

Tides of History: Tracing Family History in Atlantic Canada

Class 5: Land Records

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Nova Scotia

- Provincial Archives
 - Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1809 - <https://archives.novascotia.ca/land-papers>
 - Cape Breton Island Petitions 1787-1843 - <https://archives.novascotia.ca/cape-breton-land>
 - Minutes of Nova Scotia Council
 - Finding aid available at <https://loyalist.lib.unb.ca/node/4766>
- FamilySearch
 - Cape Breton Land Papers (1787-1843) - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/391860>
 - Cape Breton Crown Land Grants (1786-1949, 1969) - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/98730>
 - Nova Scotia Land Grants (1732-1864) - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/319678>
 - Nova Scotia Crown Land Grant Registers, 1732-1901 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1039117>
 - Nova Scotia, Halifax County, Deed Indexes, 1749-1958 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1808846>
 - Additional deeds indexes and images are available on FamilySearch under the county, Land & Property category
 - Township books located at the town level under Vital Records category
- Maps
 - Crown Land Grant Maps - <https://novascotia.ca/natr/land/grantmap.asp>
 - A.F. Church & Co. Maps - <https://novascotia.ca/natr/library/oldmaps2.asp>
 - Also available at American Ancestors Brim-Deforest Library in Boston, Massachusetts - <https://library.nehgs.org/record=b1074904>

New Brunswick

- Provincial Archives
 - Index to Land Petitions: Original Series, 1783-1918 - <https://archives.gnb.ca/Search/RS108/default.aspx?culture=en-CA&letter=A>

- FamilySearch
 - Land Petitions, 1783-1857 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/78954>
 - Additional deeds indexes and images are available on FamilySearch under the county, Land & Property category
 - Freeman Certificates, 1795-1870 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/85549>
 - New Brunswick Quit Rent Returns, 1832-1837 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/85555>
- AmericanAncestors.org
 - Black Loyalist Directory, 1783-1788 - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/2823/black-loyalist-directory-1783-1788>
 - New Brunswick: Land Records, 1780-1930 - <https://www.americanancestors.org/search/databasesearch/554/new-brunswick-land-records-1780-1930>
- Maps
 - Communities: New Brunswick Communities Past and Present - <https://archives.gnb.ca/exhibits/communities/AlphabeticalListing.aspx?culture=en-CA&letter=A>

Prince Edward Island

- Lot Proprietors (1767-1810) – <https://www.islandregister.com/proprietors.html>
- FamilySearch
 - Prince Edward Island Land Grants, 1768-1769 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/966837>
 - Land Records, 1763-1914 (Nova Scotia Department of Crown Lands) - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/82415>
 - Pre-1770 includes Prince Edward Island
 - Land Registry Records (Conveyance Ledgers), 1769-1872 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/506382>
 - Prince Edward Island Commissioner's Deeds, 1855-1915 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/966203>
 - Prince Edward Island Township Ledgers, 1850-1954, 1981 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/964854>
- Maps
 - <https://islandimagined.ca/>

Newfoundland and Labrador

- FamilySearch
 - Land Records, 1803-1990 -
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/catalog/koha:507992>
 - Available at FamilySearch Library (not digitized yet)
 - Land Records, 1825-Feb. 1931 - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/664495>
- Grand Banks Web Site
 - Index of Miscellaneous Deeds and Wills (1744-1859) -
<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Wills/1wills-c.shtml>

Indian and Inuit Affairs Program

- Records held at Library Archives and Canada in Ottawa, Ontario
 - Department of Indigenous and Northern Affairs (RG10)
 - Nova Scotia Vols. 459-461 and 1718
 - Registrar General (RG68)
- Some of the records are digitized and available through Collection Search or Canadiana
 - Collection Search - <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Home/Search>
 - Canadiana Heritage Project - <https://heritage.canadiana.ca/>

Published Sources, Indexes, and Guides

Marshall, Paula, *A Guide to Dr. Keith Matthews Name File Collection in the Maritime History Archive* (St. John's, Nfld: Memorial University of Newfoundland, 1987).

Punch, Terrence M., *Genealogist's Handbook for Atlantic Canada Research* (Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1997).

Robertson, Ian Ross, *The Prince Edward Island Land Commission of 1860* (Fredericton, NB: Acadiensis Press, 1988).

Smith, Clifford Neal, *Whereabouts of Some American Refugees, 1784-1800: The Nova Scotian Land Grants* (McNeal, Arizona: Westland Publications, 1992).

Wright, Esther Clark, *Planters and Pioneers: Nova Scotia, 1749 to 1775* (Beaver Bank, NS: Justin Wentzell, 2007). 1978 edition available on Archive.org at <https://archive.org/details/planterspioneers0000wrig>.

Websites

- American Ancestors <https://www.americanancestors.org>
- Ancestry <https://www.ancestry.com>
- FamilySearch <https://www.familysearch.org>
- Nova Scotia Archives - <https://archives.novascotia.ca/>
- Provincial Archives of New Brunswick <https://www.gnb.ca/en/topic/your-gov/data-records/archives.html>
- Public Archives and Record Office (PEI) - <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/service/search-public-archives-material-online>
- The Rooms (Newfoundland) - <https://www.therooms.ca>