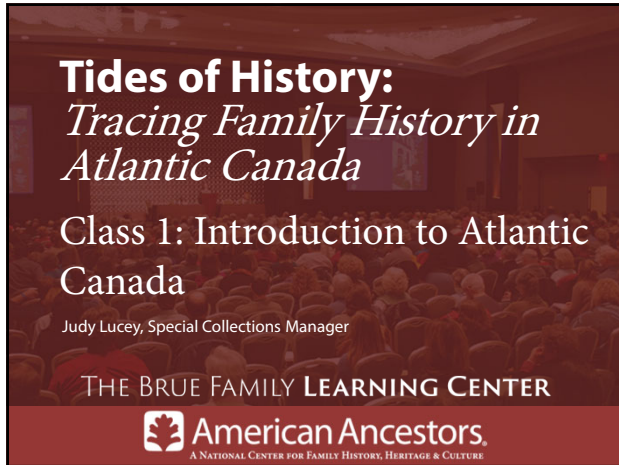




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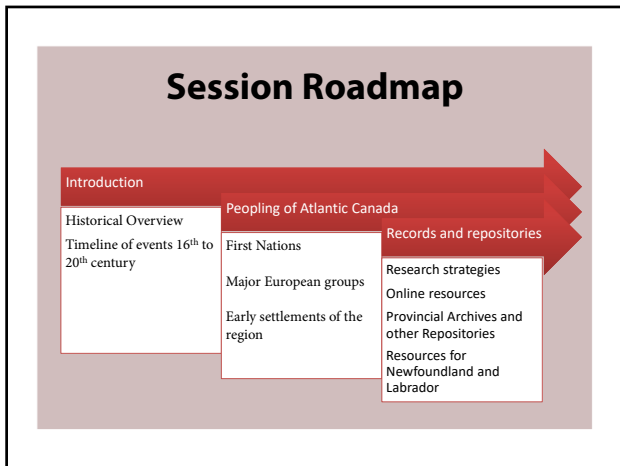
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# 16th and 17th Centuries: Voyages of Discovery, Cod, and Struggle for control

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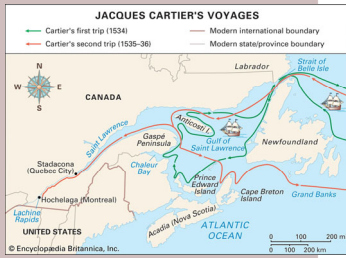
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## Voyages of Discovery

- Europeans:
  - Voyages of discovery
    - 10<sup>th</sup> century Norse (Viking) settlements in Newfoundland
    - 1497 John Cabot claims Newfoundland for England
    - 1534 Jacques Cartier colonization for France
    - 1604 Samuel de Champlain and Pierre Dugua de Mons, early settlements in Acadia
- Fishing and Fur trade
  - Europeans drawn to cod fishery
  - Basque whalers
  - French establish fur trade in Nova Scotia



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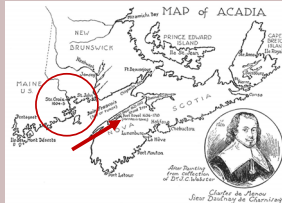
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## 17th century

- Establishment of Acadia
  - 1604 at Ile St. Croix (Maine)
  - 1605 - Champlain moves to Port Royal (Annapolis)
  - 1632-1653 first core group of settlers



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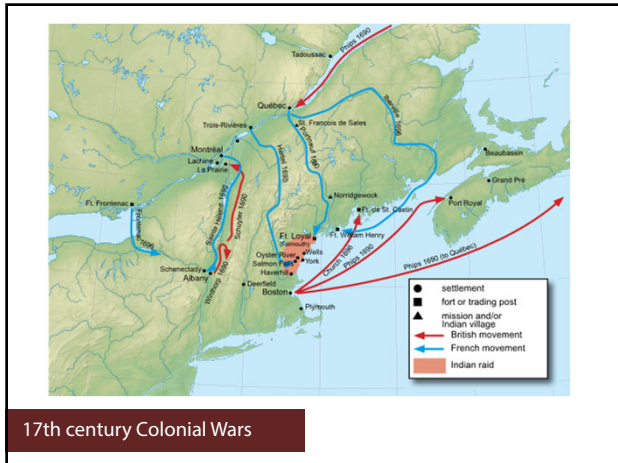
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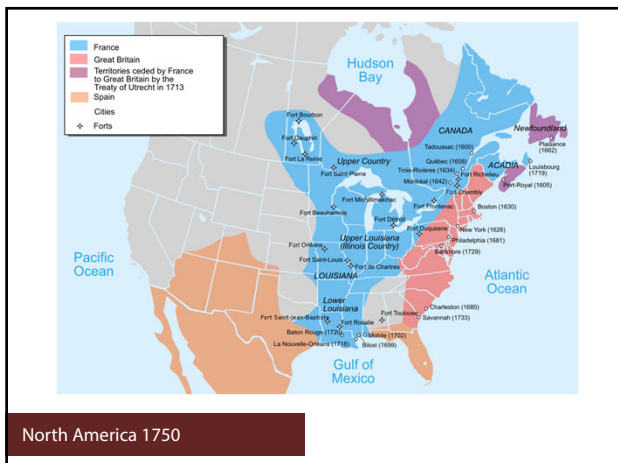
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### Acadian Deportation

- Begins 1755
  - Bay of Fundy area
  - 7000 people
- Deported to American colonies
- Some escaped to Ile St.-Jean and New France
- 1758-1762
  - 3000 from Ile St.-Jean to France
  - 1500 from Halifax to Boston but refused entrance



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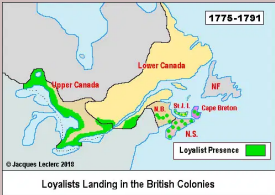
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### Loyalist Migration

- 1775-1783
- Largest group to Nova Scotia
  - 34,000 to 35,000 loyalists
- New Brunswick
  - Created from Nova Scotia 1784
  - About 10,000 loyalists
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec and Ontario



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### 19th and 20th Centuries: Confederation, Economic Woes, and Out Migration

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### Joining the Dominion of Canada

- Confederation
  - 1867 Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
  - 1873 Prince Edward Island
- Economic downturn 1860s to 1900
  - Leads to out migration



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### Out Migration

- Emigration to the “Boston States” and Canada
- Peak migration 1860s to early 1900s



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## Peopling of Atlantic Canada

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## First Nations

- Maritime Archaic Indians
  - Roughly 7,500 years ago
  - Hunting and fishing culture
  - Newfoundland and Labrador
- Algonquin and Abenaki
  - Mi' kmaq, Maliseet, others
  - Nomadic life living off resources in and around the sea



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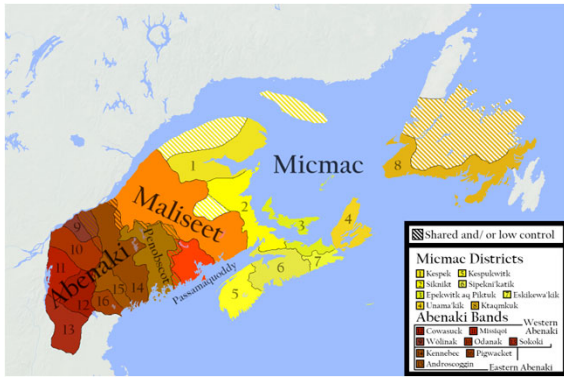
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Wabanaki Confederacy

Image by Grug-Jack via Wikipedia Commons

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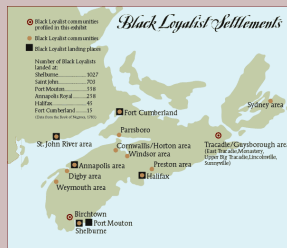
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## Major Groups

- English
  - West County settlers to Newfoundland
  - Yorkshire settlers to Nova Scotia 1772-1775
  - Loyalists and Black Loyalists
- New England Planters
- Foreign Protestants
  - Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
- Scots and Scots-Irish
- Irish



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### West Country Settlers to Newfoundland

- John Guy and 1610 settlement of Cupid's Cove
- "West Country"
  - Devon
  - Dorset
  - Somerset
  - Hampshire
- Leaving from Bristol and Poole

English Shore in 1670s, Newfoundland and Labrador  
Heritage Web Site

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## Pre-1775 to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and PEI

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### New Englanders to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick

*Planter Migration Routes 1759-1774*

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### Foreign Protestants

- Peak period 1750-1752
- German states, Switzerland, Montbeliard
- Eleven ships in 1751-1752
- Range of occupations – bakers, blacksmiths, tanners, surgeons and shoemakers



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### Early Scottish settlers

Earliest settlement 1620s Cape Breton and Bay of Fundy

- Settlements failed and surrendered to France in 1632

Highland Scots

- Peak period 1770 to 1815
- Arrival of the Hector in 1773 to Pictou, NS

Scottish Catholics to PEI 1772

- Families of MacDonald, Campbell, Beaton, and MacIntyre

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### Irish and Scots Irish

- Newfoundland
  - 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> c. seasonal cod fishery
  - “Two boaters”
- Irish Catholics
  - 1815-1830s
  - Southeast counties of Ireland
- Scots-Irish
  - Alexander McNutt, Land Agent
    - Settlers from Londonderry, NH and Ulster to Shelburne, New Dublin (Lunenburg and Pictou, Co.



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### Research Strategies

- Start with yourself and work backwards
- Focus first on research in country they settled, i.e. U.S. records
- Research will be back and forth process
- Look at a wide variety of records both primary and secondary

O'Brien family of Newfoundland playing cards in the kitchen

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### Atlantic Canada research

- Place specific research
  - Identify county, township
- Start with church records
- Key denominations:
  - Catholic (Acadian, Irish, Scots)
  - Anglican (English)
  - Presbyterian (Scottish)
  - Methodist / United Church
  - Baptist (especially NB & NS)



St. Luke's Anglican Church, Port de Grave, Newfoundland

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## Tip: Consult Secondary Sources

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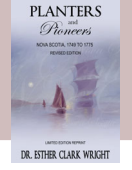
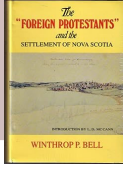
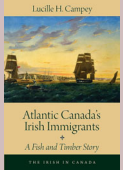
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### Secondary sources

- Learn the history of the province
  - Study local community history
  - Identify surrounding communities and their records
  - Study groups, their migration patterns and settlements
- Seek out research by others
  - Compilations by historians and genealogists



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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada



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**Canada**

Welcome to our Canada family history research page. Here you'll find record collections, history, and genealogy resources to help you trace your Canada ancestors.

Collections

| Canada census & voter lists                                  | Count         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Canada, Voters Lists, 1855-1980                              | 16,692,277    |
| 1901 Census of Canada                                        | 359           |
| 1901 Census of Canada                                        | 4,396,362     |
| 1901 Census of Canada                                        | 1,244,763,520 |
| 1901 Census of Canada                                        | 752,598       |
| <a href="#">View all Canada census &amp; voter lists (7)</a> |               |

| Canada birth, marriage & death                                  | Count      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Canada, Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index, 1800s-current           | 1,545,027  |
| Canada, Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index, 1900s-current           | 53,458     |
| Canada, Find a Grave® Index, 1800s-current                      | 2,255,689  |
| Canada, Obituary Collection, 1900-Current                       | 12,314,132 |
| Canada, Newspapers.com™ Birth Index, 1800s-2000s                | 330        |
| <a href="#">View all Canada birth, marriage &amp; death (7)</a> |            |

| Canada military                                                                 | Count     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Canada, Nominal Rolls and Paylists for the Volunteer Militia, 1857-1922         | 4,396,362 |
| Canada, World War I CEF Attestation Papers, 1914-1918                           | 223,679   |
| Canada, World War I CEF Personnel Files, 1914-1918                              | 877       |
| Canada, British Army and Canadian Militia Muster Rolls and Pay Lists, 1791-1902 | 1,095,473 |
| UK, Regimental Registers of Service, 1756-1900                                  | 752,886   |
| <a href="#">View all Canada military (5)</a>                                    |           |

| Canada immigration & travel                                         | Count      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| U.S. Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1900                | 8,800,629  |
| Canada, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1865-1935                         | 42,812,273 |
| U.S. and Canada, Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500s-1900s | 8,306,700  |
| Canada, Border Crossings from U.S. to Canada, 1809-1935             | 94,164,860 |

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/canada>

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**Search Historical Records**

Records create a paper trail for your ancestors and can lead you to important details about their life. Enter a name, and we'll look for it in birth certificates, marriage registrations, census records, and other official documents.

[GET TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SEARCH](#)

**Find a Collection**

Your ancestor's record belongs to a collection of similar documents—regional, regional, or national. Searching a specific collection is one way to narrow your search. If you don't know the collection's exact title, start typing, and we'll try to help you.

Collection Title:

[BROWSE ALL COLLECTIONS](#)

**Search by Place**

Different regions of the world call for different research strategies. Enter a place name, and we'll suggest the records we have to help you discover your ancestors who lived there.

Place:

[BROWSE PLACES](#)

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/>

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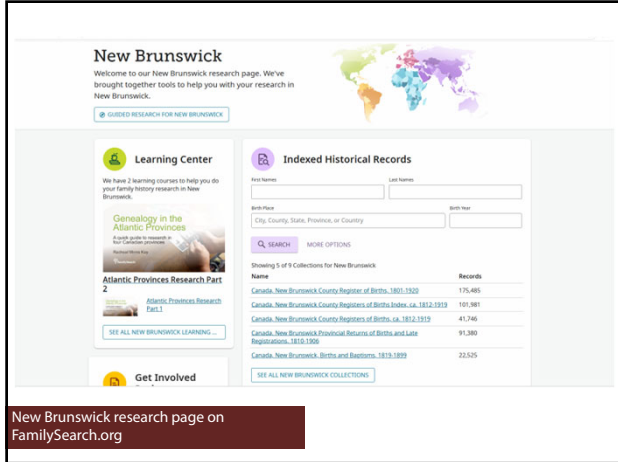
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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada



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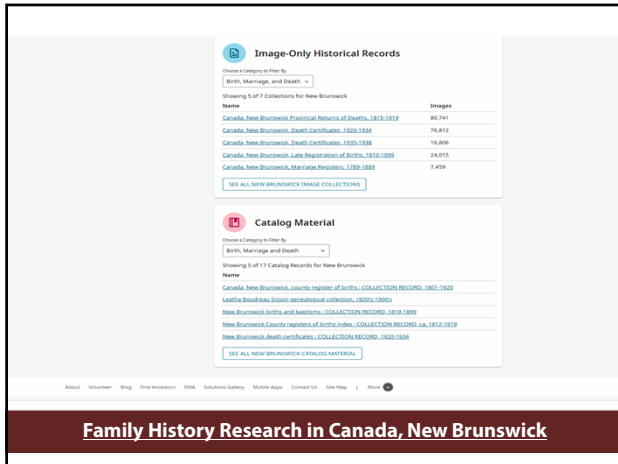
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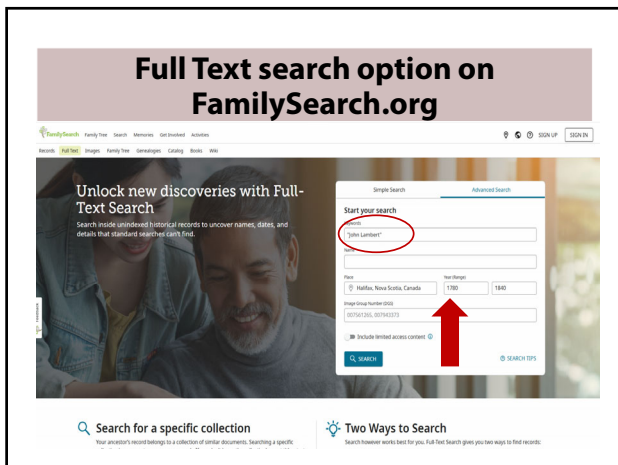
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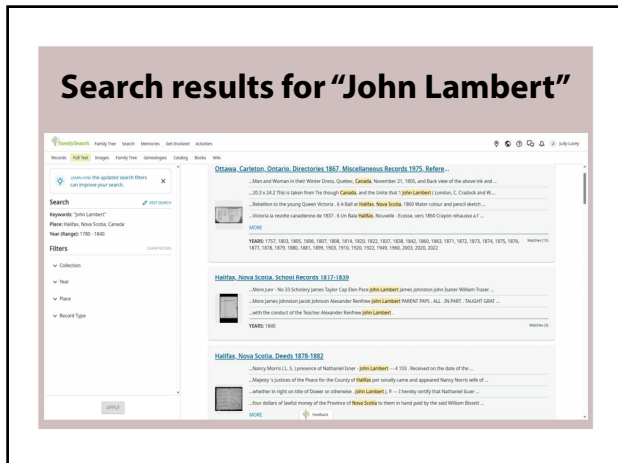
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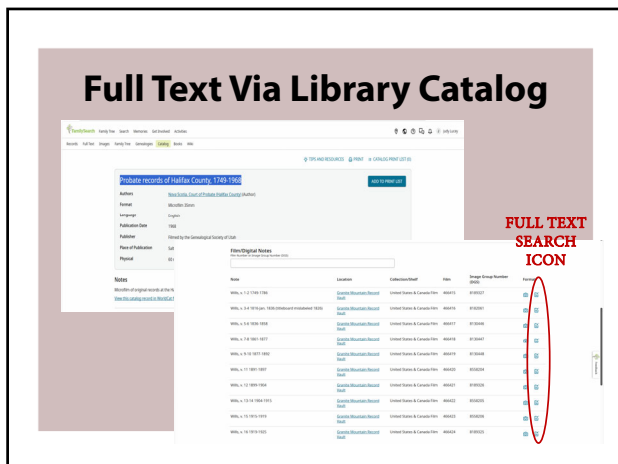
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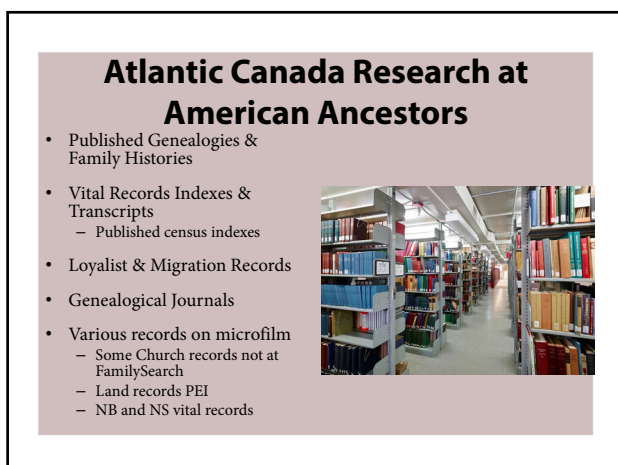
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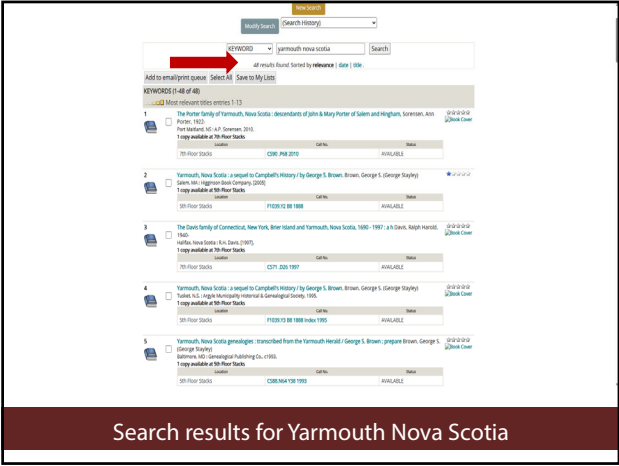
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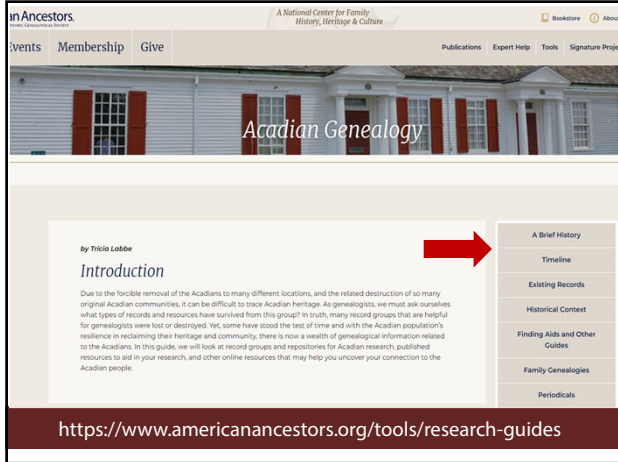
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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada



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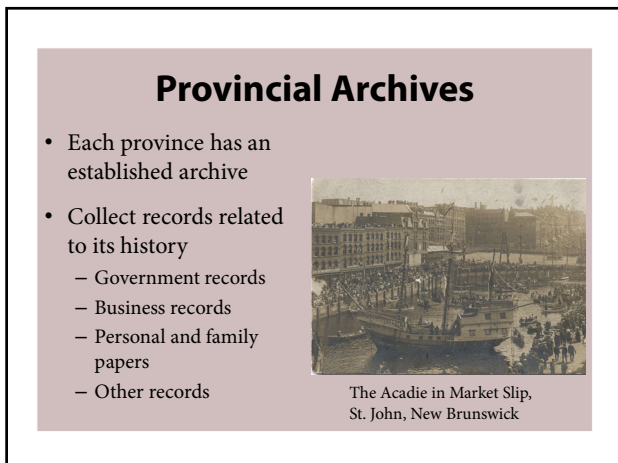
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Step #1  
Use their online  
databases first

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Step #2  
Then explore in-person  
or remote research

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Tip:  
Don't overlook local  
genealogical societies,  
libraries, and archives

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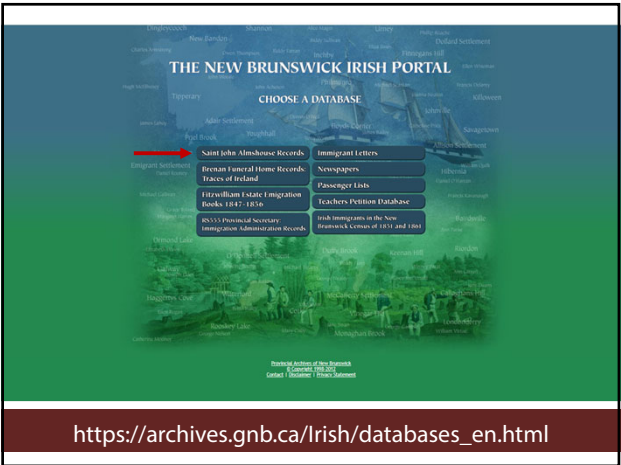
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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada


**THE LOYALIST COLLECTION**

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British troops marching down the street in New York City

This is a special collection of British and Colonial North American sources, including the British West Indies, predominantly from 1750-1850, published mainly in microformat and limited digital format. Though the study of American Revolutionary War loyalists is the primary focus, the materials transcend beyond this to provide a range of sources for colonial studies in the British Atlantic World for the 18th and 19th centuries. Descriptions of these files are found by searching or browsing the catalogue. A listing of our published material in print is found by visiting our [Print Materials](#) page.

The Loyalist Collection is found in open stacks on the 5th floor ([Room 520 A45](#)) of the Harriet Irving Library, UNB Fredericton campus, and is available for self-service use whenever the [Library is open](#). Research appointments are required for staff assistance.

**American Revolution 250 in 2026**

The 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the events of the American Revolution are well underway, with 2026 marking the semicentennial of the Declaration of Independence. Many institutions have been making use of The Loyalist Collection's resources for projects and exhibits.

<https://loyalist.lib.unb.ca/home>

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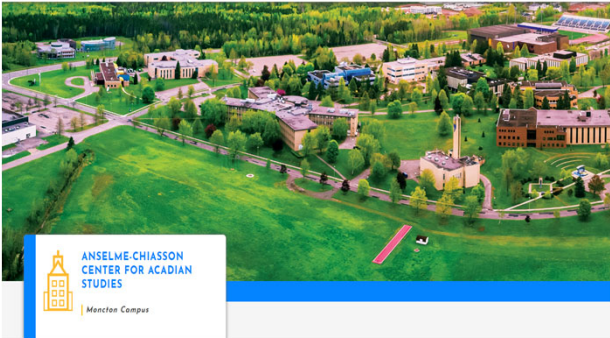
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Time in: **New Brunswick** 5:39 p.m., sat  
Friday, June 25, 2026



**New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Inc.**  
 Société généalogique du Nouveau-Brunswick Inc.  
[Become a Member](#)

**Welcome to the New Brunswick Genealogical Society, Inc.**

NBGS is a non-profit organization founded in 1978 to encourage and facilitate family historical research in New Brunswick, Canada.

NBGS is managed entirely by volunteers. There is no office, no phone and no staff. Our volunteers will respond to your messages as soon as possible.

**Generations**

<https://www.nbgs.ca/>

**What's New?**

- 6 Jun 2026: New batch of Anglican Registers has been added to the database.
- 2 Jun 2026: New brick wall query added
- 27 May 2026: Life Memberships awarded. Click for more.
- 27 May 2026: The summer issue of Generations is now on the website.
- 10 May 2026: New Registers added to the Anglican Registers Project.
- 31 Mar 2026: IMPORTANT changes to ASP access (click for more information)
- 25 Feb 2026: Transcription of the surviving portions of the 1881 census for Saint John Co was

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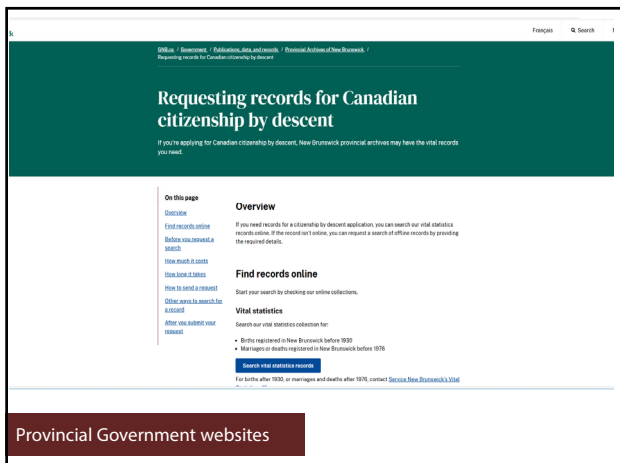
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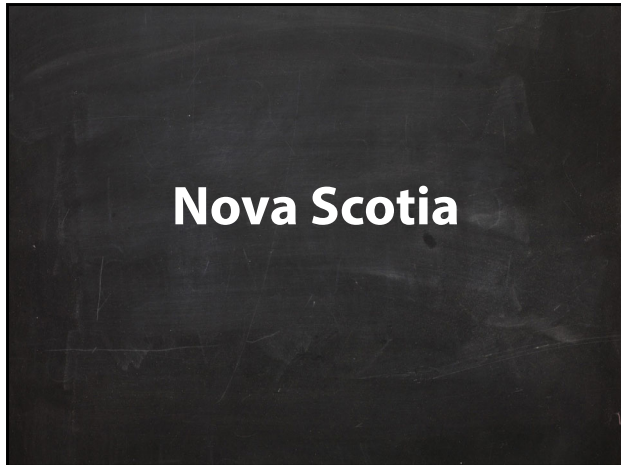
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### Provincial Archives

- Manuscript collections
- Microfilms of Nova Scotia church records
- Growing collection of online material
  - Vital records
  - Land records
  - Church records



Nova Scotia Provincial Archives  
2014 NEHGS research tour

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Nova Scotia Archives

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J.A. Irvine



Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, 1952-2022



Margaret Perry: A Life in Film



Nova Scotia Archives Photographic Collection

<https://archives.novascotia.ca/virtual/>

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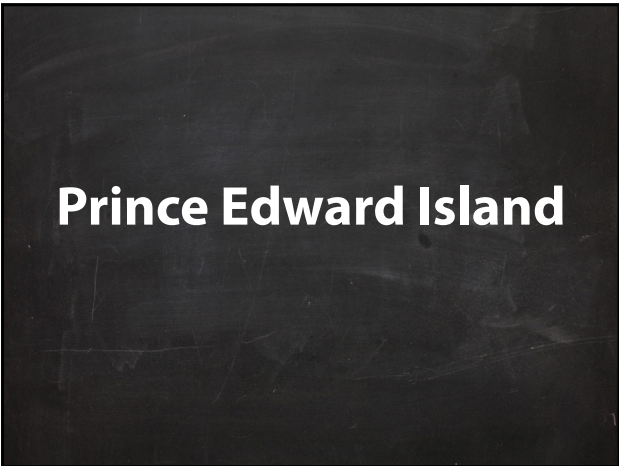
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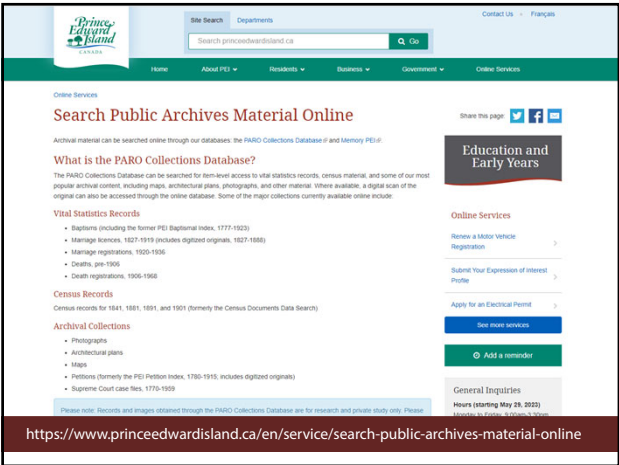
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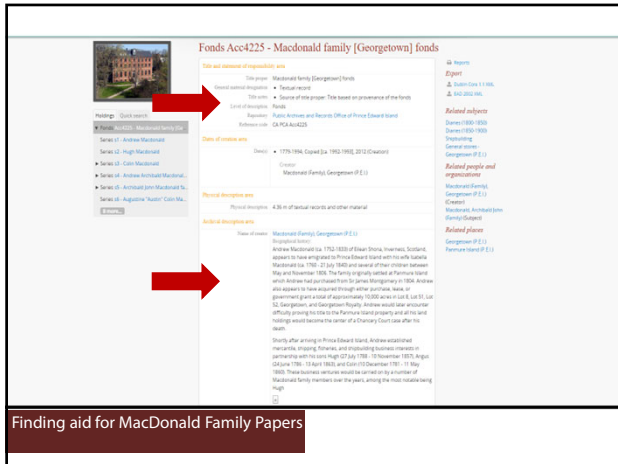
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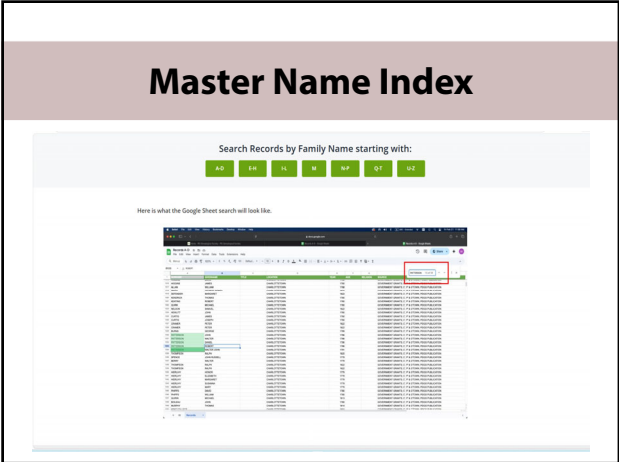
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### What makes Newfoundland and Labrador different?

- British colony
  - Cod fishery
  - Settlement discouraged
  - Seasonal, temporary settlers until mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> c.
- Geography and climate
  - Majority of communities situated along the coast
- No self-government until 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Joined dominion of Canada in 1949



Catherine Frances (O'Keefe) O'Brien  
(1890-1966)

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### Impact on Research

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|  Slow development of legal, social, and political institutions | No early organization of records  |
|  Lacks counties or townships                                 | Records arranged by district      |
|  Fires, poor record keeping                                  | Creates gaps in records           |
|  Reliance on family lore                                     | Oral history plays important role |

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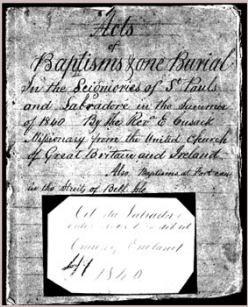
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### Labrador

- Aboriginal peoples
- Boundary disputes between Quebec and Newfoundland
  - Not settled until 1927
- Early European settlements
  - Moravian missions est. 1771
  - Hudson Bay Company c. 1834



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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada



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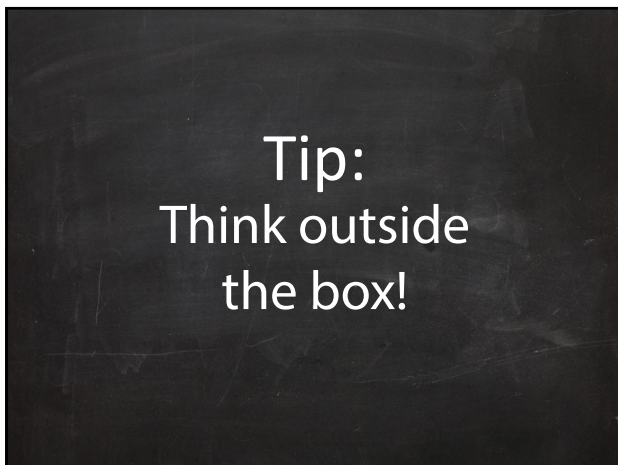
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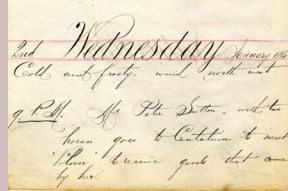
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## Records Related to the Fishery

- Mercantile records
  - Saunders and Sweetman (Placentia)
  - Lester (Trinity)
  - Slade (Twillingate, Trinity)
- Keith Matthews Name Files, 1500-1850
  - Data on individuals and families who worked in the fishery



Entry from James Ryan diary, January 1884  
(James Ryan Ltd., Bonavista)

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## The Rooms

- Government records
  - Voter Lists
- Church records
  - Photocopies only
  - Consult online parish guide
- Community Collections
  - Nimshi Crewe Collection
  - Peyton family papers
  - Don Morris Correspondence
- Business records
  - Saunders and Sweetman Firm (Placentia Bay area)



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## Records from The Rooms on Family History Society (FHSNL) Site

**FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY  
OF  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**

Home About Us Activities Forums Membership Resources The Newfoundland Ancestor Shopping Links Logout

### Records from The Rooms

The Provincial Archives Division of [The Rooms](#) has numerous documents in its collection that are of interest to genealogists and family historians. Copies of some of these records are available to FHSNL members via the links below. Church records are excluded from this digitization initiative (largely because the Provincial Archives does not own the church records, and therefore cannot grant consent for them to be copied). However, there are many government-owned records that are of genealogical value, such as the collection of Newfoundland passports, various court records, census records, etc., which we will be able to make available via the FHSNL website. Look for this online collection to grow over time.

The most recent additions to this online collection are as follows:

- 29 March 2020 - GN 5/3/19 - Box 62 (Files 1 to 5)
- 23 November 2019 - GN 5/3/19 - Box 61
- 31 August 2019 - GN 5/2/18 - Box 76
- 21 July 2019 - GN 5/2/18 - Box 13

Some of the files are large and may take several minutes to download. Trying to view them within a web browser is not recommended. Instead, it may be better to download and save them for viewing with software such as

#### PANDEMIC MITIGATION EFFORTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the public lectures that had been scheduled in April and May are cancelled, our AGM will be rescheduled. Moreover, the FHSNL office is closed until further notice. You can still contact us by mail and email but please expect delays. Publication of the next Newfoundland Ancestor is also delayed.

#### Wanted: Church Records

At present the FHSNL website does not have copies of any church records, but we would very much like to make such records available. If any church wardens or other custodians of original

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### Memorial University

Maritime History Archive

Centre for Newfoundland Studies

Folklore and Language Archive

Digital Archive Initiative

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### Resettlement

- The removal of families from isolated communities
  - Lack of work
  - Lack of access to medical and public services
- Program from 1960s to 1970s
- Online photos, documents, list of communities abandoned



Floating a house down, Trinity Bay, NL.  
(Resettlement Digital Photograph Collection, Maritime History Archives)

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### Maritime History Archives

- Keith Matthews' Name Files
  - Online digitization project complete
- Student Papers
  - Research papers on communities and families
  - Can contain genealogical research and family trees
- Crew Lists and Agreements
  - Online at Ancestry.com and Maritime History Archives
- Resettlement program of 1960s and 1970s



Photo Courtesy of David Allen Lambert

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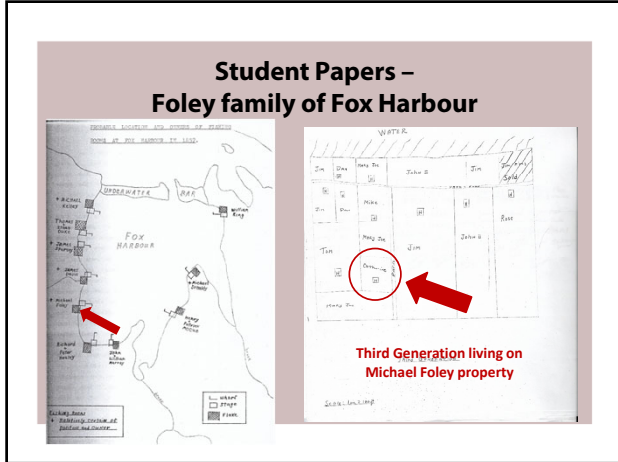
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Class 1: Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada



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