

*A Genealogical Resource Guide  
to  
Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova  
Scotia, Canada*

*Eva Goodwin  
ProGen 18  
April 2013*

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>GENERAL CANADA RESOURCES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>GENERAL NOVA SCOTIA RESOURCES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY (HRM) REPOSITORIES</b>	<b>7</b>
PUBLIC LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES	7
MUSEUMS & HERITAGE SOCIETIES	8
RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES	9
COURTS	10
UNIVERSITY COLLECTIONS	12
OTHER	14
<b>ONLINE COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>ONLINE GUIDES &amp; AIDS</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PUBLISHED SOURCES</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>RESOURCES BY TOPIC</b>	<b>17</b>
CEMETERIES	17
CENSUSES	17
CHURCH & RELIGIOUS RECORDS	18
COURT RECORDS	19
DIRECTORIES	19
ETHNIC RESEARCH	19
IMMIGRATION	20
LAND RECORDS	20
MAPS	21
MILITARY RECORDS & HISTORY	21
PERIODICALS & NEWSPAPERS	22
PROBATE RECORDS	22
TAX RECORDS	22
VITAL RECORDS	23
<b>OTHER HALIFAX RESOURCES, RECORDS AND COLLECTIONS</b>	<b>24</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) formed out of Halifax County in 1996, when all the independent towns and municipalities in the County amalgamated into one regional municipal government. HRM consists of the City of Halifax, suburbs, and rural communities – altogether around 200 communities. Halifax is the capital of Nova Scotia, first settled by Europeans in 1749.

The earliest European settlement in the land that eventually became Nova Scotia was the French town Port Royal (later Annapolis), established in 1605. At the time, Nova Scotia and the other Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island) were all considered Acadia. From then until approximately the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, Nova Scotia was predominantly Acadian, and when doing early Nova Scotia research it is important to keep that in mind.

[History of the boundaries of Halifax County/HRM](#)

## GENERAL CANADA RESOURCES

### 1. [Library and Archives Canada \(LAC\)](#)

Description: Canada's national archives. A description of the holdings is [here](#). Has physical holdings, including books, journals, photos, maps, manuscripts, and fonds, as well as online collections, grouped in [research categories](#) and also [indexed](#). Search the entire library and archives collection [here](#).

For hours and location, as well as information on preparing for a visit, see [here](#).

### 2. [Archives Canada](#)

Description: Per the website's description, "a gateway to archival resources found in over 800 repositories across Canada." [Search](#) across the repositories' holdings, view [virtual exhibits](#), and access [links](#) to other resources across the web.

## GENERAL NOVA SCOTIA RESOURCES

### 1. [Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management \(NSARM\)](#)

Description: Nova Scotia's provincial archives, formerly called Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS). Contains [Virtual Archives](#), including online searchable databases of genealogical holdings, historical collections, historic photos, maps; and extensive physical holdings relevant to genealogy including family genealogies, photographs, county histories, maps, reference books, ephemera, special collections, manuscripts, and video/audio collections. Search the collections using the [BosaNova archives catalogue](#) and the [library catalog](#).

In particular, the Commissioner of Public Records Collection is a treasure trove of genealogical information. This is a vast collection of Nova Scotia colonial government records, together with British and French imperial records relating to Nova Scotia, including records relating to land, taxes, government, court records, and more. See a catalog of its holdings by searching "commissioner of public records collection" in the [Archives Catalogue](#).

#### [Hours and location:](#)

6016 University Avenue, Halifax, NS, B3H 1W4

Reading Room hours: M-F 8:30am-4:30pm; W 4:30pm-9:00pm; Sa 9:00am-5:00pm

### 2. [NS Historical Vital Statistics](#)

Online collection of birth registrations (1864-1877, 1908-1911), marriage bonds (1763-1864) and registrations (1864-1936) and death registrations (1864-1877 and 1908-1961) with full digital image.

### 3. [Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia \(GANS\)](#)

Description: GANS has both online resources and physical collections, as well as publications for sale (including published indexes of vital records).

#### Hours and location:

3258 Isleville Street, Halifax, NS

Check the [events page](#) for open hours.

**4. [Nova Scotia Official Heritage Website](#)**

Description: online database of all heritage museums and archives in Nova Scotia, searchable by county, theme, type/service, and community

**5. [NovaScotia.com Research Your Roots](#)**

Description: an interactive surname map and guide to community archives across the province. You can enter your surname (or the surname you're researching) in the map tool and it will show you where people with that surname lived.

**6. [FamilySearch.org – Halifax, Nova Scotia Holdings](#)**

**7. [FamilySearch.org – Canada Holdings](#)**

**8. [FamilySearch.org – Nova Scotia Holdings](#)**

**9. [Ancestry.com – Nova Scotia collections](#)**

**10. [Cyndi's List – Nova Scotia links](#)**

## HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY (HRM) REPOSITORIES

### *Public Libraries & Archives*

#### 1. [Halifax Public Libraries](#)

Description: There is a [gateway page](#) to genealogy and local history sources including virtual archives, genealogy databases, local history resources, and useful links

For hours and a list of branch locations, see [here](#).

#### 2. [Halifax Regional Municipal Archives](#)

Description: Municipal government and non-government archival records documenting the history of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

Hours and location: see [here](#)

#### 3. [Halifax Citadel National Historic Site of Canada Library/Archives](#)

Description: Records pertaining to the 78th Highland Regiment and Royal Artillery during regiments' time at the Citadel, including some military personnel files.

Hours and location:

5425 Sackville Street, Citadel Hill, Halifax, NS B3K 5M7

Hours are year round, by appointment only.

M-F 8:00am-4:00pm. Call (902) 426-0685 or email [citadel.library@pc.gc.ca](mailto:citadel.library@pc.gc.ca) to arrange an appointment.

#### 4. [Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources Library](#)

Description: (From the website:) "An extensive collection of books and journals on forestry, wildlife, entomology, parks, land use, resource management, and related topics. Of particular interest are Crown Land Grant Index Sheets, showing Crown Land Grants from the 1700s." Also

Hours and location:

Dep't of Natural Resources, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 1701 Hollis Street, Halifax, NS B3J 3M8  
Phone: (902) 424-8633 Email: [nsdnrlib@gov.ns.ca](mailto:nsdnrlib@gov.ns.ca)  
Open M-F 8:30am-4pm

## ***Museums & Heritage Societies***

### **1. Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21**

Description: Immigration records, ship database and images, newspaper collections, and a Family History Centre

Hours and location:

1055 Marginal Road Halifax, NS B3H 4P7  
Phone: (902) 425-7770 Email: [info@pier21.ca](mailto:info@pier21.ca)  
Hours vary by season, [see website](#) for details.

### **2. Dartmouth Heritage Museum**

Description: Historical photos and artifacts relating to Dartmouth local history, including some genealogy and history files and sources. For genealogical research, [fill out a research request form](#) and fax or email it to the museum to book an appointment.

Hours and location:

Evergreen House, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3M5  
Phone: (902) 464-2300 Fax: Fax (902) 464-8210  
Email: [museum@bellaliant.com](mailto:museum@bellaliant.com)  
Research by appointment only; museum hours vary by season and are posted on the [main web page](#).

### **3. Eastern Shore Archives**

Description: Local history and heritage

[Hours and location](#)

### **4. Fultz House Museum**

Description: Local history and heritage

[Hours and location](#)



## 5. [Mainland South Heritage Society](#)

Description: Historical and genealogical records and photographs relating to the history of the Mainland South area of Halifax

Hours and location:

16 Sussex Street, Halifax, NS B3R 1N9

The archives are not open to the public, so contact the society for information on how to access the records. Click “Archives” on the left sidebar of the website, and scroll down for an archival finding aid. Contact the Society Archivist, Allan Marryatt, (902) 471-2165, [longcove@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:longcove@ns.sympatico.ca), for more information.

## 6. [Scott Manor House Museum](#)

Description: Archives include records relating to the community of Bedford, including community historians' collections, maps, and records of the Bedford Heritage Society

Hours and location:

15 Fort Sackville Rd, Bedford, NS B4A 2G6

Phone: (902) 832-2336 Email: [scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:scott.manor@ns.sympatico.ca)

Open daily in July and August 10am-4pm. Otherwise by appointment.

## *Religious Archives*

### 1. [Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island](#)

Description: Parish records and documents, parish histories, personal papers of clergy, records of church societies, photographs, and other records of the diocese; minutes, ledgers, documents and registers.

Hours and location:

1340 Martello Street, Halifax, NS B3H 2Z1

M, 1pm-5pm; W & Th, 9am-5pm

### 2. [Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth](#)

Description: Diocesan records from 1800, orphanage records, Catholic church history records, and Halifax local history records

Hours and location:

Read the "Research Policy" and "On Site Research Policy" sections of the website for information on access to these records. Requests for access must be made in writing to: Catholic Pastoral Centre, P.O. Box 1527, Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3, Attn: Archives OR by email to: [archives@catholichalifax.org](mailto:archives@catholichalifax.org)

### **3. St. Paul's Anglican Church Archives**

Description: Extensive records of the parish including: service records, baptisms, marriages, burials, confirmations, clergy papers and correspondence, clergy writings, churchwarden records, property records, administration records, choir and guild societies records, outreach and mission records, parish council records, Sunday school records, photographs, and publications.

Hours and location:

Archives not open to the public; complete an [information request](#) for fulfillment of research needs and email it to [office@stpaulshalifax.org](mailto:office@stpaulshalifax.org).

### **4. United Church of Canada Maritime Conference Archives**

Description: Records of the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada, including pre-1925 records of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational congregations in the Maritimes which joined The United Church of Canada in 1925

Hours and location:

21 Wright Street, Sackville, New Brunswick E4L 4P8  
Phone: (506) 536-1334x7 Email: [archives@marconf.ca](mailto:archives@marconf.ca)  
T-Th, 8am-4pm. Appointments are recommended.

## ***Courts***

Note about Nova Scotia courts, from their [FAQ page](#): No court records are available online and all must be searched manually. From the website: "There are 10 judicial districts in the province. If a province wide search is required, it must be a manual search in each of the 10 offices. We do not have sufficient court staff to perform this type of search. Additionally, any such search would

reveal the name sought only if it appears in the file name, i.e.: if the person was a party to a legal action at the time it was commenced. It would not produce all files in which the person sought to be identified was involved in the action but not a party - for example, as a witness, or a file where the person was added as a party after the file was named. For these reasons the person requiring the search normally retains an agent law firm in Nova Scotia to conduct the search. It can be done by individuals who are prepared to attend at the various judicial sites and go through the manual index. On the other hand if a request comes for copies of materials on a certain file and the requestor can provide the file number from which they require documents, the court staff will provide, at a cost, the specific copies."

([http://www.courts.ns.ca/General/FAQ\\_general.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/General/FAQ_general.htm), accessed April 23, 2013)

## **1. The Law Courts Building, Halifax, NS**

Description: The Law Courts Building is home to:

- HRM Probate Court Office of the Registrar(phone: (902) 424-7422). The offices of the registrar in each probate district hold all relevant estate documents for that district.

- HRM Supreme Court (General Division) (phone: (902) 424-4900). The Supreme Court is "the highest trial court in the province, with broad authority to try a wide range of civil and serious criminal matters; exclusive authority to hold jury trials, and to hear appeals (on summary convictions) from certain criminal trials and from tribunals, to try murder cases (except for Young Offenders), to grant divorce and divide matrimonial property" (from [http://www.courts.ns.ca/supreme/index\\_sc.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/supreme/index_sc.htm), accessed 4/23/2013)

- Nova Scotia Court of Appeal (phone: (902) 424-4900). It's Nova Scotia's highest "court of last resort" in both civil and criminal matters.

Location: 1815 Upper Water Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 1S7

## **2. Supreme Court (Family Division)**

Description: Deals with all family law matters arising inside the Regional Municipalities of Halifax and Cape Breton

Location: 3380 Devonshire Avenue  
Halifax, NS B3K 5R5

Phone: (902) 424-3990

### **3. Halifax Provincial Court**

Description: “The Provincial Court has jurisdiction to try almost all indictable offence charges under the Criminal Code (a charge of murder by an adult accused being the main exception) and has exclusive jurisdiction over all summary offence charges under provincial and federal statutes and regulations. If an accused person elects or is subject to trial in the Supreme Court, the Provincial Court may hold a preliminary inquiry.” (from [http://www.courts.ns.ca/provincial/index\\_pc.htm](http://www.courts.ns.ca/provincial/index_pc.htm), accessed 4/23/2013)

Location: 5250 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, NS B3J 1E7  
Phone: (902) 424-8718

### **4. Dartmouth Provincial Court**

Description: see above for description of Provincial Courts

Location: 277 Pleasant Street, Suite 200  
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3S2  
Phone: (902) 424-2390

## ***University Collections***

### **1. Dalhousie University Archives and Special Collections**

Description: University records and special collections relating to Nova Scotia writers. Also has a historical Canadian [maps collection](#). There are [finding aids](#) (including an [index to people's names](#) in the university collections) and various subject guides, as well as several [digital collections](#).

Hours and location are listed at the top of the DUASC [main web page](#).

### **2. Mount Saint Vincent University Archives**

Description: holdings relating to faculty, staff, students, administrators, and history of Mount Saint Vincent University, including university publications, yearbooks, personal papers of students and faculty, course catalogues, memorabilia, and graduate student theses

Hours and location:

E. Margaret Fulton Communications Centre, Room 125/126, Mount Saint Vincent University, 166 Bedford Highway, Halifax, NS B3M 2J6  
Phone: (902) 457-6401 Fax: (902) 457-6445  
E-mail: [archive@msvu.ca](mailto:archive@msvu.ca)  
Open M-F 1pm-5pm

### **3. Saint Mary's University Archives**

Description: University records, yearbooks, and some special collections (manuscripts, fonds, theses, oral histories)

Hours and location:

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Patrick Power Library, 923 Robie St., Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 3C3.  
Phone: (902) 420-5508 Fax: (902) 420-5561  
Open M, Th, F 11am-1pm, T-W 2pm-4pm

### **4. University of King's College Archives**

Description: University records, photographs, and faculty, staff, and student papers and photographs

Hours and location:

University of King's College, 6350 Coburg Road, Halifax, NS B3H 2A1  
Open by appointment.  
Email [ukc.archives@ukings.ca](mailto:ukc.archives@ukings.ca) or call (902) 422-1271

### **5. Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing Museum & Archives**

Description: Profiles and photographs of VGHSN graduates from 1892 to 1995, when the college closed.

Hours and location:

Ballroom, Bethune Building, VG site, 1278 Tower Road, Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9  
Open Mondays 9:30am-3pm or by appointment

## ***Other***

### **1. Cambridge Military Library**

Description: Canadian and British military history and fonds

Hours and location:

Royal Artillery Park, Bldg. 3, 5460 Royal Artillery Court, Halifax, NS,  
B3J 0A8

Phone: (902) 427-4494      Email: [clibrary@ns.aliantzinc.ca](mailto:clibrary@ns.aliantzinc.ca)

Open part-time, call ahead

### **2. Dartmouth Family History Center**

Description: FamilySearch branch library

Hours and location:

46 Cumberland Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2V 2C7

Phone: (902) 462-0628

M-T 10am-2pm; W 6pm-9pm; Sa 1pm-4pm.

## ONLINE COLLECTIONS

### [Nova Scotia Virtual Archives](#)

The NSARM virtual collection, including land papers, newspapers, church records, township records, local history collections, family papers, vital records, directories, tax records, divorce records, occupational history, ethnic collections, and photographs, just to name some of what is available in these archives.

### [Library and Archives of Canada Online Collection](#)

LAC online has collections relating to portraits, art, biographies, censuses, film, literature, maps, military, music, newspapers, politics, sports, vital statistics, and many other topics.

### [ArchWay Nova Scotia Digital Archival Database](#)

The ArchWay database is a searchable database of records catalogued at a long list of Nova Scotia archives.

### [Canadiana](#)

Canadiana is an initiative to preserve early Canada's print history, including books, newspapers, periodicals, photographs and images, and other papers of archival interest. Search it using the [Canadiana Discovery Portal](#) and also don't miss the [Early Canadiana Online](#) collection of books, magazines, and government publications from the 1600s to the 1940s.

## ONLINE GUIDES & AIDS

[Canada GenWeb](#) – gateway to online Canadian genealogy resources

[Nova Scotia GenWeb](#) – a very rich collection of information and links

[LAC Genealogy homepage](#) – topical guides to LAC's genealogy holdings

[Nova Scotia Genealogy Network Association](#) – guide to some online sources

[BYU Nova Scotia Research Outline](#) – BYU's guide to Nova Scotia genealogy research

[FamilySearch Wiki Nova Scotia Genealogy Links](#) – links organized topically

[Nova Scotia Genealogy Records Online](#) – various Nova Scotia genealogy links

## PUBLISHED SOURCES

### Some Books to Start with:

Gilroy, Marion. *Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*. Halifax, PANS, 1980.

Holder, Jean M. *Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers* series. Halifax, GANS, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988

Marble, Allan E. *A catalogue of published genealogies of Nova Scotian families*, Halifax, 1979

Marble, Allan E. *Deaths, Burials, and Probate of Nova Scotians, 1749-1799, from Primary Sources*. Vols. 1 & 2. Halifax, GANS, 1990.

Public Archives of Nova Scotia. *Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources, County Guide Series*, Vol. 1: Halifax County (1988) and Vol. 8: City of Halifax (1990)

Punch, Terrence M. *Genealogical research in Nova Scotia*, Halifax, 1998

Punch, Terrence M., editor. *Genealogist's handbook for Atlantic Canada Research*, Boston, 1989.

Punch, Terrence M. *Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1769-1812*. Halifax, Genealogical Committee of the RNSHS, 1981.

Punch, Terrence M. *Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1813-1822*. Halifax, Genealogical Committee of the RNSHS, 1978.

Punch, Terrence M. *Religious Marriages in Halifax, 1768-1841, from Original Sources*. Halifax, GANS, 1991.

### Links to Suggested Books and Reference Material:

Nova Scotia GenWeb's "[Selected List of Nova Scotia Genealogy and History Books](#)"  
WorldCat.org's Search Results for [Halifax Nova Scotia genealogy](#)  
LAC's [Guide to Published Sources](#)



## RESOURCES BY TOPIC

Following is a non-exhaustive guide to resources by topic. I try to include links and at least an overview of the available records, whether online or not, where possible. With any of these topics, don't forget to search the LAC and NSARM catalogs, FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, and other general online and local repositories for additional resources.

### *Cemeteries*

#### **Links**

[Canada GenWeb Cemetery Project](#)

Volunteer-compiled Canadian cemetery directory

[Canadian Headstones](#)

Another volunteer-compiled Canadian cemetery directory

[Halifax Gravemarker Gallery](#)

A few cemeteries in Halifax

[Interment.net](#)

Gravemarker search engine with a lot of Canadian graves

[Cemetery Records at NSARM](#)

Nova Scotia cemetery database

[Halifax City and County Cemeteries](#)

Halifax GenWeb's list of cemeteries

### *Censuses*

The year of the first Canadian federal census was 1871, and there has been a federal census every ten years since then. The 1921 census and later censuses are not yet available to the public. Before 1871, there were a variety of provincial and local censuses that included Halifax County or the areas that later included Halifax County, though these censuses are much harder to find and are mostly not yet available online. The first link below lists all Canadian censuses, including the early provincial censuses.

[Library and Archives Canada Census Listing and Guide](#)

All of the Canadian censuses, including those before 1871, are available in the LAC collections. The finding aid to all censuses is [here](#) (slow-loading webpage).

### [Library and Archives Canada Census Guide](#)

Canada censuses online images for 1851, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916 - but not searchable by name.

### [FamilySearch.org Guide to Canadian Censuses](#)

Includes references to those that they have available in books or on microfilm.

### [Ancestry.com Canadian Census Collections \(\\$\)](#)

Canada census online images for 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916. Fully indexed.

### [Canada Census Mortality Schedules, 1871](#)

Mortality schedules for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Quebec on FamilySearch.

## ***Church & Religious Records***

In addition to the resources below are the physical church and diocesan archives listed in the Repositories section. Many, many church records are available through the LAC or the NSARM, so search those catalogues for records of interest. Also, check the FamilySearch catalog for City of Halifax, HRM/Halifax County, and Nova Scotia church records holdings. Some may be available online and many more are published in books or on microfilm.

### **Aids & Guides**

#### [LAC Guide to Church Records](#)

Tools for searching the LAC catalog for church records.

#### [Nova Scotia Church Records \(FamilySearch wiki\)](#)

### **Databases**

#### [Church records at NSARM](#)

Searchable database of Nova Scotia church records at the NSARM.

### **Links**

#### [Atlantic Baptist Archive at Acadia University](#)

This collection contains church minute books, member lists, correspondence, histories, and other Baptist church records for the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, which includes Baptist churches in Atlantic Canada.

#### [The Drouin Collection of Church and Vital Records, 1621-1967 \(\\$\)](#)

This collection on Ancestry.com contains millions of French-Canadian and English historical church records from multiple denominations. A [guide to the Drouin Collection](#) is available on the [FamilySearch wiki](#).

## ***Court Records***

Most court records are accessible only directly at the court. See the [Guidelines for Access to the Courts of Nova Scotia](#) pamphlet online (pdf). There are a few scattered court records collections on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, as well as in various local and provincial archives.

[LAC Guide to Criminal Records](#)

## ***Directories***

[LAC Guide to Canadian Directories](#)

One of the richest Canadian directory collections in the world, catalogued in: Canadian Directories, 1790-1987: a Bibliography and Place-name Index. Ottawa: National Library of Canada, 1989. 3 vol.

[Guide to City Directories at NSARM](#)

Guide to city directories, including Halifax, provincial directories, business directories, telephone directories at the Archives.

## ***Ethnic Research***

### **Acadian**

[Guide to Acadian Genealogical Research](#) by NSARM

[NSARM Virtual Archives Acadian Collections](#)

[LAC Guide to Acadians](#)

### **Black/Africans**

[LAC Guide to Blacks](#)

[NSARM Virtual Archives African Nova Scotian Collections](#)

[Halifax Public Library African Nova Scotians](#)

### **Black Loyalists**

During the American Revolution, several thousand Blacks fled the US and established settlements in Nova Scotia.

Commissioner of Public Records collection, "Refugee Negroes" papers

Retrieval code RG 1 vol. 419-423 at the NSARM

Records relating to Black immigration and settlement in Nova Scotia from the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783 to the final emancipation of slaves in 1838

## **Indigenous**

[LAC Guide to Aboriginal Peoples](#)

[NSARM Mi'kmaq Holdings Resource Guide](#)

[Halifax Public Library Mikmaq Resources](#)

## ***Immigration***

### **Aids & Guides**

[LAC Guide to Immigration and Citizenship](#)

Finding aid for Canadian immigration records held at the LAC.

[Emigration and Immigration \(FamilySearch Wiki\)](#)

### **Databases**

[Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 \(including Halifax\)](#)

[Ships Arrival Database](#)

Search ships arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax, 1928-1971.

## ***Land Records***

### **Aids & Guides**

[LAC Guide to Land Research](#)

A finding aid for Canadian land records held at the LAC.

[Nova Scotia Natural Resources Dep't, Crown Land Information Management Centre Reference Guide](#)

See page 2 of the guide for information relating to how the Centre can help with genealogical research.

### **Databases**

[Nova Scotia Land Petitions 1769-1799 ~ Cape Breton Island petitions 1787-1843](#)

From NSARM, a searchable database for early land petitions made to government by individuals or groups of people seeking grants of Crown Land for settlement purposes in the colonies of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton Island.

[Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1800](#)

From NSARM, another searchable database for petitions made to government by individuals or groups of people seeking grants of Crown Land for settlement purposes in early Nova Scotia.

## **Links**

[Nova Scotia, Halifax County, Deed Indexes, 1749-1958](#)

Grantee and grantor indexes to deeds.

## **Maps**

[NSARM Virtual Archives - Historical Maps of Nova Scotia](#)

NSARM's online maps collection.

[NSARM Map Collection](#)

Searchable catalog to NSARM's physical maps collection.

[Guide to Nova Scotia Place-Names and Places](#)

Online database of Nova Scotia cities, towns, and villages.

[Historical Land Information at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources](#)

Order copies of the A. F. Church County Maps and the Crown Land Maps here.

Both sets of maps are genealogically valuable; for more information see [here](#).

[Nova Scotia Historic Places Interactive Maps](#)

Interactive historical maps of several Nova Scotia counties, including Halifax in 1879.

[GeoNova Geographic Gateway to Nova Scotia](#)

Includes a map gallery, atlas, property maps, place name finder, electoral district finder, address lookup, coordinate transformations, and other information and services.

[Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, Canada Maps](#)

## **Military Records & History**

### **Aids & Guides**

[LAC Guide to Military Research](#)

Finding aid for Canadian military records held at the LAC.

### **Links**

[Halifax Public Library 'Lest We Forget'](#)

Halifax County service members in WWI and WWII and Korea

[Canadiana War of 1812 Collection](#)

A search portal containing historical documents and artifacts related to the war, including rare or unique books, maps, memoirs, military correspondence, and physical objects.

## ***Periodicals & Newspapers***

### **Aids & Guides**

#### [LAC Guide to Newspaper Research](#)

LAC's topical guide to researching in Canadian newspapers, including several outside links.

### **Databases**

#### [Newspaper Collection at LAC](#)

One of the most extensive collections of Canadian newspapers.

#### [Nova Scotia Historical Newspapers](#)

Digital newspaper collections.

#### [Canadiana.ca](#)

Also listed in the General Resources section above, Canadiana has digitized many early Canadian publications.

## ***Probate Records***

All Nova Scotia probate records are housed at the individual [district probate courts](#). The Family History Library has also microfilmed [Halifax County probate records 1749-1968](#) and [original Halifax estate papers from 1750-1930](#) (including an index that extends to 1968).

## ***Tax Records***

#### [Nova Scotia Tax Assessment, 1765](#)

#### [Poll tax rolls, 1791-1793](#)

NSARM's searchable database of extracted poll tax records.

#### [Nova Scotia assessment books for the city of Halifax, 1817-1862, 1890-1912; and Halifax County, 1835-1948](#)

From FamilySearch.org.

## ***Vital Records***

The primary database of Nova Scotia vital records is the Nova Scotia Historical Vital Statistics database (link below) for births, marriages, and deaths in public record. For vital records after the dates of public record (births since 1912, marriages since 1937, and deaths since 1962), contact the [Nova Scotia Vital Statistics](#) office or request records online through the [Access Nova Scotia Online Express Services](#). Divorces until 1960 are available in an NSARM virtual database (link below), and divorces since 1960 are only available through the Nova Scotia Supreme Court (Family Division) for Halifax Regional Municipality, at 3380 Devonshire Avenue in Halifax (902-424-3990) or the [Nova Scotia Family Court](#) for all other counties.

### **Databases**

#### [NS Historical Vital Statistics](#)

Birth registrations (1864-1877, 1908-1911), marriage bonds (1763-1864) and registrations (1864-1936) and death registrations (1864-1877 and 1908-1961).

#### [NSARM Virtual Archives Divorces](#)

Divorce records, 1759-1960.

#### [Court for Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, 1759-1960](#)

Online NSARM virtual database of Nova Scotia divorces, searchable by last name.

## OTHER HALIFAX RESOURCES, RECORDS AND COLLECTIONS

[Halifax County GenWeb](#)

[Medical Examiner for Halifax and Dartmouth 1895-1974](#)

Guide to Halifax and Dartmouth coroner's records held at NSARM

[Index to Records of the Halifax Funeral Home, 1939-1969](#)

City of Halifax Papers in the Commissioner of Public Records collection

Retrieval code RG 1 vol. 411-418 at the NSARM

Records relating to the town (1749-1841) and city (from 1841) of Halifax. Includes letters, memorials, petitions, accounts and records relating to lands, streets, public buildings, military property, companies, officials, police, bridewell and poorhouse; the 1752 census; and reports of monthly meetings and visitations by the commissioners of the provincial penitentiary board to the Halifax city prison (Rockhead), 1844-1852.