A Guide to Researching Genealogy
at the Cloverdale Library

New Brunswick

Updated February 2014

Photo: Blacksmith Shop Behind Customs House, Saint John, New Brunswick  c. 1880
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
This guide is intended to point you in the direction of our major resources for New Brunswick genealogy. Please feel free to ask staff for further assistance.

**General Research Guides**

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website provides genealogical guides to each of New Brunswick’s fifteen counties: [http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/CountyGuides.aspx?culture=en-CA](http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/CountyGuides.aspx?culture=en-CA).

**The Canadian Genealogical Sourcebook.**

**Finding your Ancestors in New Brunswick.**

**The Atlantic Canadians, 1600-1900: an alphabetized directory of the people, places and vital dates.**

**Starting a Family History Project in New Brunswick Canada.**

**Databases**

**Ancestry Library Edition:** International genealogy resource with the largest online Canadian family history collection, searchable by surname. Includes many digitized records. Ancestry is only available at the Cloverdale Branch. The Library Edition matches the record set of [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), with the exception of the historical book collection. However, the same online book collection can be found in [Heritage Quest](https://www.heritagequestonline.com), also available at Cloverdale.

A list of resources within Ancestry, relevant to New Brunswick can be found by conducting a search by location:

1) Click on the Search Tab
2) Under “Browse by Location” click on “Canada”
3) Choose New Brunswick

Ancestry includes, for example:

- **Canadian Census records from 1881-1911.**
- **Canadian soldiers of World War : 1914-1918.**
- **Border Crossings: Canada to U.S. 1895-1956 & U.S. to Canada 1908-1935.**

**Heritage Quest:** Although Heritage Quest is best known for its US records, the online historical book collection is valuable for New Brunswick residents as well. Heritage Quest also includes PERSI, an index of local history publications.
Census Records

When searching for census records, remember that New Brunswick joined Confederation in 1867. Nominal census returns (naming all members of a household) are available for the years 1851-1911. Some indexes to earlier returns are available, as noted below.

Online
Census returns contain a variety of very useful information such as place of birth, origin, level of education, religion, etc. Many census returns for New Brunswick are available online and searchable by surname. Rather than beginning with microfilm, use one of the following online databases for faster and easier results.

- **1881**: LDS Family History website: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  - Index includes microfilm numbers, as well as household names, ages, district, sub-district and page numbers. Corresponding microfilms are available at Cloverdale.
- **1800-1911**: Ancestry Library Edition at Cloverdale
  - Links to full digitized records from 1851-1911.
- **1851, 1901 & 1911**: Automated Genealogy: [www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html](http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html)
  - Links to full digitized records.
- **1666-1911**: Library & Archives Canada: [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html)
  - Information centre for all Canadian censuses and links to searchable databases.
  - Links to sites with census returns from 1761.
- **Steve Morse Searching the Canadian Census in One Step: 1851, 1891-1911**: [http://www.stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html)

Microfilm
Cloverdale Library has all the Canadian census records that available on microfilm. See Section 2 of the Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library for more information about these films, and in particular sections 2-6 and 2-7 for details of Acadian and New Brunswick census returns.

**Finding Aids** in print will help you identify the correct microfilm for your ancestor, if you know the geographic location. They are arranged by province, county, sub-district and township. Use the following Finding Aids for New Brunswick:

- **1921 Census:**
  - This is the most recently released national Census. It is available online through Ancestry only at this time and there are no finding aids currently available. This census includes all provinces and offers information such as paternal origins, trades, and education. The census can be browsed by province, district and sub-district.

- **1911 Census:**
  - Three binders marked “1911 Census,” located on the census book shelves near the print directories, summarize the census districts and sub-districts by name.
  - To find the corresponding microfilm number for a certain location, go to the Library & Archives Canada website and search the 1911 Census database by geographic location: [http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html) Ask staff if you need assistance using the database.
• **1901 Census:**
  There are several copies of *Catalogue of census returns on microfilm, 1901*
  which is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers.
  GEN CIN 304.60971 NAT 1993

• **1666-1891 Census:**
  There are several copies of a Finding Aid called *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1666-1891*,
  which includes New Brunswick. The Aid is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers noted for each location.

**Print**

**Census Indexes:**
Cloverdale Library has a large collection of census indexes for New Brunswick filed on the shelves adjacent to the census finding aids for the Canadian censuses. You can find a list of these indexes by doing a general keyword search of the library catalogue using the words: New Brunswick census

**General Information about Census Records**

**Library & Archives Canada:**
[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html)

**Researching Canadian Census Records.**
GEN 929.1072 BOU 1998

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**Vital Records**

**Online**
The province began registering births, marriages and deaths in 1888 in New Brunswick. An index to records from 1800-1959 is available at the *Provincial Archives of New Brunswick*:
[http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/VISSE/default.aspx?culture=en-CA](http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/VISSE/default.aspx?culture=en-CA). They include: index to late registration of births 1810-1914; index to late registration of births, county series, 1869-1901; index to county birth registers 1800-1913; index to provincial registrations of births 1898-1914; index to marriages 1847-1959; index to county death registers 1885-1921; provincial returns of deaths 1815-1919; and index to death certificates 1920-1959.


Fees and other details about genealogy searches conducted by **Service New Brunswick** can be found at [http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/EServices/ListServiceDetails.asp?ServiceID1=17479&ReportType1=All](http://app.infoaa.7700.gnb.ca/gnb/Pub/EServices/ListServiceDetails.asp?ServiceID1=17479&ReportType1=All).

Guides to research for each county are provided at: [http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/CountyGuides.aspx?culture=en-CA](http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/CountyGuides.aspx?culture=en-CA).

**Ancestry: Drouin Collection** (available in library only)
  • Acadian French Catholic church records: 1670-1946
Daniel F. Johnson’s Database of Vital Statistics from New Brunswick Newspapers:  

Microfilm:  
Complete records are available on the microfilms noted on the index search results from the above database. These microfilms can be viewed at the Provincial Archives in Fredericton or requested through interlibrary loan.


Acadian Records: Genealogie des Familles Acadiennes  
Also see section 5-48 of the Guide for a description of the microfilms of family histories in the late 17th and 18th centuries on microfilm at Cloverdale Library.

Print  
Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: New Brunswick genealogy for a list of the books containing vital statistics extracted from newspapers and other sources.

For general information on researching vital statistics in Canada see:

Murphy, Sharon L. Port Hope, ON: Timeless Genealogical Research, 2001.  
GEN 929.1072 MUR 2001

[This volume contains forms for requesting certificates].  
GEN 929.1072 KEM 2000

Church Records

Apart from national church archives, church records are generally found at the local level, in individual churches or parishes. As with vital statistics records, churches may limit access to their parish registers on the basis of an individual’s privacy. Check the following websites for information and links on church records in New Brunswick:

- Canadian Genealogy:  
  http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/newbrunswick/new_brunswick_church_records.htm  
- Family Search – New Brunswick Church Records:  
  https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_Brunswick_Church_Records

Print  
Search the library catalogue using the terms:  
New Brunswick Genealogy + the name of the town/parish you are looking for such as Saint John

Early marriage Records of New Brunswick: Saint John City & County from the British Conquest to 1839.  
GEN 929.371532 EAR 1986
Cemetery Records

Most cemetery records are maintained at the local level (church, town, municipal or city hall). Obituaries in the early New Brunswick newspapers are very brief; lengthy notices did not appear until the last half of the 19th century. As well, an ancestor who died away from home was often buried in a cemetery near where he or she died. Many rural cemeteries are no longer in use so you should try contacting the closest church of the same denomination to inquire about missing records.

Online
Alberta Family Histories Society: New Brunswick Death Records:
http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regnb_death.html

Canada GenWeb: Cemetery Project – New Brunswick:
http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/NB/index.html

Canadian Genealogy: Cemetery Records – New Brunswick:
http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/newbrunswick/new_brunswick_cemetery_records.htm


Known graves of holders of the Victoria Cross in Canada: www.stewart.prestel.co.uk/ggcanada.htm

New Brunswick Provincial Archives: Cemeteries Database:


Print
Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: New Brunswick genealogy
for cemetery records.

For a general guide to cemetery research see:
Your Guide to Cemetery Research.
GEN 929.5072 CAR
**Newspapers**

**Online**

Library & Archives Canada: [http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/18/r18-206-e.html](http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/18/r18-206-e.html)
- List of newspapers available on microfilm.

Newspapers in New Brunswick: [http://www.altstuff.com/newsnb.htm](http://www.altstuff.com/newsnb.htm)


**Wills and Estate Records**

Wills and estate records are a provincial responsibility. Probate registration began in New Brunswick in 1786. Probate records for New Brunswick are held at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

**Online**

Rootsweb: Index to Probate Records held at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:
[http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nbsunbur/prob_su1.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nbsunbur/prob_su1.htm)

**Print**

Early New Brunswick Probate Records 1785-1835.
GEN 929.37151 HAL 1989

Researching Canadian Wills & Estates.
GEN 929.1072 MAC 1998

**Passenger & Immigration Lists**

**Online**

Ancestry Databases at the library:
- Canadian Passenger Lists: 1865-1935 - searchable by name, port, ship, arrival/departure dates, with digital images of records
- New Brunswick Passenger Lists: 1834.
- Border Crossings from Canada to US: 1895-1956 - searchable by name, location, with digital images of records.

Library & Archives Canada: [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-908-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-908-e.html)
- Home page for information on passenger lists and links to resources for ship’s passenger lists (ocean arrivals) as well as border entries.

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:
- Irish famine migration to New Brunswick, 1845-1852:  
  [http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/PrivRecs/IrishFamine/?culture=en-CA](http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/PrivRecs/IrishFamine/?culture=en-CA)

**Microfilm**

Microfilms for all Canadian incoming passenger lists are available at the library. The films are organized by port of arrival and date. If neither of these is known, you can search the Canadian passenger list records or Canadian census records on Ancestry. Census records often include the year a person arrived in Canada. For details on the microfilms, see section 3-9 of the library’s guide: Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library. For an online version of the Guide go to: [www.spl.bc.ca](http://www.spl.bc.ca) and follow the links to Programs and Services > Genealogy > Cloverdale Genealogy Guide.

**Print**

There are also numerous books of passenger list arrivals and a variety of books on the topic of immigration to Canada. Browse the book shelves in the 929.3 area. General books about Immigration are in the 325 area. Do a general keyword search for: New Brunswick genealogy for other books on this topic.

**Index to Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Census 1851.**  
GEN CIN 929.37151 IND

**Ships and Seafarers**

**Ship Records**

Database  
The Maritime Provinces are historically renowned for the ship industry. This resource includes records as early as 1787 through to 1936. Records such as voyages, crew lists, vessel registry file (including vessels registered in Bermuda!), masters and owners of said vessels, as well as a ports file of over 33,000 ports visited by Canadian registered vessels. You can access this data from workstation WS7334, by clicking on the “ships and seafarers” icon.

**Naturalization Records**

**Microfilm:**  
See Section 4 of the Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library for a description of naturalization records available on microfilm. Only immigrants who were born outside of Canada, Great Britain or the Commonwealth were required to become naturalized.

**Online:**  
Library & Archives Canada:
- General information about citizenship records:  
- Upper Canada & Canada West Naturalization Registers: 1828-1850:  
  [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization/index-e.html)
- Canadian Naturalization: 1915-1932:  
Border Entry Records

Online

The Ancestry database also includes Form 30 records: from 1919 to 1924. During this time, the federal government required that individual forms be completed and submitted when crossing the border into Canada.

Library & Archives Canada:
- General information about Border Entry records

Microfilm
The library has microfilm records of border crossings from the U.S. to Canada between 1908-1919, organized by date and port. To view a list of ports of entry for New Brunswick and the corresponding film numbers, check section 3-43 in the library’s guide: Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library.

Directories

Online
Library & Archives Canada: Canadian Directories:
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canadiandirectories/001075-100.01-e.php
- Searchable database of pre-1901 Canadian directories, with digital images of the directories

McAlpine’s Maritime Provinces Directory: 1870-1871:
http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=1278

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:
- HutchinsonDirectories 1865-1868:
  http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/PrivRecs/HD/?culture=en-CA

Print
The Atlantic Canadians, 1600-1900; an alphabetized directory of people, places and vital dates.
[3 Volumes- please ask for assistance to interpret the codes following each entry]
GEN 929.3715 ATL

GEN 015.7151 CRA
Geographical Resources

Land Records
Before Confederation in 1867, Canada consisted of several British Colonies: Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario. From 1763-1784, the area that is now New Brunswick was part of Nova Scotia and the land papers for these early years are held at Nova Scotia Archives & Records Management (http://gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/land/default.asp). The colony of New Brunswick was founded in 1784 and joined Confederation in 1867.

Online


Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:
- Index to Petitions: Original Series: 1783-1918
  http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/RS108/?culture=en-CA
  o Contains the earliest petitions for grants of land
- Index to New Brunswick Land Grants: 1784-1997
  http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/RS686/?culture=en-CA
  http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/RS17A2_1/?culture=en-CA
  o Available only on microfilm which can be borrowed through inter-library loan.
- Grant Book Database: 1765-1900 http://www.lib.unb.ca/gddm/data/panb/panbweb.html

Service New Brunswick: Land Registry http://www.snb.ca/e/1000/1008e.asp
  - Handles land sales subsequent to original petitions.

Microfilm
See sections 6-11 and 6-12 of our guide book, Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library, for details of the New Brunswick land indexes available on microfilm at the library.

United Empire Loyalists arrived by the thousands in the late 1700s. Many settled along the Saint John River in what was to become New Brunswick. If your people can be found in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick this far back, there is a good chance they were Loyalists.

People researching Loyalists will benefit from studying land records, in particular land petitions. In return for being loyal to the Crown, UEL people were entitled to land grants. They applied for these grants with “Land Petitions.” Our guide book, Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library, lists the various films with these petitions and other related documents found in Land Books in section 6-1.

Online
Library & Archives Canada: Ward Chipman Papers: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/ward-chipman/index-e.html
  - Muster rolls of Loyalists searchable by name, with digital images

The Loyalist Collection: University of New Brunswick: http://www.lib.unb.ca/collections/loyalist/
Microfilm
See section 9-6 to 9-8 of our guide book for microfilms of UEL records available at the library.

Print:
Land of the Loyalists: their struggle to shape the Maritimes
GEN 971.502 REE

Researching Canadian Land Records.
GEN 929.1072 MUR

Place Names

Online


Print
Gazetteer of Canada: New Brunswick
Published for the Canada Permanent Committee on Geographical Names by the Canada Centre for Mapping, Geomatics Canada, Natural Resources Canada, 1994
GEN 917.151 GAZ

Atlases & Maps:
Cloverdale Library has a large collection of historical atlases and maps which are filed on the map stand in the Genealogy Department. Also check the non-fiction section on the main floor which has many maps and atlases.

Acadian Resources

In 1605, the colony of Port-Royal was founded on the Nova Scotian side of the Bay of Fundy by French immigrants who called the land Acadie. For approximately 150 years the colony was the focal point for a steadily growing French population. In 1713, mainland Nova Scotia was ceded to England and the name of the colony was changed to Nova Scotia. In 1755 the Acadian population was expelled from the colony and people migrated to various places around the world. Unfortunately, most of the early Acadian records were destroyed.

Online
Acadian GenWeb: http://acadian-genweb.acadian-home.org/frames.html

Library & Archives Canada: Acadians: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-905.001-e.html

Records of the British Government at Annapolis Royal, 1713-1749:
http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/heartland/
  • Digital images of the earliest surviving records of British Government in Nova Scotia

Microfilm
See section 2-6 (Census 1671-1752) and section 5-48 (Genealogie des Familles Acadiennes) for descriptions of these Acadian records on microfilm.
Acadian genealogy and notes concerning the Expulsion.
GEN 929.209715 GAU

**Biographical Resources**

**Online**
**Our Roots:** [http://www.ourroots.ca/](http://www.ourroots.ca/)
- Search digital library for Canadian biographies

**Print**
Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for **New Brunswick Biography** for a list of books. Check the indexes for the surnames of people you are looking for. Some of the books in the collection are:

**Dictionary of Canadian biography.**
GEN 920 DIC

**Twenty-first-century Irvings.**
BIOG 338.09227151 IRV

**Local Histories**

**Online**
**Google Books:** [http://books.google.ca/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp](http://books.google.ca/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp)
- Search by place name for access to digital books

**Our Roots:** [http://www.ourroots.ca/](http://www.ourroots.ca/)
- Search digital copies of books for Canadian local histories

**Print**
The library has many local histories for towns in New Brunswick. Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for **New Brunswick History** to see which ones the library has. For example:

**The diverting history of a Loyalist town: a portrait of St. Andrews, New Brunswick.**
GEN 971.533 MOW

**First Nations and Métis Nation**

**First Nations**

**Online**
First Nations genealogy can be challenging, whether for interest about personal roots, or for the purpose of obtaining status. A good place to begin might be the research guides available at Library and Archives Canada and other governmental agencies, as well as First Nations websites for New Brunswick.
Aboriginal Canada: First Nations Directory Atlantic
http://www.johnco.com/firstnation/dirfnatl.htm

The First Nation Information Project: New Brunswick:
http://www.aboriginalcanada.com/firstnation/dirfnb.htm

Indian and Northern Affairs: Atlantic Region

Library and Archives Canada: Canadian Genealogy Centre – Aboriginal Research
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-607.002.01.01-e.html

Mi'kmaw Bands in New Brunswick: http://mikmawey.uccb.ns.ca/nbcouncils.html

Mi'kmaq Resource Centre: New Brunswick
http://mikmawey.uccb.ns.ca/reserves.html#2

Using census records to find aboriginal ancestry:

Census records may be a good starting point as “racial origins” are often noted on the census, as well as household members, place of birth and birthdates. Determining the geographical location could also lead you to a band name.

Indexes for the censuses of 1871 and 1881 allow you to search by “ethnic origin” which is one way to help establish First Nations ancestry:

- **1871** Index at the Library and Archives Canada site:
  http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/1871-ontario/001016-100.01-e.php  [use the term “Indian” beside “Ethnic Origin”]

- **1881** Index at the Latter Day Saints, Family Search site:
  [ restrict your search to “Indigenous”]

- **1881** Index at the Library and Archives Canada site:
  http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/001049-100.01-e.php  [use the term “Indian” beside “Ethnic Origin”]

Cloverdale Library owns microfilm number T-6554 covering the 1901 Native census returns for a number of provinces. See page 11-1 of Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library for more information on how to search census records for First Nations information.
Métis Nation

Online

East-West Official Statement: New Brunswick Métis and Métis of the West:

Library & Archives Canada: http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/022/022-905.004-e.html
- Detailed information about Métis people and the records, as well as access to an online database with over 15,000 digitized images.

Métis National Council Historic Online Database:
http://metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca/MNC/search.jsp

Microfilm
The Cloverdale library has Métis Scrip (land grant) records on film, but not the related documents found in the online index at Library and Archives Canada. These can be obtained by interlibrary loan. Please see section 7-1 in our guide book, Canadian Genealogical Resources for descriptions and film listings.

Print
Listed below are a few of the books you can find by doing a subject search of the library’s catalogue using the terms: METIS – GENEALOGY:

Discover your Métis Ancestry: a beginner’s guide.
GEN 929.108997071 ORB 2008

Métis Families: A Genealogical Compendium.
GEN 929.37127 MOR 2001

Military Records

Print
For an alphabetical listing of Canadian participants in the South African War or Boer War, check the library shelves for this book:
GEN 929.371 IND 1999

Microfilm
See Section 9 of the library’s Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library which describes Canadian military records on microfilm available at the library.

Online
Canadian Expeditionary Force: Attestation Papers:
http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/index-e.html

Canadian Military Heritage Project: http://www.rootsweb.com/~canmil/
Canadian Virtual War Memorial:  http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: http://www.cwgc.org/

Library & Archives Canada: Military Records: http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-909-e.html


Royal Canadian Armored Corps Battle Honors: http://regimentalrogue.com/battlehonours/rcac.htm

Soldiers of the First World War: http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html
- Digital images of war diaries of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, searchable by unit name and date

Veterans Affairs Canada: http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/books
- Search the Books of Remembrance for names of Canadians who fought and died in the wars

Other Internet Resources for New Brunswick

Check out Cloverdale Library’s favorite Genealogy sites on our web page at: http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca/Programs+and+Services/Genealogy/Genealogy+Links.htm

Other useful sites:


GenWeb: New Brunswick: http://nb.canadagenweb.org/


New Brunswick Genealogical Society: http://www.nbgs.ca/

