

Across the Pond: Resources in Newfoundland and Labra- dor for Your Family Tree Research’.



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Married Matthew Marrissey of
Waterford to Ann Mallard of
Quidy City - J. Edward Johnson
and Mary Aspel -
C. Howard Fitzgerald

Newfoundland and Labrador



Newfoundland and Labrador History 101!

- Newfoundland and Labrador was first populated by indigenous groups and today we acknowledge that we are living on the land previously occupied by these people;
- One of the first non-indigenous people to arrive were the Vikings who stayed for a brief period of time in approximately the 11th century;
- in 1497 Giovanni Caboto (anglicized John Cabot) arrived in 1497 and discovered a vast ocean of codfish along our shores;

Newfoundland and Labrador History

101!

- the island was used as a summer fishing station whereby crews would arrive to fish, dry their catch onshore and then return home;
- many came from the southwest corner of England, the southeast corner of Ireland and the Channel Islands;
- There is a French population on the island and we have the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon off our south coast which is a territory of France. This influenced relationships between this region and the south coast of Newfoundland;
- settlement was not encouraged and in fact West Country merchants of England wished for this not to occur.

Newfoundland and Labrador History

101

- impact of the Irish famine -- Newfoundland's Irish population were here well before then and the famine did not impact us too significantly;
- first census was taken in 1675 with what is known as the Berry census. Some other census records of land ownership can be found in Colonial Office records at some of the resources to be discussed shortly;
- for many years, we were a Dominion of Great Britain;
- Outmigration to Boston and New York;
- Royal Newfoundland Regiment;
- Commission of Government;
- World War 2, United States and Canadian military set up bases on the island;
- Confederation with Canada;
- 1911, 1921, 1935, 1945 Newfoundland census records;
- Resettlement program.

Newfoundland and Labrador Research Resources

- Pre-1892 records birth, marriages and burials;
- Civil registration in 1892;
- Civil records for pre-1892 records.

Familysearch and Ancestry

- Both Familysearch and Ancestry have considerable official records concerning Newfoundland and Labrador. This would include:
- Census records for 1921, 1935, and 1945;
- Civil records for births (1891-1923), Marriages (1891-1922) and Deaths (1891-1949);
- Church vital statistics of births, marriages and deaths (1753-1893);
- Some Roman Catholic Church records for the St. John's and some surrounding areas including:
 - Bay Bulls, Ferryland, Flatrock, Placentia, Portugal Cove, Salmonier, St. Bernard's and Torbay.

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- www.fhsnl.ca
- Free monthly lectures (Zoom and in person)....7:30 p.m. (NL time), 4th Tuesday of each month.....September-November and January-May;
- \$45 membership per year;
- ¼'ly newsletter;
- Access to all back issues of the newsletter and recordings of past lectures;
- Access to headstone transcriptions completed in 1998;
- Constant updating of the records that are being photographed by one of our Board members at The Rooms Provincial Archives including:
 - court records;
 - voters lists;
 - miscellaneous deeds and wills;
 - government records;
 - census records.
- Genealogy conference July 25th-27th , 2025 in St. John's:
www.rockboundroots.com



- <http://ngb.chebucto.org/>
- This is an incredible treasure trove of transcribed records for those researching from afar and always a very good starting point in conducting family tree research. Included in this collection are:
 - cemetery transcriptions'
 - church records;
 - vital statistics;
 - indexes of wills (helpful for a website we will discuss shortly;
 - census records;
 - directories;
 - just to name a few.



- **The Rooms Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador**
- <https://therooms.ca/collections-records-and-research/genealogy-research>
- - online general archives search for photos and some collections;
- - online death certificates for 1950-1968;
- - online World War 1 military service records. Tremendous database of scans of the original records from enlistment to whatever the end would be for each person and everything in between.;
- - in person an incredible treasure trove of records including:
 - - parish records;
 - - church vital statistics records;
 - - delayed birth registrations;
 - - vital statistics records;
 - - census records;
 - - directories;
 - - company collections;
 - - court records;
 - - maps;
 - - newspapers;
 - - just to name a few....



[Memorial University of Newfoundland research resources, Part 1](#)

- [Memorial University of Newfoundland Digital Archives Initiative;](#)
- <https://dai.mun.ca/>
- free incredible collection of digitally archived records including newspapers, artifacts,
- diaries and letters, audio and video recordings, books, maps, periodicals, photographs, and yearbooks.

Memorial University of Newfoundland research resources, Part 2

- [Memorial University of Newfoundland Centre for Newfoundland Studies](#)
- <https://www.library.mun.ca/cns/>
- The Centre is a special research collection for the study of all aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador and includes books, government documents, periodicals, newspapers, theses and historic maps. Many of the Centre's materials are available digitally. Many of its holdings are old and rare; others are as recent as today's press release. The Centre's catalogue, digital archive, bibliographies and files help researchers find the content of the materials held.
- For researching from a distance, their OneSearch tool for their digitized collections is very helpful.
- Although not a part of Memorial University per se, I would be remiss if I did not speak about the John Mannion website (mannioncollection.ca):
Irish Migration and Settlement in Newfoundland, 1750 to 1850

Memorial University of Newfoundland research resources, Part 3

- Maritime History Archive
- <https://mha.mun.ca/mha/online.php>
- located on the campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's;
- “The Maritime History Archive collects and preserves documents relating to the history of maritime activities in Newfoundland and Labrador and throughout the North Atlantic world.”
- a wide variety of records including crew lists starting in the late 1800s;
- online search of their holdings can be located at <https://mha.mun.ca/mha/online.php>.
- Keith Matthews Name files;
- Gertrude Crosbie Collection. Births, Marriages and Deaths from 19th Century Newfoundland Newspapers. Well worth the purchase from MHA.

Memorial University of Newfoundland research resources, Part 4

- Memorial University of Newfoundland Archives and Special Collections
- <https://www.library.mun.ca/asc/>
- Once again you can use their OneSearch tab to research their holdings;
- Archives and Special Collections hold an extensive collection of:
 - original manuscripts
 - personal papers
 - diaries, journals, ledgers
 - scrapbooks
 - photographs
 - Government papers (limited)
- As well other materials which document various aspects of Newfoundland and Labrador society.
- ASC offers an **appointment-based access** to their holdings, as well as consultations with an Archivist to assist you in your research.
- They are located on the main (2nd) floor of the Queen Elizabeth II Library, L2022, located inside the Map Room.

- **Email:** archives@mun.ca
- **Phone:** (709) 864-4349

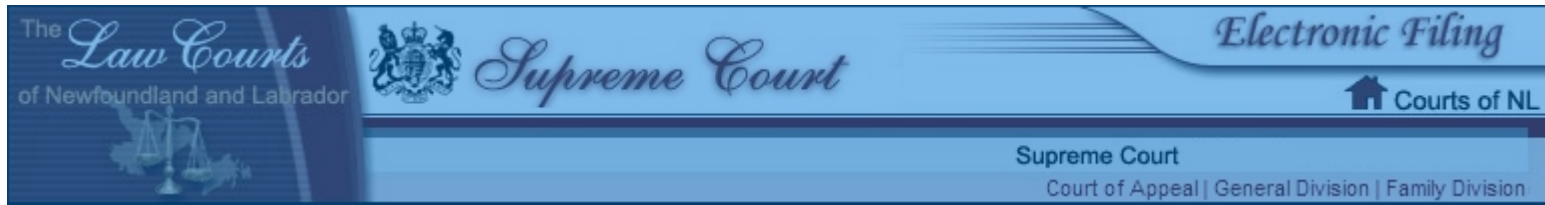
Provincial Resource Library

- <http://www.nlpl.ca/>
- In addition to the main repository of Newfoundland and Labrador newspapers, it also has in its possessions numerous publications on local history and various collections of business and family fonds;
- Telephone: 709-737-3949;
- Main contact: bhall@nlpl.ca



Stonepics Headstone Photograph Database

- <http://stonepics.com/index.htm>
- 1000s of headstone photos from around the island by a private gentleman who recently made the database free in September 2023.



- https://supreme.efile.court.nl.ca/?page=e_registry
- tab Search Estate Files
- great resource for wills/estate files;
- will automatically search 10 years before and after of the date you enter;
- if you find a will/estate file, they will mail or email a copy of a scan of the original;
- documentation for \$20 Cdn;

City of St. John's Archives

- <https://www.stjohns.ca/en/recreation-culture/city-archive-holdings.aspx>
- located in St. John's;
- for those focusing their research on the capital city of Newfoundland and Labrador;
- by appointment only on Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.;
- city tax rolls;
- fire/insurance maps;
- deeds;
- St. John's maps from the 1830s;
- Voters lists 1911-1966;
- City payroll records;
- of particular to most researchers online are origins of street names and an extensive photograph collection;
- city directories from 1877-1973 available online.

Church Archives

- In addition to the parish holdings of some of the above resources, the following are links to some of the churches archives:

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's

<https://rcsj.org/archives-research>

For more information on baptismal and marriage records or to arrange an appointment

you can contact:

Katie Griffin

Email: kgriffin@rcsj.org

Tel: (709) 726-3660 | ext. 225

Church of England Newfoundland

<https://anglicanenl.net/our-ministries/archives/>

For more information please contact:

ABMA Archivist: archives@anglicanenl.net

Tel: 709-728-5796 (Please leave a message)

1 Cornwall Crescent, St. John's, NL, A1E 1Z4

Church Archives Cont'd...

United Church Newfoundland

<https://ucceast.ca/first-dawn-eastern-edge-regional-council-16/fdee-archives>

For more information please contact:

Leona Laundry Primary contact

320 Elizabeth Avenue

St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada

A1B 1T9

Telephone: 709-754-0386

Fax: 709-754-8336

Email: ucbookstore@nfld.net

Salvation Army Canada

<https://salvationist.ca/archives-and-museum/historical-links/>

Community Historical Societies

- too many to mention but basically search by community name by regular web search or Facebook.
- Very active genealogy community in the province and people are only too glad to help!

Questions?

With Any Luck.....Maybe Answers!

- moreyouseegenealogy@gmail.com