

*A Guide to Researching Genealogy
at the Cloverdale Library*

**Newfoundland
&
Labrador**

Updated February 2014



Photo: View from Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland, c. 1900
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This guide is intended to point you in the direction of our major resources for Newfoundland and Labrador genealogy. Please feel free to ask staff for further assistance.

General Research Guides

Online

- The **Provincial Archives of Newfoundland & Labrador** website has a section on Family History – Getting Started: http://www.therooms.ca/archives/family_history.asp.
- **Newfoundland's Grand Banks** website also has a lot of information on family history research: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/index.html>.

Print

The Canadian Genealogical Sourcebook.

Taylor, Ryan. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association. 2004.
GEN 929.1072 TAY 2004

Finding your Ancestors in Newfoundland & Labrador.

Crant, Bill. Toronto: Heritage Publications. 1998.
929.3715 CRA

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

Elliott, Noel Montgomery, ed. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994.
GEN 929.3715 ATL

Genealogist's handbook for Atlantic Canada Research, 2nd ed.

Punch, Terrence M. (ed.) Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1997.
GEN 929.1072 GEN

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 of the Surrey Public Library. The Library Edition matches the record set of **Ancestry.com**, with the exception of the historical book collection. However, the same online book collection can be found in **Heritage Quest**, also available at Cloverdale.

A list of resources within Ancestry, relevant to Newfoundland and Labrador 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 Newfoundland & Labrador

Ancestry includes, for example:

Canadian Census records from 1871-1911.

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 Newfoundland & Labrador residents as well. Heritage Quest also includes PERSI, an index of local history publications.

Census Records

Newfoundland did not become a province of Canada until 1949, and therefore is not included in the Canadian census returns released to date, i.e. 1851 to 1911. For the years 1671-1711, census records in Newfoundland were generally carried out by a fishing Admiral under instruction from the Colonial Office and contain data relating to fishing vessels as well as the population count. Only a few local returns have survived for some parts of the province. A full census was taken in Newfoundland for the years 1921, 1935 and 1945; these records are publicly available.

Labrador was included in the 1871 Census of Canada (Quebec, Labrador District) and in the 1911 Census (Northwest Territories, Labrador Sub-district).

Microfilm

Newfoundland

Cloverdale Library has the Colonial Office records for 1671-1711 on microfilm no. C-2574. The library also has the census returns for the years 1921, 1935 and 1945 on microfilm. See Sections 2-7 to 2-9 of the **Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library** for more information on Newfoundland census records.

Labrador

Cloverdale Library has microfilms of the Census of Canada for 1871 and 1911 for Labrador. See the **Finding Aids** for the 1871 and 1911 Census returns, for the microfilm numbers.

Online

Newfoundland

- **Alberta Family Histories Soc: Newfoundland Census Records:**
http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regnf_census.html
 - Links to sites with census returns from 1675 – 1921.
- **Canadian Genealogy: Newfoundland Census:**
http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/newfoundland/newfoundland_census_records.htm
- **Census Finder: Newfoundland** <http://www.censusfinder.com/newfoundland-census-records.htm>
- **Genealogy Links: Newfoundland & Labrador: Census:**
http://www.genealogylinks.net/canada/newfoundland_labrador/nfl-cen.htm
- **Library & Archives Canada: Newfoundland & Labrador Census Information:**
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.003-e.html>
- **Newfoundland's Grand Banks Genealogy: Census:** <http://ngb.chebucto.org/census.shtml>

Labrador

- **1871 & 1911:** Ancestry Library Edition at Cloverdale
 - Links to digitized census records for 1871 and 1911.
- **1911:** Automated Genealogy: www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html
 - Links to digitized records.

Print

Index of Jews resident in Newfoundland according to censuses of 1921, 1935 & 1945.

Eker, Glen. Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Soc., 2005
GEN 929.3089924 EKE

General Information about Census Records

Library & Archives Canada:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html>

Researching Canadian Census Records.

Bourrie, Doris. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 1998.

GEN 929.1072 BOU 1998

Vital Records

Online

In Newfoundland, civil registration of births, marriages and deaths started in 1891 and are in the custody of **The Provincial Archives: The Rooms:**

www.therooms.ca/archives/family_history_collections.asp. Prior to 1891, the only records of baptism, marriage or burial were those held by the churches. Check the Archives' website for the location and access to these records.

Newfoundland's **Grand Banks Genealogy** site has transcriptions of parish records and vital statistics: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/>.

Alberta Family Histories Society has links to:

- Newfoundland marriage http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regnf_marr.html
- and death records http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regnf_death.html.

Print

For books containing vital statistics extracted from newspapers and other sources, do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: **Newfoundland births**.

For general information on researching vital statistics in Canada see:

Researching Canadian Vital Statistics Records.

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

GEN 929.1072 MUR 2001

International Vital Records Handbook.

Kemp, Thomas Jay. 4th ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2000.

[This volume contains forms for requesting certificates].

GEN 929.1072 KEM 2000

Church Records

For records prior to 1892, the most commonly used source for vital records is church records which are available from about 1860. 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 Newfoundland:

- Canadian Genealogy:
http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/newfoundland/newfoundland_church_records.htm
- Newfoundland Grand Banks: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/>
- Provincial Archives-Newfoundland & Labrador:
 - Parish Records Finding Aid by Denomination: <http://www.therooms.ca/archives/prfa.asp>

Print

Search the library catalogue using general keyword terms:

Newfoundland Genealogy

which will include birth, marriage and death notices from newspapers.

Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of the United Church of Canada.

Committee on Archives and History, United Church of Canada (ed.) Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996.

GEN 929.371 GUI 1996

Researching Canadian religious records.

Taylor, Ryan. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 2001.

GEN 929.1072 TAY 2001

Cemetery Records

Most cemetery records are maintained at the local level (church, town, municipal or city hall). 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: Newfoundland Death Records:

http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regnf_death.html

Canada GenWeb: Cemetery Project – Newfoundland:

<http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/NB/index.html>

Canadian Genealogy: Cemetery Records – Newfoundland & Labrador:

<http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/NL/index.html>

Directory of Cemeteries: Newfoundland: <http://www.daddezio.com/cemetery/junction.ca/CJ-NF-NDX.html>

Genealogy Links: Cemeteries-Newfoundland & Labrador:

http://www.genealogylinks.net/canada/newfoundland_labrador/nfl-cem.htm

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

Stone Pics Cemeteries of Newfoundland: <http://www.stonepics.com/>

Print

Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: **Newfoundland genealogy** for cemetery records.

For a general guide to cemetery research see:

Your Guide to Cemetery Research.

Carmack, Sharon DeBartolo. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2002.
GEN 929.5072 CAR

Newspapers

Online

Library & Archives Canada: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/8/18/r18-206-e.html>

- List of newspapers available on microfilm.

Newspapers in Newfoundland & Labrador: <http://www.altstuff.com/newsnf.htm>

Wills and Estate Records

Wills and estate records are a provincial responsibility. Probate records for Newfoundland are held by the Supreme Court of Newfoundland.

Online

Newfoundland's Grand Banks: Various Wills Indexes listed under B,D,M,W link:

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/>

- For information on how to obtain a copy of a will see <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Wills/wills-obtain.shtml>

Print

Researching Canadian Wills & Estates.

MacCarl, Ronnie. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 1998.

GEN 929.1072 MAC 1998

Passenger & Immigration Lists

Because Newfoundland did not join Confederation until 1949, none of the Canadian passenger lists available for public access will include Newfoundland ports. However, **Newfoundland's Grand Banks** website has some transcriptions of passenger lists available online:

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/Passenger/index.shtml>

Microfilm

See Section 3-2 of the **Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library** for a description of the Duckworth Papers (1786-1816) on microfilm. These are the

records of the administration of Newfoundland from the papers of Admiral Sir John Thomas Duckworth and include some passenger lists. For an online version of the Guide go to: 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.

Soe longe as there comes noe women: origins of English Settlement in Newfoundland.

Handcock, W. Gordon. Campbellville, ON: Global Heritage Press, 2003.
GEN 971.8 HAN

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.

Directories

Online

Newfoundland’s Grand Banks: <http://ngb.chebucto.org/>

- Check **Official Lists** links for business directories

Print

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

Elliott, Noel M., ed. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library. 1994.

[3 Volumes- please ask for assistance to interpret the codes following each entry]

GEN 929.3715 ATL

Geographical Resources

Land Records

- A history of land ownership in Newfoundland and Labrador can be found online at <http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/lands/cla/history.html>.
- **The Registry of Crown Titles and Records – Lands** in St. John’s, Newfoundland holds land tenure documents dating back to the 1830s.
http://www.env.gov.nl.ca/env/lands/cla/registry_crown_title_records.html
- Some land records are available at **Newfoundland’s Grand Banks:**
<http://ngb.chebucto.org/> under “Official Lists”

Print:

Land of the Loyalists: their struggle to shape the Maritimes

Rees, Ronald. Halifax, NS: Nimbus, 2000.

GEN 971.502 REE

Researching Canadian Land Records.

Murphy, Sharon L. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 2001.
GEN 929.1072 MUR

Place Names

Online

Newfoundland & Labrador Place Name Gazetteer: <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/gazetteer/default.html>

Changes in Places Names in Newfoundland: http://www.fhsl.ca/nfld_nam.htm

Print

Gazetteer of Canada: Newfoundland

2nd ed. Ottawa: Published for the Canada Permanent Committee on Geographical Names by the Geographical Services Directorate, Surveys & Mapping Branch, Energy, Mines & Resources, Canada, 1983.

GEN 917.18 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.

Biographical Resources

Online

Our Roots: <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

- Search digital library for Canadian biographies

Print

Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for **Newfoundland 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.

Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966.
GEN 920 DIC

Local Histories

Online

Google Books: <http://books.google.ca/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp>

- Search by place name for access to digital books

Our Roots: <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

- Search digital copies of books for Canadian local histories

Print

The library has many local histories for towns in Newfoundland. Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for **Newfoundland History** to see which ones the library has.

First Nations

Newfoundland

Online

The Beothuk Nation, the original inhabitants of Newfoundland, was extinct by 1830, although it is possible that small groups crossed into Labrador and merged with the First Nations there. Mi'kmaw bands started moving into southwestern Newfoundland in the early 1600s and are still present today.

A good place to begin your First Nations research might be the guides available at Library and Archives Canada and other governmental agencies, as well as First Nations websites for Newfoundland.

Aboriginal Canada: First Nations Directory Atlantic

<http://www.johnco.com/firstnation/dirfnatl.htm>

The First Nation Information Project: Newfoundland:

<http://www.johnco.com/firstnation/dirfnfd.htm>

Indian and Northern Affairs: Atlantic Region

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/scr/at/index-eng.asp>

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 Newfoundland: <http://mikmawey.uccb.ns.ca/nfldcouncils.html>

Mi'kmaq Resource Centre: Newfoundland

<http://mikmawey.uccb.ns.ca/reserves.html#3>

Newfoundland & Labrador Heritage:

- **Beothuk:** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/aboriginal/beothuk.html>
- **Mi'kmaq:** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/aboriginal/mikmaq.html>

Labrador

Labrador Inuit Association: <http://inuit.pail.ca/lia.htm>

Labrador Métis Nation: <http://www.labradormetis.ca/home/11>

Newfoundland & Labrador Heritage:

- **Innu:** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/aboriginal/innu.html>
- **Inuit:** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/aboriginal/inuit.html>
- **Métis:** <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/aboriginal/metis.html>

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.

- **The Rooms: Newfoundland & Labrador Archives: Aboriginal Ancestry**
 - http://www.therooms.ca/archives/aboriginal_ancestry.asp - Guide for determining Aboriginal ancestry, including census returns

1871 Census

- Search under: Province Quebec, District Labrador, Origin: Sauvage

1911 Census

- Search under Province: Northwest Territories, Sub-district Labrador, Tribal: Native American

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.

Print

Records of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs at the National Archives of Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research.

Russell, Bill.

Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998.

GEN 929.1089 RUS 1998

Military Records

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 Military Genealogy: <http://www.cangenealogy.com/military.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>

Newfoundland Great War Heritage Project: <http://www.nfarchives.net/>

Newfoundland & The Great War: <http://www.heritage.nf.ca/greatwar/>

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 Newfoundland

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:

Association of Newfoundland & Labrador Archives: Links: <http://www.anla.nf.ca/index.php?page=7>

Canadian Genealogy & History Links – Newfoundland:

<http://www.islandnet.com/~cghl/region.php?cat=Newfoundland>

Cyndi's List: Newfoundland & Labrador: <http://www.cyndislist.com/newf-lab.htm>

Family History Society of Newfoundland & Labrador: <http://fhsnl.ca/>

Genealogy Links: Newfoundland & Labrador:

http://www.genealogylinks.net/canada/newfoundland_labrador/index.html

GenWeb: Newfoundland & Labrador: <http://nl.canadagenweb.org/>

Labrador Virtual Museum: <http://www.labradorvirtualmuseum.ca/>

Mary's Genealogy Treasures: Newfoundland & Labrador:

<http://www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/nfl.htm>

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness – Newfoundland & Labrador:

<http://www.raogk.org/canada.htm#newfoundland>

The Rooms: Newfoundland & Labrador Museum & Archives: <http://www.therooms.ca/>