

## Planters in Pre-Loyalist New Brunswick



Between **1760** and **1774**, approximately 8,000 Planters (from an old English term for colonists) from the Thirteen Colonies of Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire migrated north to Nova Scotia, which at that time included New Brunswick. They came upon the invitation of Governor Charles Lawrence with the hope for better land prospects. The land they settled was viewed as available after the Grand Dérangement of the Acadians (1755-1764) although the territory was inhabited by the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik, and Peskotomukati.

Other settlers were recruited from Yorkshire, England (Chignecto area); Scotland (particularly in fishing and lumbering on the Miramichi); Ireland; and Pennsylvanians of German Protestant descent (especially around the Petitcodiac). The growth of the Planter communities was interrupted by the effects of the American Revolution on trade and social connections to New England and then a flood of loyalist refugee settlers following the end of the war in 1783.

### *Planter Locations in New Brunswick*

- Sackville, Cumberland (Aulac), Dorchester – Chignecto/Tantramar region
- Moncton, Salisbury
- Hillsborough, Hopewell – Albert County
- Mouth of the Wolastoq/ St. John River (Portland Point)
- Conway (Lorneville)
- Wolastoq/ St. John River (various small settlements)
- Maugerville (the first significant Planter settlement, 1763)
- Sheffield
- Gagetown
- Burton
- Sunbury (Pointe Sainte-Anne/ Fredericton), Newton (Gibson/Devon), Grand Rapids (Marysville)
- Passamaquoddy – Charlotte County (Saint Andrews, Campobello, St. Stephen)
- Miramichi
- Restigouche

## Types of Primary Sources

- Land Records** Pre-1783, land records for New Brunswick are included with those of Nova Scotia. Available online through [Nova Scotia Archives - Nova Scotia Land Papers 1765-1809](#) and then were re-granted in New Brunswick.
- Township Papers** Records related to early townships in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick often include many Planters.
  - [Township of Cornwallis | Acadia Archives Digital Collections](#)
  - [Nova Scotia Archives - Township Records at the Nova Scotia Archives](#)
  - Mount Allison University Archives. [Collection : 1762-1834](#). Includes Sackville Town Book, containing land records, minutes of public meetings, sheepmarks, and lists of births, marriages and deaths.
- Chipman Family. Collection: 1821-1825.** The Chipmans were one of the most prominent Nova Scotia Planter families and were positioned in society to give a view of the functioning of the province. Portions of the Collection available through the [Nova Scotia Archives website](#).
- Census Returns, Assessment and Poll Tax Records from 1767-1838** in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick pre-1783 are available on the [Nova Scotia Archives website](#).
- Ward Chipman Muster Rolls** focuses on loyalists but also includes Planters (“Old Inhabitants”) who drew Government Rations. Available online through [Library and Archives Canada](#).
- Vital Statistics & Church Records** birth, marriage, and death records are generally scarce until the arrival of loyalist settlers. Planters often contributed to the establishment of early churches.
  - [The Marianne Grey Otty Database | The Loyalist Collection](#) indexes early Anglican records for central New Brunswick.
  - Parish of Maugerville (New Brunswick: Anglican). [Registers and Records : 1784-1896](#).
  - [Methodist Church Records and Registers : 1784-1831](#). United Church of Canada. Maritime Conference Archives.
- Newspapers** The earliest published newspapers for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick can be found through the [New Brunswick Historical Newspapers Project](#) and are often available online. For example:

- [\*The Halifax Journal\*](#)
- [\*The Nova Scotia Chronicle and Weekly Advertiser\*](#)
- [\*The Nova-Scotia Gazette and the Weekly Chronicle\*](#)
- [\*The Halifax Gazette\*](#)
- [\*The Royal St. John's Gazette and Nova Scotia Intelligencer\*](#)
- [\*The Saint John Gazette and the Weekly Advertiser\*](#)

**County Court Records** were not established in New Brunswick until loyalist settlement, but Planters appear in early years of the records in court cases, frequently as parish officers and in marriage records.

- [Sunbury County](#) (available 1782-1825)
- [Queens County](#) (1786-1820)
- [Charlotte County](#) (1785-1834)
- [York County](#) (1789-1841)
- [Northumberland County](#) (1789-1807)
- [Kings County](#) (1815-1872)
- [St. John County](#) (1812-1839)

**Personal Accounts**

- Rispin, Thomas. [\*A Journey Through Nova-Scotia, Containing, a Particular Account of the County and its Inhabitants . . . 1744.\*](#)
- Owen, William. [\*The Journal of Captain William Owen, R.N., During His Residence on Campobello in 1770-1771 : Together With other Documents and Notes on the History of the Island.\*](#)
- Perkins, Simeon. [\*Diary \(1766-1812\).\*](#) (Available through the Queens County Museum Liverpool, Nova Scotia website)

**Government Records**

- [Colonial Records of Connecticut : 1636 - 1792. | The Loyalist Collection.](#)
- [Original Correspondence : America and West Indies : Massachusetts \(CO 5 / 751 - 769\) : 1689 - 1776. | The Loyalist Collection.](#)
- [Original Correspondence : America and West Indies : Selections \(CO5/115-266\) : 1707 - 1794. | The Loyalist Collection](#)
- [Original Correspondence : America and West Indies : Selections \(CO5/111-245\) : 1770 - 1784. | The Loyalist Collection](#)
- [Original Correspondence : Nova Scotia and Cape Breton \(CO 217\) : 1710-1867. | The Loyalist Collection](#)

- Nova Scotia House of Assembly Petitions and Correspondence (RG 5) available through [Nova Scotia Archives - Voices of the People](#)

## Relevant Primary Sources in The Loyalist Collection

- Alline, Henry. [Life and Journal. Hymns and Spiritual Songs : 1802 - 1806](#). Alline travelled as a Christian evangelist from 1779 until 1783 through the Minas Basin area, Annapolis Valley, the Wolastoq/ St. John River settlements of Gagetown and Maugerville, the Sackville-Amherst area, Yarmouth, and the Nova Scotia coastal communities as far as Liverpool, particularly among Planters.
- America. Public Records. [Colonial Records of Connecticut : 1636 - 1792](#). Connecticut was a common point of origin for Planters.
- **Beamsley Perkins Glasier Collection Fonds.** [University of New Brunswick: Archives & Special Collections](#). (MG H 128a 1974-1977, copies)
- Haldimand, Frederick. [Papers and Correspondence : 1758-1784](#).
- Hazen, William and James White. [Ledgers : Hazen, White Company : 1785 – 1829](#). The Company was a key mercantile entity in New Brunswick prior to the arrival of loyalists.
- Jack, David Russell. [Biographical Data Relating to New Brunswick Families Especially of Loyalist Descent Collected by D.R. Jack](#).
- Nova Scotia. Public Records. [Papers Related to the Early Settlement of the St. John River : 1765-1815](#). A transcription of the Studholm Report including Planter settlers is available through [NBGenWeb](#).

## Secondary Sources

Bell, D.G. ed., "The St. John Valley Pre-Loyalists: Two New Documents," *Generations*, vol. 24 (June 1985): 2-7. [HIL-MICGDL CS88 .N4 N422 2005](#)

Brebner, John Bartlet Brebner. **The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia.** [HIL-STACKS FC2321.3 .B74 1969](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **New England's outpost : Acadia Before the Conquest of Canada.** [HIL-STACKS FC2041 .B73 1965](#)

Campbell, Roderick Calvin. **Simonds, Hazen and White : a Study of a New Brunswick Firm in the Commercial World of the Eighteenth Century.** [UNB Thesis 894](#)

Campey, Lucille H.. **Planters, Paupers, and Pioneers: English Settlers in Atlantic Canada.** [HIL-SPECAR FC2050 .B7 C34 2010](#)

**Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society.**

Conrad, Margaret Conrad, ed. **They Planted Well: New England Planters in Maritime Canada.** [HIL-STACKS FC2032 .T53 1988](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **Making Adjustments: Change and Continuity in Planter Nova Scotia, 1759-1800.** [HIL-STACKS FC2321.25 .M34 1991](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **Intimate Relations: Family and Community in Planter Nova Scotia, 1759-1800.** [HIL-STACKS FC2321.25 .I67 1995](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **Recording Angels: the Private Chronicles of Women from the Maritime Provinces of Canada, 1750-1950.** [HIL-SPECAR HQ1459 .M27 C66 1982](#)

Conrad, Margaret and Barry Moody. **Planter Links: Community and Culture in Colonial Nova Scotia.** [HIL-STACKS FC2321.25 .P53 2001](#)

Goodrich, W. Eugene. **Local Government in Early Westmorland County: Being an Annotated Edition of the Minute Book of the General Sessions of the Peace, 1785-1809, Together With Explanation and Copious Commentary.** [HIL-MICGDL FC2471 .G663 2013](#)

Goodwin, Daniel C. **A Checklist of Secondary Sources for Planter Studies.** Available online: <https://digital-archives.acadiau.ca/node/6021>

Gordon, Evelyn and Harry Grant. **The Vanished Village.** [HIL-SPECAR FC2499 .J49 G67 2007](#)

Gwyn, Julian. **Planter Nova Scotia, 1760-1815.** 4 volumes. [HIL-SPECAR FC2345 .K55 G89 2010](#)

Henderson, T. Stephen and Wendy G. Robicheau, eds.. **The Nova Scotia Planters in the Atlantic World, 1759-1830.** [HIL-STACKS FC2321 .P53 2012](#)

Hill, Louise. **Maugerville 1763-1963.** [HIL-STACKS FC 2495 .M38 H5](#)

Milner, W.C. **History of Sackville, New Brunswick.** [HIL-SPECAR FC2499 .S22 M54 1970](#)

MacDonald, M.A. **Rebels and Royalists: The Lives and Material Culture of New Brunswick's Early Settlers, 1758-1783.** [HIL-STACKS FC2471.3 .M32 1990](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **Before the Loyalists: The Material Culture of New Brunswick's Early English Settlers.** (Digitally available through UNB Libraries)

Moore, William Darrell. **Sunbury County 1760-1830.** [UNB Thesis 1921](#)

Norton, Judith A.. **New England Planters in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, 1759-1800: Bibliography of Primary Sources.** [HIL-REF FC2032 .N67 1993](#)

Robinson, Charlotte Gourlay. **Pioneer Profiles of New Brunswick Settlers.** [HIL-MICGDL FC2471.1 .A1 R63](#)

Spray, William Arthur. **Early Northumberland County, 1765-1825: a Study in Local Government.** [UNB Thesis 389](#)

Wright, Esther Clark. **[Planters and Pioneers: Nova Scotia 1749 to 1775.](#)** [HIL-MICGDL FC2305 .W75 1982](#) See staff for spreadsheet of listing of pre-loyalist settlers in New Brunswick from *Planters and Pioneers*.

\_\_\_\_\_. **The Petitcodiac; a Study of the New Brunswick River and of the People Who Settled Along It.** [HIL-STACKS FC2495 .P47 W733](#)

\_\_\_\_\_. **The Saint John River.** [HIL-STACKS FC2495 .S33 W733](#)

Young, D. Murray. "[Planter Settlements in the St. John Valley,](#)" [Acadiensis](#).

## **Sources Available Through Canadiana/ CRKN**

*Note:* Early secondary sources often have good leads on information, but a strong colonial perspective.

Allan, John. **[Military Operations in Eastern Maine and Nova Scotia During the Revolution](#)** (1867).

Bailey, Joseph Whitman. **[The St. John River in Maine, Quebec, and New Brunswick](#)** (1894).

Dixon, James D. **[History of Charles Dixon, One of the Early English Settlers of Sackville, N.B.](#)** (1891).

\_\_\_\_\_. **[Notes of Fort Monckton / compiled by E.T.P. Shewen. Yorkshire settlers : Charles Dixon](#)** (1892?).

Ganong, William F.. **[Dochet \(St. Croix\) Island : a Monograph \(1902\).](#)**

Lorimer, J.G. **[History of the Islands and Islets in the Bay of Fundy, Charlotte County, New Brunswick : From their Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, Including Sketches of Shipwrecks and Other Events of Exciting Interest](#)** (1876).

Rawlyk, George A. **[Nova Scotia's Massachusetts : a Study of Massachusetts-Nova Scotia relations 1630 to 1784](#)** (1973).

Raymond, W.O. [\*\*The River St. John, its Physical Features Legends and History from 1604 to 1784 \(1910\).\*\*](#)

Trueman, Howard. [\*\*The Chignecto Isthmus and its First Settlers\*\*](#) (1902).

Wells, Kate Gannett. [\*\*Campobello : an Historical Sketch\*\*](#) (18--).

## **Other Resources**

- [\*\*New England Planters Database\*\*](#), Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, indexes over 3,200 archival records documenting the New England Planters.
- [\*\*Planter Studies Centre\*\*](#), Acadia University.
- [Remembering the “Planters” in Canadian History | \*\*Acadiensis\*\*](#) .
- [The Forgotten Immigrants: The Journey of the New England Planters to Nova Scotia, 1759-1768 | \*\*Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21\*\*](#) .
- [Sackville: The FIRST Town in all New Brunswick! - \*\*Tantramar Heritage Trust\*\*](#) .
- [New England Planters in New Brunswick | \*\*Miner Descent\*\*](#) .

### *Atlantic Loyalist Connections – Relevant Posts*

- [Who was Nehemiah Beckwith? | \*\*The Loyalist Collection\*\*](#)
- [A Tree Grows in Planter Nova Scotia | \*\*The Loyalist Collection\*\*](#)
- [Surprising Church Records Part 1: Not Just Baptisms and Burials | \*\*The Loyalist Collection\*\*](#)

**Contact [mic@unb.ca](mailto:mic@unb.ca) for inquiries regarding **The Loyalist Collection**.**

Link to digital copy: [Research Help | \*\*The Loyalist Collection\*\*](#)