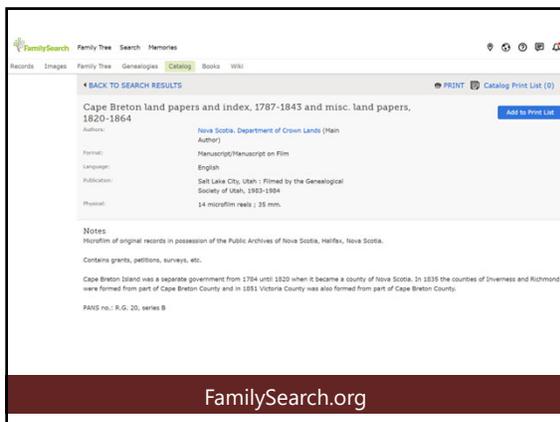
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### Registry of Deeds

- Post-1910 land deeds can be found in the county's registry of deeds

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### Township Books

- Like New England Town Records
  - Communities adopted New England model of town record keeping
- Contain vital records
- Town administration
  - Land division
  - Roads, schools, cattle marks, etc.
- American Ancestors Research Center, FamilySearch, Nova Scotia Archives

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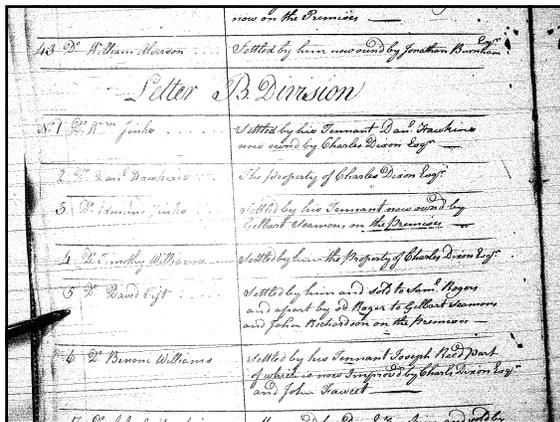
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## Minutes of Nova Scotia Council

- Also known as His Majesty's Council
  - Advised the Governor
  - Minutes contain information on land grants and petitions
  - Can also provide historical context for life in 18th-century Nova Scotia
- Nova Scotia Archives
- Finding aid available from University of New Brunswick Loyalist Collection

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The screenshot shows the website 'The Loyalist Collection' with a navigation menu (Home, Search, Browse, About, Blog). The main content area displays a finding aid for 'Petitions, Reports, Resolutions, and Miscellaneous Papers: 1760-1841'. The call number is H1LARC.LFC.LPR.NSLRPA. The category is Nova Scotia, and the creator is Nova Scotia Legislative Council. The description states there are 13 microfiche textual records (16 volumes), 35 mm. A background section provides historical context about the seat of government in Nova Scotia.

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## Crown Land Grant Maps

- A series of 140 maps showing the location of crown land grants in Nova Scotia between 1750 and 1850.
- Show the layout of original land grants and townships
- Index sheets updated by government staff

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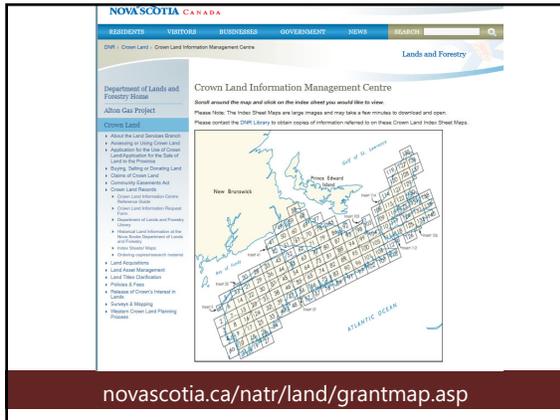
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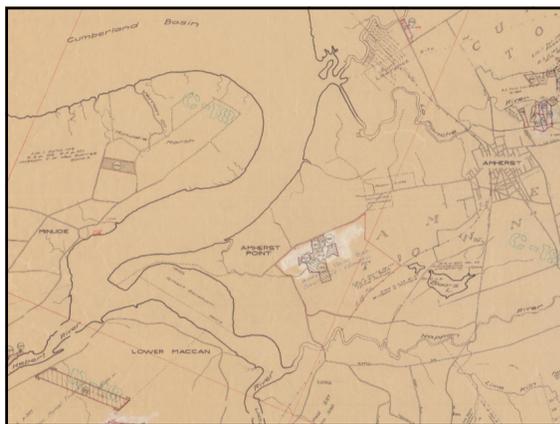
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### A.F. Church & Co. Maps

- Topographical township maps prepared by Ambrose Finson Church and published by his company
- These maps track crown land transactions
- Includes names of heads of household as well as prominent citizens and a list of tradesmen
- Maps available from American Ancestors Research Center in Boston, Massachusetts as well as Nova Scotia Dept of Natural Resources and Renewables

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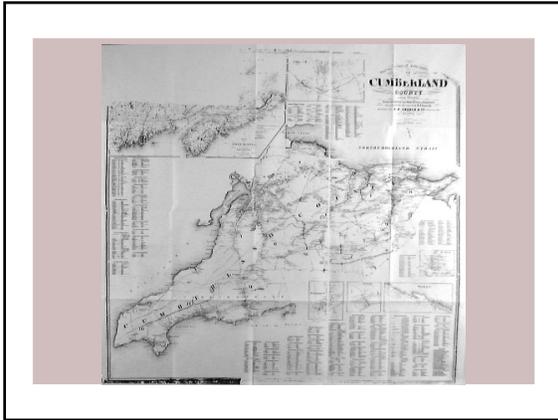
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**Planters and Pioneers**

- Author: Esther Clark Wright
- Chronicles settlers to Nova Scotia from 1749 to 1775
- Premier source
- Available on Archive.org

SHAW, MOSES ..... GRANVILLE, 176-  
b. 18 Jan. 1741, Barnstable, Mass., son of Moses Shaw, d. 11 Jan.  
1827, ae 86. m. Ann Phinney of Barnstable, d. 1 Feb. 1780, ae 43;  
m. (2) 24 Jan. 178-, Mehitable, dau. of Joseph Patten, who m. (2)  
Zachariah Hall of Boston, d. 3 July 1812, ae 74. Ch: Isaiah,  
Elizabeth, Moses, Joseph, David, Zebina, Havilah, Mary, (2d)  
Susanna, Susannah, Anna.

SHAW, THOMAS ..... HALIFAX, 1749.  
mariner, *Everley*, m. Sarah Ch: John, Mehitabel.

SHEARMAN, CALEB ..... CUMBERLAND, 1764.  
husbandman, d. Ch: Young, Ring,; relatives; George, Joshua, who  
prob. ret. to U.S.A.

SHEED, THOMAS ..... PICTOU, 1767?  
1 man, Scot, 1770.

SHEFFIELD, AMOS ..... CORNWALLIS, 1764.  
b. 4 June 1733, Newport, R.I., son of John Sheffield. m. 18 Mar.  
1761, Mary, dau. of Stephen Jr. and Elizabeth Spencer  
Harrington, of N. Kingston, R.I. and Cornwallis, d. 1821?. Ch:  
Ruth, Elizabeth, Stephen, Amos, Jr.

SHEPHERD, ANDREW ..... HALIFAX, 1749.  
baker, *Wilmington*. m. 1 boy, 1 girl. Sheppard, 1752, 2 males, 1  
female above 16, 1 female under 16. George Shippard m. 20 July  
1756. Jane Donly, widow.

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SHAW, MOSES ..... GRANVILLE, 176-  
b. 18 Jan. 1741, Barnstable, Mass., son of Moses Shaw, d. 11 Jan.  
1827, ae 86. m. Ann Phinney of Barnstable, d. 1 Feb. 1780, ae 43;  
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Zachariah Hall of Boston, d. 3 July 1812, ae 74. Ch: Isaiah,  
Elizabeth, Moses, Joseph, David, Zebina, Havilah, Mary, (2d)  
Susanna, Susannah, Anna.

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baker, *Wilmington*. m. 1 boy, 1 girl. Sheppard, 1752, 2 males, 1  
female above 16, 1 female under 16. George Shippard m. 20 July  
1756. Jane Donly, widow.

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**History**

- 1710 – Region ceded to Great Britain
- 1784 – Areas north of the Bay of Fundy established as the Province of New Brunswick (separated from Nova Scotia)
- 1785 – Charter granted for City of St. John in response to the large number of Loyalist refugees that landed and settled at the mouth of the St. John River
- 1836 – Colonial government gained control over crown lands
- 1842 – Webster-Ashburton Treaty settled boundary between New Brunswick and Maine
- 1866 – United States cancelled the Canadian-American Reciprocity Treaty
- 1867 – New Brunswick entered Canadian Confederation

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**Black Loyalists**

- In 1783, 3,000 free blacks or former slaves arrived in 1783 in Nova Scotia.
- In this same group, 1,232 enslaved persons came with their enslavers as well.
- The initial lots given to Black Loyalists were too small to farm on.
- By 1785, blocks of 50 acres surveyed and given to 100 families
  - Loch Lomond
  - Kingston Peninsula
  - Westfield
- 1792 - Exodus to Sierra Leone

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**Black Refugees**

- Between 1813 and 1816, 2,000 black refugees arrived in the Maritimes.
- Most were primarily from Virginia and Maryland and had previously sided with the British during War of 1812.
- 400-500 settled in New Brunswick
  - Willow Grove near Loch Lomond
- Given licenses for occupation of 50 acres in 1817
- In 1825, 99-year leases were granted to those that lived on the land.
- In 1836, residents were allowed to buy land for 20 shillings.

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**Land Petitions**

- Pre-1783 land records are found in the Nova Scotia records
- 1783-1918 land petitions index on Provincial Archives web site
- Land petitions are digitized and available on FamilySearch
- Petitions detail place of origin, arrival in the colony, military service, etc.

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Home | Finance and Treasury Board | Minister | Contacts | Français

**Provincial Archives of New Brunswick**

Search | Exhibits and Education Tools | Research Tools | About PANB

**Index to Land Petitions: Original Series, 1783-1918 (RS108)**

Introduction | Name Index | Blacks | Indigenous People | Military Units

TITLE: INDEX TO RS108 LAND PETITIONS: ORIGINAL SERIES

DATES: 1783-1918

EXTENT: 31 linear meters

INDEX: Nominal index follows

RESTRICTIONS: Use on microfilm only

RELATED SERIES RS272 LAND PETITIONS: CURRENT SERIES

MATERIAL:

archives.gnb.ca

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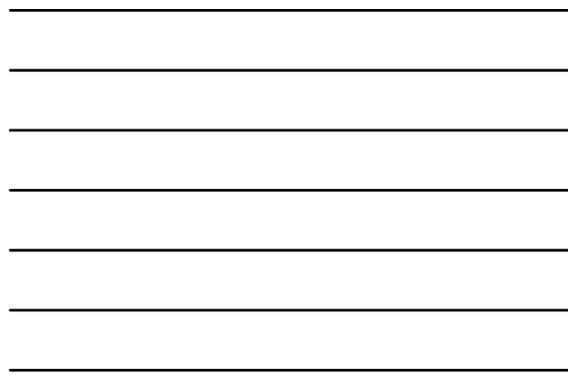
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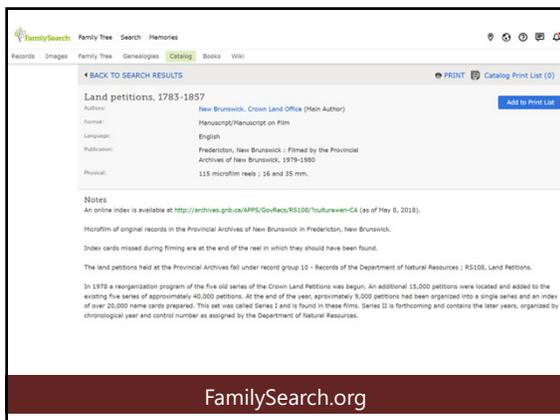
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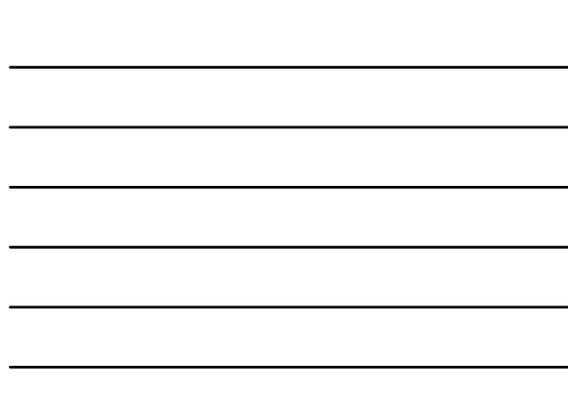
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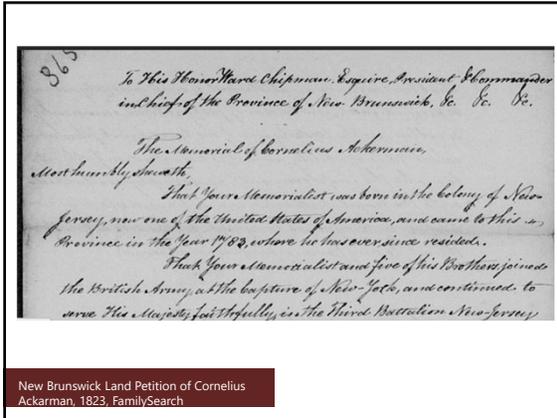
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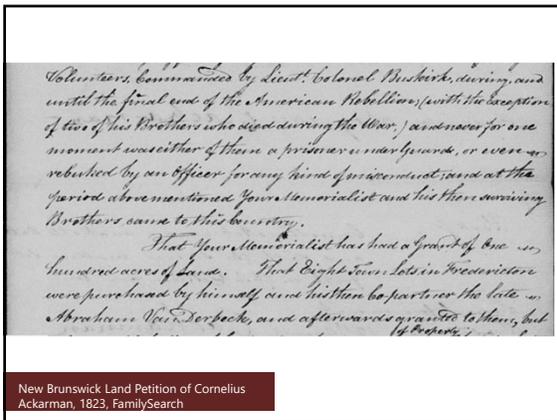
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## Deed Registry Books

- 1780-1930 deed registry books are on FamilySearch, AmericanAncestors.org and Ancestry.com
- Indexes cover 1784-1993

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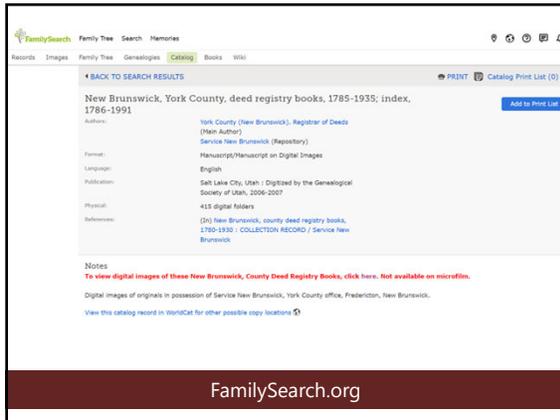
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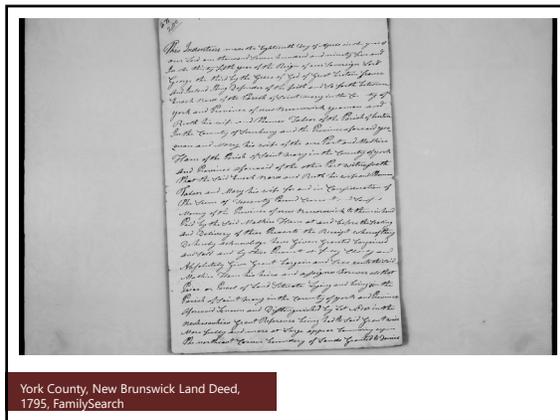
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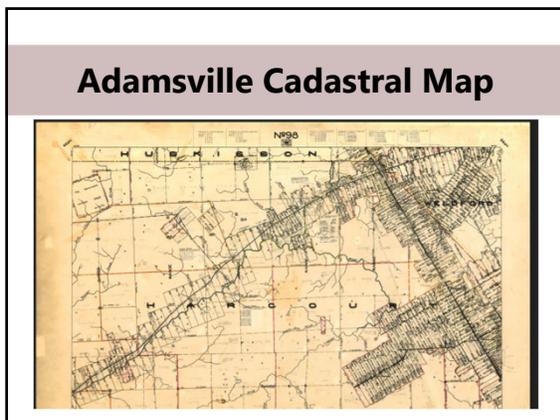
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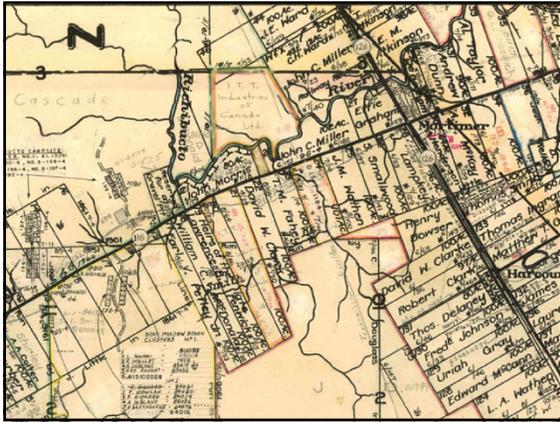
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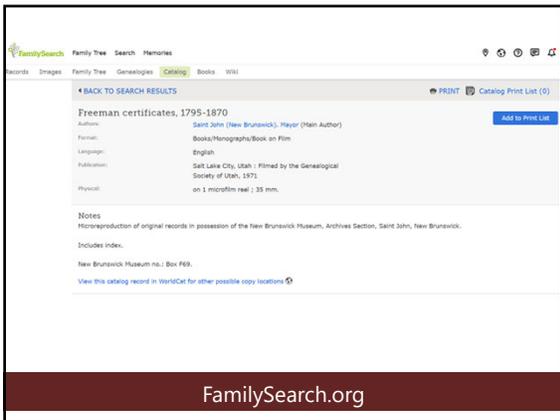
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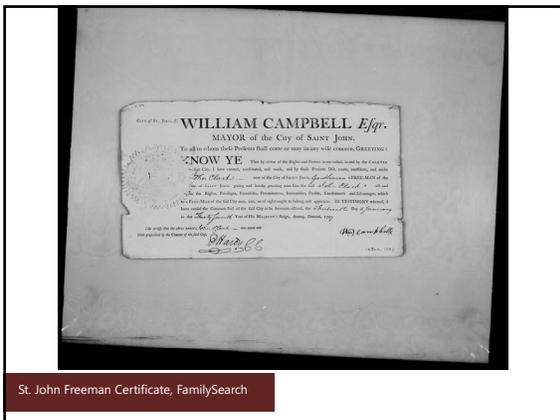
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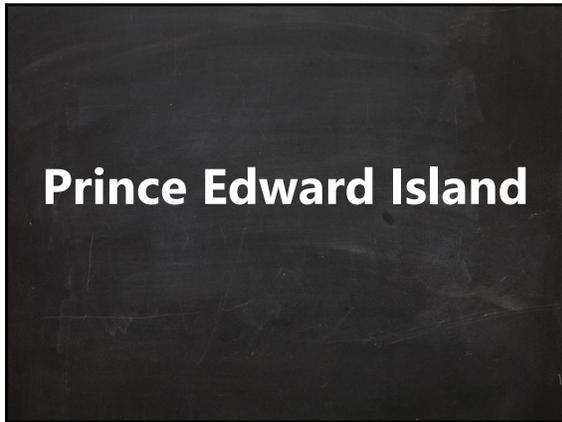
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**History**

- 1763 – France ceded the Island of St. John to Great Britain
- 1767 – Land lottery was held
- 1769 – Island separated from Nova Scotia
- 1799 – Island renamed to Prince Edward Island
- 1853 – Land Purchase Act
- 1873 – PEI joins Confederation of Canada
- 1875 – Second Land Purchase Act

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**Island of St. John – Surveyed by Capt. Holland in 1765**

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## 1767 Land Lottery

- Lottery in London held on July 23, 1767
- Land divided into 67 lots of about 20,000 acres each
- The British Government's Board of Trade and Plantation drew lots and assigned them to high-ranking British citizens.
- The proprietors who won the lottery would pay annual quitrent lands to the Crown to finance the land and bring in colonists to live on the land.
- Most of the proprietors never settled on the land and left their requirements to the Crown unfulfilled.

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*Proprietors of P.E.I. Lots in 1767, and Changes in Lot Ownership till 1776.*

Lot #	Lot Proprietor 1767-1819
1	Philip (Philippe) Stephen (Stephens) Sec. Sr. for Lots of the Admiralty.
2	James Houston and William Brown, Merchants.
3	Chauncey Cheney (Cheney) (Cheney), Esq. (M.P.)
4	Admiral John Augustus (August) Keppel (Keppel), Esq.
5	Edward Lewis, Esq. (M.P.). In 1779 the Lot was sold as jointly owned by Edward Lewis and John Hill.
6	William Cowie of Bristol, Esq.
7	John James Montgomery, Esq. Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland and His Majesty's Advocate for Scotland.
8	Assad-Nisbet (Nisbet, Nisbet), Esq. (M.P.) after 1779 the owners were William Kilpatrick, Alexander, and Benjamin Todd (Todd). Then in 1783, the owners were either as both Andrew or John Todd.

[islandregister.com/proprietors.html](http://islandregister.com/proprietors.html)

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**FamilySearch** Family Tree Search Memories

Records Images Family Tree Genealogies **Catalog** Books Wiki

BACK TO SEARCH RESULTS PRINT Catalog Print List (0)

**Prince Edward Island land grants, 1768-1769**

Author: Nova Scotia, Governor (Main Author) [Add to Print List](#)

Format: Manuscript/Manuscript on Film

Language: English

Publication: Salt Lake City, Utah : Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 2000

Physical: on 2 microfilm reel ; 35 mm.

**Notes**

Microfilm of original records in possession of the Land Registry Office, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Prince Edward Island was a part of the province of Nova Scotia from 1763 until 1769 and was known as the Island of St. John. It's name was changed to Prince Edward Island in 1769.

Contains a copy made in 1933 of the original grants for 1768-1769 covering many lots (townships) in Prince Edward Island (the titleboard erroneously states "townships 20 and 21").

[View this catalog record in WorldCat for other possible copy locations](#)

**FamilySearch.org**

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**Index, PEI Land Grants, 1768-1768,  
FamilySearch**

Name	Quantity of land	in what County, District	to what Party to whom the land was granted	Date	Page
U. Adams Robert	20,000 Acres	Prince George	57	11 <sup>th</sup> June 1768	5
do do	20,000	Prince George	58	11 <sup>th</sup> June 1768	6
Macomber, Mrs. John	20,000	do do	59	11 <sup>th</sup> June 1768	7
Manby Mrs. Elizabeth	20,000	Prince George	60	11 <sup>th</sup> June 1768	8
B. Burke-Bingham & S	20,000	do do	61	1 <sup>st</sup> July 1768	9

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**Land Grant to Bingham and  
Theobald Burke**

20  
 Now John of  
 William Bingham  
 Stephen Burke and  
 Theobald Burke Esq  
 No 17  
 20,000 Acres

To all to whom this Present shall come Writing Show  
 that I Lord William Campbell Captain General and  
 Governor in Chief in and over His Majesty's Province of  
 Nova Scotia and the Dependencies hereunto  
 of the same do give by Virtue of the Power and Authority  
 given unto me by His Majesty King George the  
 Third under the Great Seal of Great Britain Power  
 full Granted and performed good do by these Presents pursuant to the  
 Statute in that behalf bearing date the twenty sixth day of August the  
 fourth and seven hundred and sixty seven the said Lord William Campbell  
 Bingham Burke and Theobald Burke Esqrs their heirs and assigns forever  
 to be equally divided by them their heirs and assigns the said Province  
 and Towns in certain parts of land in the Island of Nova Scotia in the Province

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**Escheat Party**

- Escheat = unimproved land would revert to the government for reallocation
- Many residents pushed for land to be allocated to resident landlords
- The Escheat Party emerged after Roman Catholics were enfranchised in 1830
- British government opposed escheat without compensation
- Absentee landlords were eventually replaced when land was sold to residents

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**1853 Land Purchase Act**

- The British government purchased estates over 1,000 acres and sell them to tenants and squatters in units up to 300 acres.

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**Prince Edward Island Land Commission of 1860**

- Created by the PEI govt in 1860 to settle the final resolution of the land by absent proprietors.
- The commission recommended 100,000 pounds to repurchase the remaining land
- Alternative record for the 1851 Census



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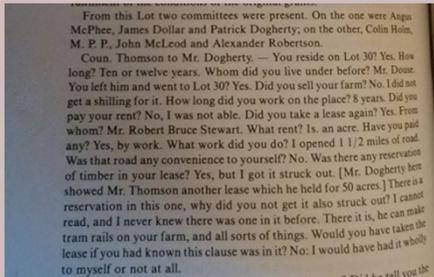
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**Extract from 1860 PEI Land Commission**



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## 1875 Land Purchase Act

- Proprietors with estates more than 1,000 acres were compelled to sell to the PEI government
- The government issued crown grants to tenants

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FamilySearch search results for "Land registry records (conveyance ledgers), 1769-1872". The record is from the Prince Edward Island, Register of Deeds (Main Author). It is a microfilm of original records from the Public Archives of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I. The physical format is 35 microfilm reels, 35 mm. Notes indicate there are two different sets of books labeled "1-4" and that years are mixed, especially in early years.

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A handwritten page from a conveyance ledger. The page is filled with dense, cursive handwriting in two columns. A red arrow points to a specific entry on the left side of the page. The text appears to be a list of land transactions with names and dates.

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## Post-1900 Land Registry Deeds

- Registry of Deeds
- Charlottetown location – Kings and Queens County deeds
- Summerside location – Prince County only

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ISLANDARCHIVES
Search the archives.

ISLANDIMAGINED

HISTORIC MAPS OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

[Map Archive](#) | [Introduction](#) | [Learn more](#)

**WELCOME**

The Island Imagined is an online collection of historic maps of Prince Edward Island. The collection features maps, photos, images, and documents from the Prince Edward Island Public Archives and Records Office, the Prince Edward Island Museum and Heritage Foundation, and the Robertson Library at the University of Prince Edward Island. The Island Imagined contains over 4,000 maps including an early map of the region circa 1714, attributed to Giacomo Gastaldi and features a digitized version of Meacham's Atlas from 1885.

The Island Imagined was made possible by the financial support of the Department of Canadian Heritage through the Canadian Culture Online Program.

These maps tell the story of the settling and colonization of Prince Edward Island. But this island, Epikéti, has a rich history starting long before these maps were written. From time immemorial through to the present day, this land has been the home of the Mi'kmaq. The Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI has created a map of Mi'kmaq traditional land use, incorporating Mi'kmaq place names as well as historical documents. It is now hosted by Library, Epikéti: Place Names (in Unsej).

[islandimagined.ca](http://islandimagined.ca)

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**MAP ARCHIVES**

**ATLASES**

- Box Brothers Atlas - 1878
- Cameron Atlas - 1918
- Meacham Atlas - 1885

**BROWSE MAPS BY COUNTY**

Prince

**BROWSE MAPS BY TYPE**

- Boundary Maps
- Cultural Maps
- Chronologic Map
- Fire Insurance Maps
- Geographical Maps
- Historical Atlases

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## Legal system

- Most land occupied without legal title
- Crown land grants
  - Available on microfilm at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah (not digitized yet)
- Registry of Deeds formed 1825
- Misc. deeds and wills, 1744-1859 include
  - Land transfers
  - Marriage settlements

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FamilySearch.org

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FamilySearch.org

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**History**

- First Nations reserves were considered federal Crown lands
- Patents were first issued in 1763 and were handled by provincial secretaries
- 1840 – Act of Union between Lower and Upper Canada – established the Office of the Registrar General
- In 1886, land patents were handled by Department of Indian Affairs
- In 1951, the responsibility of issuing land patents transferred back to Registrar general's Office
- Last Indian patent issued in 1990

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**The Records**

- Held at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa, Ontario in several record groups:
  - Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (RG10)
    - Nova Scotia Vols. 459-461 and 1718
  - Registrar General (RG68)
- Some are digitized and found in LAC's Collection Search or Canadiana

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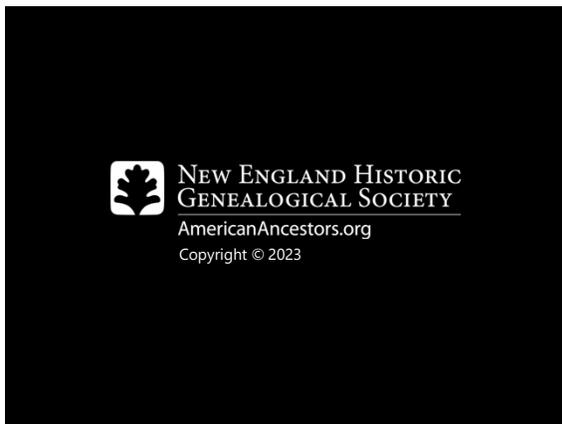
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