

# Sources for Canadian Research on Microfilm at NEHGS

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Over the past few years, NEHGS has made a solid commitment to expanding its microfilm collection. The goal of the New England and Canada Microfilm Acquisitions Project is to acquire all available land, probate, and vital records for each New England state, as well as Québec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island. Since the project started the microfilm collection has expanded from 11,000 reels of film to over 40,000. The opportunities to document your research have been greatly enhanced with these records.

## Vital Records

### New Brunswick

The province of New Brunswick has recently expanded the number of vital records made available to the public. Birth records are available at NEHGS from 1888-1919. There are also late registrations of birth and documentation of those records for the period up to 1887 [CS88/N43/N433]. County marriage books start in 1806 and continue through 1919. Provincial marriage registrations start in 1888 and continue to 1919 [CS88/N43/N432]. Death registrations commenced in 1888 and are available up to 1951 [CS88/N43/N434].

### Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia mandated vital records registration starting in 1864, but continued only through 1877. At that point mandatory registration was discontinued and not started again until 1906. NEHGS has the records from this brief period of registration [CS88/N64/N64]. There are separate indexes for births, marriages, and deaths. They are filmed in alphabetical order for the entire province, and the indexes are broken down within each letter by county. The records themselves are organized by county.

### Prince Edward Island

Pre-1887 birth records in Prince Edward Island are composed of copies of baptismal records from the churches [CS88/P74/P71]. Marriage records from justices of the peace cover the time period 1831-1888 [CS88/P74/P712]. Marriage bonds for the period 1824-1902 are available, with a few dating as early as 1787 [CS88/P74/P717]. Deaths are available up to 1906 [CS88/P74/P713].

### Québec

Until the twentieth century, the churches in Québec registered vital records. The Drouin Microfilm Collection [CS88/Q4/I572] contains records of Catholic and Protestant churches and Jewish synagogues located within the province. While many of these records are indexed, there are a large number that are not. The marriages in the Catholic churches have been abstracted and compiled into a separate provincial-wide index. This index, which covers the period 1760-1930, is available on microfiche [CS88/Q4/I572]. There is also a three-volume set of books located on the fifth floor that covers the period 1608-1760 [CS81/D53/1979].

## Land and Probate Records

### New Brunswick

In New Brunswick both probate and land records are registered at the county level. The records of Albert County are the only land records held by NEHGS as of December 2001. The index covers 1846-1940, but the records are available only through 1887 [CS88/N431/A41]. All available probate records have been purchased and are available county by county as follows:

Call Number	County	Index Years	Record Years
CS88/N431/A4	Albert	1846-1957	1846-1904
CS88/N431/C3	Carleton	1832-1965	1831-1934

CS88/N431/C5	Charlotte	1785-1965	1785-1942
CS88/N431/G6	Gloucester	1827-1964	1827-1931
	Kent	N/A	N/A
CS88/N431/K5	Kings	1786-1960	1788-1932
CS88/N431/M3	Madawaska	1894-1966	1894-1930
CS88/N431/N77	Northumberland	1860-1966	1860-1930
CS88/N431/Q44	Queens	1785-1976	1785-1941
CS88/N431/R4	Restigouche	1861-1979	1861-1939
CS88/N431/S243	St. John	1785-1904	1785-1932
CS88/N431/S96	Sunbury	1786-1979	1786-1932
CS88/N431/V53	Victoria	1850-1959	1850-1931
CS88/N431/W47	Westmoreland	1787-1953	1787-1905
CS88/N431/Y65	York	1786-1976	1786-1930

The records of Kent County are not available because they were destroyed by fire.

### **Nova Scotia**

In Nova Scotia, the land records are also recorded at the county level. Probate records are registered in probate districts. Some of the counties had two registration districts within the county. NEHGS has recently purchased all of the land records for the province and they are currently available in the microtext department. Following are the records and years available:

### **Probate Records**

Call Number	County	District	Index Years	Record Years
CS88/N643/A16	Annapolis		1763-1979	1763-1970
CS88/N643/A25	Antigonish		N/A	1819-1963
CS88/N643/C2	Cape Breton		1782-1969	1782-1970
CS88/N643/C6	Colchester		1802-1969	1798-1969
CS88/N643/C8	Cumberland		1840-1945	1840-1969
CS88/N643/D5	Digby		1803-1970	1803-1970
CS88/N643/G8	Guysborough	Guysborough	1850-1967	1946-1969
CS88/N643/G8a	Guysborough	St. Mary's	1948-1993	1843-1970
CS88/N643/H3	Halifax		1750-1968	1749-1968
			1767-	1761-

CS88/N643/H4	Hants		1955	1900
CS88/N643/I5	Inverness		1831-1964	1831-1969
CS88/N643/K5	Kings		1785-1925	1783-1968
CS88/N643/L9	Lunenburg			1762-1967
CS88/N643/P6	Pictou		1811-1940	1811-1969
CS88/N643/Q3	Queens		1760-1970	1743-1970
CS88/N643/R5	Richmond		1828-1993	1831-1969
CS88/N643/S5	Shelburne	Barrington		1866-1970
CS88/N643/S5	Shelburne	Shelburne	1784-1956	1784-1970
CS88/N643/S5a	Victoria			1851-1969
CS88/N643/Y3	Yarmouth		1843-1991	1794-1970

#### Land Records

Call Number	County	District	Index Years	Record Years
CS88/N644/A16	Annapolis		1765-1970	1765-1910
CS88/N644/A25	Antigonish		1784-1969	1785-1907
CS88/N644/C2	Cape Breton		1786-1966	1786-1969
CS88/N644/C6	Colchester		1771-1968	1770-1959
CS88/N644/C8	Cumberland		1764-1968	1764-1967
CS88/N644/D5	Digby		1785-1970	1785-1958
CS88/N644/G8	Guysborough	Guysborough	1785-1969	1785-1967
CS88/N644/G8a	Guysborough	St. Mary's	1815-1911	1815-1969
CS88/N644/H3	Halifax		1749-1967	1749-1967
CS88/N644/H4	Hants		1763-1968	1763-1952
CS88/N644/I5	Inverness		1825-1968	1825-1929
CS88/N644/K5	Kings		1764-1968	1764-1901
CS88/N644/L9	Lunenburg	Chester	1879-1955	1879-1926
CS88/N644/L9c	Lunenburg	Lunenburg	1759-1968	1759-1961
CS88/N644/P6	Pictou		1771-1968	1771-1924

CS88/N644/Q3	Queens		1764-1970	1764-1969
CS88/N644/R5	Richmond		1821-1969	1821-1963
CS88/N644/S5	Shelburne	Barrington	1854-1970	1854-1950
CS88/N644/S5a	Shelburne	Shelburne	1784-1968	1873-1961
CS88/N644/V5	Victoria		1851-1969	1851-1988
CS88/N644/Y3	Yarmouth		1774-1969	1766-1969

### Prince Edward Island

Materials in the Land Records Office in Prince Edward Island have been microfilmed for the period 1769-1872 [CS88/P74/L36]. Most of these records deal with land conveyances and mortgages between individuals. Probate records in Prince Edward Island were recorded for the entire island starting in 1771. Records for 1807-1901 are available on microfilm at NEHGS [CS88/P74/W55].

### Québec

In Québec, notaries recorded the mortgages and deeds as well as probate records. NEHGS has the notarial records for all areas outside of the cities of Montréal and Québec City. These records are part of the collection held by the Archives Nationales de Québec [CS88/Q4/R44]. The time frame available varies from area to area. There is also a separate set of microfiche with copies of many of the individual notaries' indexes to the records [CS88/Q4/R44]. There is a finding aid available in the fourth floor microtext room to assist you with locating specific notarial records and indexes. For additional information on researching the notarial records, see [this article](#) on Québec Recordkeeping.

### Miscellaneous Records

In addition to the aforementioned records, there are a number of other primary source materials available. For example, there are almost a hundred reels of church records for Prince Edward Island, as well as a few for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Another invaluable Prince Edward Island resource is the Master Name Index [CS88/P74/P7]. Compiled from census records, cemetery transcriptions, newspapers, atlases, and many other sources, this index provides a look at all inhabitants on the island.

Many early Nova Scotia records were kept in township books. These books included all of the villages within the township. They are available for the following townships: Annapolis, Aylesford, Barrington, Cornwallis, Douglas, Granville, Guysborough, Horton, Liverpool, Maccan, Manchester, Parrsboro, St. Mary's, Shelburne, Westchester, and Yarmouth [CS88/N642/A93 through CS88/N642/Y31].

The microfilm collections of the Archives Nationales de Québec contain a vast number of resources and are also available at NEHGS. In addition to church records and notarial records one can find surveyor records from the Eastern Townships, court records, family records, and seigneurial records, as well as indexes to adoptions and guardianships in the cities of Montréal and Québec City. A finding aid to the entire collection is available in the microtext department.

For a more complete selection of materials in the NEHGS microtext collection, search the online catalog. If you are interested in donating to the New England and Canada Microtext Acquisitions Project, please contact the Development Office.

The Internet and published print materials are wonderful resources for your research, but verifying all statements in original source documents is imperative if you are to have an accurate view of your family. And it is a wonderful thrill to see copies of the actual wills and deeds that your ancestors signed so many years ago. I strongly encourage all members to visit the NEHGS Research Library and take advantage of these wonderful resources. The library is open Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. From December 1 through March 31 the library closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays.