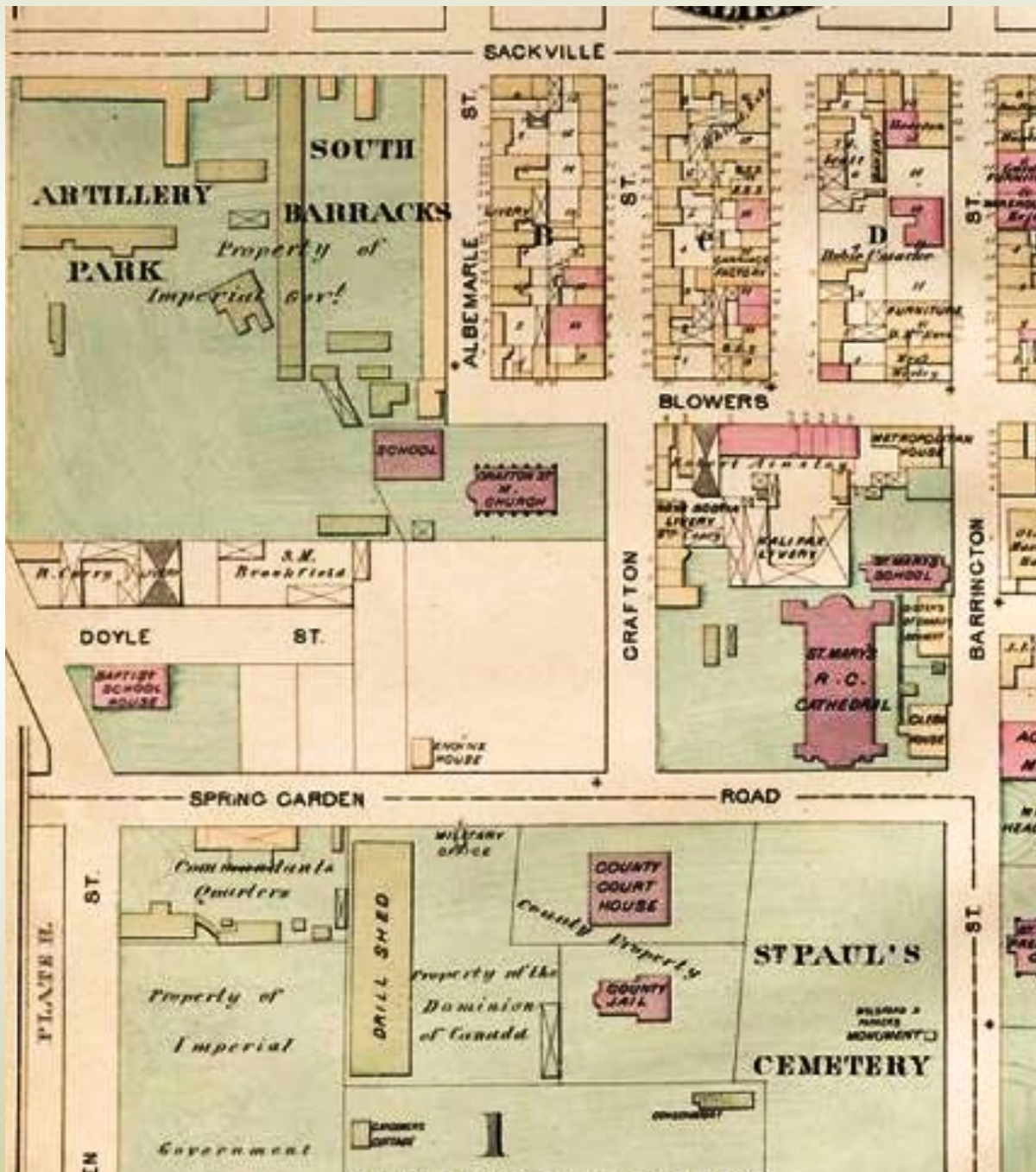


# THE LIVING CONNECTION

Newsletter of the  
Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia



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We welcome story ideas and submissions. We do not offer monetary compensation for articles but provide a biography for contributors. We cannot guarantee articles will run, even with previous agreement. All submissions are subject to editing for style and space.

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Please review our [Covid-19 office policy](#) before visiting our office.

## USING MAPS IN GENEALOGY

In genealogical research, maps often provide clues that can help us in our search. The following are a few articles that discuss the how and why of using maps in genealogy that we hope you will find useful.

### *Using Maps in Genealogy*

<https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/mapsgenealogy.pdf>

This article, written by the United States Geological Survey, talks about the challenges of finding ancestors in the face of changing place names and boundaries. It describes how maps can help figure out what jurisdictions our ancestors lived in and hence where to look for records. While the emphasis is on the US, the underlying ideas would apply in Nova Scotia as well.

### *5 ways to Use Online Historical Maps*

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/records/maps/use-online-maps-for-genealogy/>

Family Tree Magazine offers a brief look at some of the kinds of maps that researchers can use to find more information about their ancestors. Since most of the references in the article are US, the following provides a few map suggestions for those researching Nova Scotian roots.

- 1) **Hopkins City Atlas of Halifax 1878** <https://archives.novascotia.ca/maps/Hopkins>  
You will find a number of Ward maps for Halifax. The image on the front cover comes from this source.
- 2) **Historic Maps of Nova Scotia** <https://archives.novascotia.ca/maps/results/?search=>
- 3) **Fire Insurance Plans** <https://archives.novascotia.ca/builtheritage/results/?search=&searchlist1=14>. These maps are not available online. The link does however take you to a list of the towns that were mapped for Fire Insurance purposes in Nova Scotia.
- 4) **Crown Land Grant Index maps** <https://novascotia.ca/natr/land/grantmap.asp> provide a graphic representation of the layout of the original land grants. Since notations are made on any parcel of crown land to describe its status, some of the historical data may be obscured. The Crown commenced issuing grants in the 1730s, so the names found on this series can predate the A.F.Church maps by over 100 years.
- 5) **A.F. Church Maps** <https://novascotia.ca/natr/library/oldmaps2.asp>  
In 1864, Ambrose F. Church was commissioned by the Nova Scotia legislature to create a series of maps, one for each of Nova Scotia's 18 counties. Each shows the locations of towns and villages, basic topographic features and the names of residents. In many cases, the occupation of prominent townsfolk (clergy, blacksmith, merchant) is also included. Mr. Church completed the series in 1888. Check the link for more information on access and availability.



My mother, Vivian Earleen (McCann) Wile was delighted to receive this photo in her mailbox in June 1998. Her cousin, Doris Irene (Sexton) Palmeter, who lived in Falmouth, Hants County, had sent it to her and had named everyone in the photo with a few uncertainties.

Our family has since been able to sort those out. For example, Doris named the man third from the left as J. H. Carmichael; however, we have determined it is T.H. Carmichael (Thomas Henry). As well, she wasn't sure of the names of the two boys on the right, and we now know they are my mother's brothers, Stuart and Victor.

The photo was taken in Somerset, Kings County, Nova Scotia, on the property of John Dawson Carmichael, who was deceased at that time. Photo was taken by Lela Florence McCann. In back of Truck: Clarence Arthur McCann; In front of Truck: Ada May (Smith) McCann (holding baby presumed to be her son William Frederick McCann who was born in June 1924); Left to Right: Henry Sexton, Martha Belle (Carmichael) Sexton, Thomas Henry Carmichael, Arthur Frederick McCann, Minnie Jane (Fitzgerald) Carmichael, Ella Jane (Carmichael) McCann; Front: Doris Irene Sexton, Dorothy May McCann; Standing by Truck: Stuart O'Dell McCann; Sitting on Fender: Victor Seymour McCann.

As for the relationships of the people in the photo, Martha Bell, Thomas Henry, and Ella Jane were siblings, children of Anaximander and Martha Jane (Spearing) Carmichael. Minnie Jane was married to another of their siblings, George Edward. Clarence is the son of Arthur and Ella McCann. Doris was the youngest child of Henry and Martha Sexton. Dorothy, Stuart, and Victor were children of Clarence and Ada McCann.

All the family pictured lived in Hants County. Clarence and Ada and their family lived in Windsor as did Clarence's parents. Henry and Martha Sexton and Doris lived in Falmouth. Minnie and George lived in Pembroke and Thomas lived in Londonderry.

I believe the truck belonged to Clarence (my grandfather) and that he used it to make deliveries around the Windsor area when he wasn't working on the railroad. Luckily, the license plate has the year, '24, on it, helping us date the photo.



So, it seems that it was a family reunion of sorts. My mother, who was nearly three years old at the time was left at home for some reason as was her older brother, Ronald. According to Doris, the family often visited the Carmichael farm for picnics. The owner of the farm, John Dawson Carmichael, (first cousin to Anaximander) had perished in a blizzard in January 1923. He died intestate, and his property was in probate for a few years. So, in the meantime, family visited the property regularly, using the house and grounds while they were there. Eventually, John Dawson's aunt, Emma Jane (Carmichael) Sanford who lived in Reading, Pennsylvania, inherited the land and sold it.

*Submitted by Pamela Wile*



### VOLUNTEER PROFILE - CATHY MACLEAN

When she moved back to Nova Scotia in 2019 after living in Toronto for 32 years, Cathy MacLean found herself retired and living near to the GANS office on Octerloney Street. With an interest in genealogy, she decided to pop in to find out what we were all about.

Now Cathy oversees the Vernon Spurr collection from the Annapolis Valley, an area she didn't know very much about, but finds very interesting. "The people are all very interesting, including Spurr himself." Spurr was former president of GANS and also a life member and treasurer of the Royal Nova Scotia Historical Society who authored an extensive collection of history about his own

family and connections as well as a number of shorter genealogical papers.

MacLean had previously volunteered with the archives at the Beaton Institute (at Cape Breton University) and Highland Village Museum in her native Cape Breton when she was home in the summers. "I've always intended to move back to Nova Scotia," she said. "Where I grew up everyone was related to one another and someone else had done the local research on my genealogy, the MacLeans and MacDonalds," she said. There are some Beatons and MacKenzies, too. "They all came from the Hebrides in Scotland and they all had similar names, like John or Donald." But that isn't stopping her from crossing the pond with her research. "I think I can get further back a few more generations there, but it's hard, because here they tended to put in their nicknames which was helpful, but not over there," she said. MacLean's ancestors include Donald Og, who encouraged settlement in Iona and has a day of remembrance named after him for that, and members of the Fraser Highlanders who fought at Louisburg. They were also the largest regiment, and the only Highland one at that, at the Battle of Quebec on the Plains of Abraham.

An avid Scottish Country dancer, Cathy's patiently waiting for dancing events to resume and also taking Gaelic courses online.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO RESEARCHERS OF N.S. FAMILY HISTORY

### From Genealogy à la carte (Gail Dever's blog)

The Nova Scotia Archives site has changed its website that provides free access to its civil registrations of historical birth, marriage, and death records (<https://archives.novascotia.ca/vital-statistics/>). The site features enhanced viewing and more user-friendly searching. Many records have been rescanned to improve readability and zooming capabilities.

### From Anglo-Celtic Connections (John Reid's blog)

An article on records from the Halifax Municipal Archives about the 1917-1918 outbreak of the Spanish flu in the area can be read at <https://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/blogs/post/halifax-municipal-archives-finding-the-spanish-flu-in-archival-records/>. The site also includes links to further information on the subject.

### Other Websites of Interest

Some Nova Scotia city directories, beginning as early as 1864/1865, have been digitized (click on the directories shown as PDF files at <https://archives.novascotia.ca/directories/list/>).

The Nova Scotia Archives has a virtual exhibit that celebrates the lives of Barbary (Barbara) Cuffy, Rose Fortune, Lydia Jackson, Richard Preston, Gabriel Hall, William Hall, VC, and many other African Nova Scotians who arrived in the province between 1749 and 1816. See <https://archives.novascotia.ca/africans/>. Note the links along the right-hand side of the site.

The Colchester Historical Society offers searchable census records (1838, 1871, 1881, 1891 and 1901); records of births, marriages, and deaths, starting in 1864; and local cemetery listings (see <https://colchesterhistoreum.ca/search/>).

The Old Burying Ground, a national historic site in downtown Halifax, was founded in 1749. While more than 12,000 people were interred there, it contains only about 1,300 headstones. More information is available at <https://oldburyingground.ca/>, including a searchable database of the graves. For further information about historical burial sites in downtown Halifax, see:

\* a CBC News article (February 23, 2020): <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/jonathan-fowler-halifax-burial-ground-cemetery-archeology-1.5471209>;

\* a Saint Mary's University thesis (2011) entitled, *The Treatment of Halifax's Poor House Dead during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*, by Cynthia Simpson (<https://www.smu.ca/webfiles/Simpsonburials.pdf>); and

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## ITEMS OF INTEREST TO RESEARCHERS OF N.S. FAMILY HISTORY, CONT'D

\* a Saint Mary's University thesis (2020) entitled, *Public Engagement with Historical Burying Grounds in Halifax, Nova Scotia*, by Adeena Fox ([https://library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/29386/Fox\\_Adeena\\_Honours\\_2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](https://library2.smu.ca/bitstream/handle/01/29386/Fox_Adeena_Honours_2020.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)).

The Mahone Bay Museum has some detailed information on settler families in the area (see <https://mahonebaymuseum.com/research/settler-families-of-mahone-bay/>).

Submitted by Kathleen Reyno Loudon

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### DATA DEVELOPMENT

A new digital project is just starting. We want to make our publications available for digital search and access and we are looking for volunteers to join our team.

We are in need of people with good computer skills, including familiarity with spread-sheets and strong typing skills, the ability to complete data entry tasks with high accuracy, good communication skills, and the ability to work in a team.

If you have above average attention to detail, and are able to commit yourself to this project, we would love to hear from you at: [admin@novascotiaancestors.ca](mailto:admin@novascotiaancestors.ca)

### CONTENT PROVIDER

GANS is seeking volunteers to write for the *Nova Scotia Genealogist* and/or *The Living Connection* newsletter. Contributor guidelines for the *Nova Scotia Genealogist* are available on our website at <https://www.novascotiaancestors.ca/page.php?pt=32>. Contributions to *The Living Connection* can be a one-off article or a monthly/semi-monthly column to the newsletter about some aspect of genealogy. Have you read a book that really helped you in your research, tell us about it. Do you have a hint or suggestion that would help others searching for their ancestors, send it along. Have you found a source that others might not know about? Let us know. You can send along your newsletter submissions to us at [admin@novascotiaancestors.ca](mailto:admin@novascotiaancestors.ca). We would love to hear from you.

## MY ANCESTOR DIED OF WHAT ??

Have you ever found an ancestor who died of mormal. Me neither, but apparently it is another name for gangrene. If you come across a cause of death that has you stumped, check out the glossary of ancient diseases on Olive Tree Genealogy. <https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml>

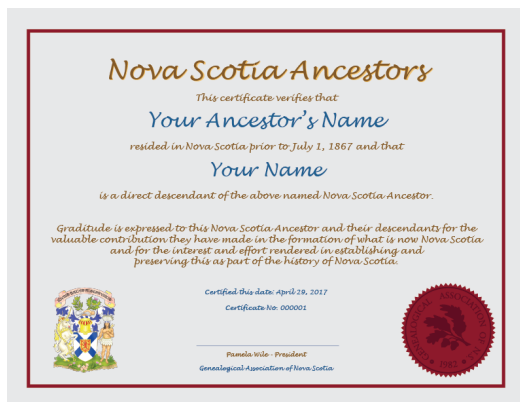
The Genealogy Show out of England has released its program of 48 hours of non-stop presentations and the variety of topics looks good. It takes place June 25 and 26, 2021.

The long list of speakers is filled with well-known speakers from Great Britain, Ireland, Europe, Canada, Australian, the US and elsewhere. Canadian speakers include Ruth Blair, Mags Gaulden, Lynn Palermo, and Diane Rogers.

For those who can't stay awake for two days straight, don't worry. Once a video has gone live, it will be deposited into an on-demand section where you can watch the talk at any time during the ensuing 30-day period.

There is a fee for the event so check out their website at <https://thegenealogyshow.uk> for more information.

## APPLYING FOR A NOVA SCOTIA ANCESTORS CERTIFICATE



The Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia Ancestor's Certificate honours those individuals who were residents of Nova Scotia prior to the Confederation of Canada in 1867. As noted in the sample shown here, the Certificate features the name of the ancestor and the name of the designated descendent.

There is a one-time application fee of \$25.00 for Members (\$35 for Non-Members) which is to be submitted with your completed Certificate Application

Form. You can download the application form from the GANS website and find more information at <https://novascotiancestors.ca/store.php?sid=6>. Members are encouraged to research their lineage and submit the completed forms for approval by our Certification Committee and Board of Directors. Some examples of acceptable proofs of lineal descent that you may use to join each generation to the next are:

1. Wills that state a family relationship
2. Birth, baptism, marriage and death certificates that have names of parents
3. Vital statistics registrations showing family connections
4. Church records or cemetery records that show family connections
5. Census records that list family connections of children with parents, etc.



## Property Online Records New Research Service Offered

The Nova Scotia government maintains a service called "Property Online" that contains:

- (a) an index of land records; and
- (b) digital copies of those documents



and these include historical records, some of which go back to the earliest days in the settlement of Nova Scotia. These include land deeds, mortgages, and similar instruments, which often provide significant genealogical information going beyond the specific property details.

The land records are some of the oldest and most comprehensive records available, and are a rich source of genealogical information. Given authority by the N.S. Land Registration Act of 2003, Property Online was designed as a component of a digital land registry and deed transfer service, and has been progressively digitizing property records for the 605,000 parcels of land in the province.

The historical records which have been scanned are now available through GANS to our users under a copyright licence. In order to obtain a specific record, it is necessary to know the [Book No., Page No., and Document No.]. These coordinates are provided in the Index. So, the first step to obtaining a document is a search in the index.

In order to have us do an historical index search, you would provide us with

[First Name, Last Name, County of Interest]

and our Research Team will send you an index listing of available documents. If there are good matches, you can then select the specific document(s) you want to obtain.

To order, see our website at [www.novascotiaancestors.ca](http://www.novascotiaancestors.ca) :  
« Research Services » Research Support » Property Online »

### PROPERTY ONLINE: HISTORICAL RECORDS SEARCH

#### Per Index:

- Members \$ 8.00
- Non-Members \$10.00

#### Per Document:

- Members \$10.00
- Non-Members \$15.00

#### Where initial information is incomplete:

Charges are for time + index price.

Email [queries@novascotiaancestors.ca](mailto:queries@novascotiaancestors.ca) for a quote.

## RENEWING YOUR GANS MEMBERSHIP IS EASY.

Just login to the MEMBERS ONLY SECTION of the [GANS website](#). Go to PROFILE on the left-hand menu, then to MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL, or use the form below and mail it to us.



# Membership Form

I wish to join/renew my one year membership in the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, which includes access to digital issues of *The Nova Scotia Genealogist*, the monthly newsletter, *The Living Connection*, and access to the Members Only Area of the GANS website: [www.novascotiaancestors.ca](http://www.novascotiaancestors.ca)

Please mail to:

Genealogical Association of NS  
33 Ochterloney Street, Unit 100  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia  
B2Y 4P5

### NSG FORMAT

#### NOTE:

*The Nova Scotia Genealogist* is now being published in electronic form only and is available to members on our website.

Please Print

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Country: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$39.00 dues for one year GENERAL membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$20.00 dues for one year STUDENT membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Life membership \$975.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) to GANS Development Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

(Canadian Income Tax Receipt will be issued for donation over \$20.00)

Membership will expire one year less a day from the date of join/renewal.

**Thank you for your membership and supporting the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia.**