

SOME ONLINE RESOURCES FOR LOYALIST RESEARCH

The Loyalist Collection

UNB Archives & Special Collections

General

- [The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick](#) offers online databases of land grants, land petitions, newspaper vital statistics, probate records, House of Assembly Sessional Records, and government petitions covering the loyalist settlement period.
 - [Fort Havoc](#), digital documents and transcripts of material concerning the American Revolution and United Empire Loyalists collected by R. Wallace Hale hosted on the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website.
- [United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada](#) *Loyalist Directory* lists what loyalists have been proven by the Association members, and sometimes provides basic information.
- [Library and Archives Canada](#) offers a help page with general Loyalist and Loyalist genealogy research.
 - [British Headquarters Papers, New York \(or Carleton Papers\)](#) are digitally indexed on Library and Archives Canada's website. The series includes a variety of documents about loyalist soldiers and civilian refugees (both white and black people) but also about people who were on Manhattan Island or the adjacent mainland dominated by the British during the American Revolution, as well as many British and German soldiers who settled in Canada later and also some rebels. (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/loyalists-british-soldiers-1722-1784/Pages/introduction.aspx>)
 - [Ward Chipman Papers](#), Library and Archives Canada, digitized muster rolls of loyalists and their families.
- [Archive.org](#) (*Internet Archives*) has many useful out of print and early historical works on communities and families in the American colonies freely available and digitally searchable. A search of the place of origin and surname of your subject using this resource is recommended.
- It also recommended you search the journal article database, *America: History and Life*, subscribed to by UNB Libraries and search for academic articles on individuals, their communities, military unit, profession, etc.
- [Canadiana](#) is a valuable digital preservation repository for historical Canadian documents.
- [Journal of the American Revolution](#) is an open access, electronic publication with frequent research articles.
- [The David Rumsey Map Collection](#) has a robust selection of digitized maps.
- [Early American Sources](#) centralized listing of digitized materials for historical research in the early period of the United States.
- [The Loyalist Research Network](#)

Biography

- [The Dictionary of Canadian Biography](http://www.biographi.ca/en/) provides in-depth encyclopedic entries for many prominent Canadian individuals. (<http://www.biographi.ca/en/>)
- [New Brunswick Loyalist Journeys](https://loyalist.lib.unb.ca/story-maps) is a biographical story map produced by UNB Libraries. (<https://loyalist.lib.unb.ca/story-maps>)
- [Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution](https://www.archive.org) by Lorenzo Sabine is available through archive.org.
- [Loyalist Migrations](https://www.uelac.ca) visualizes the migrations of thousands of Loyalist families. Research provided by the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada.

Vital Statistics (Birth, Marriage, Death)

- From the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick's online databases: [Early New Brunswick Probate](#) (Wallace Hale) for content of documents from 1785-1840; [Daniel F Johnson's New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics](#); and [Records of Old Revolutionary Soldiers and Their Widows](#) to search from 1837 – 1871.
- [Nova Scotia Archives](#) hosts early census returns and poll tax records online.
- [Marianne Grey Otty Database](#): This index from UNB Libraries allows you to search baptismal, marriage, and death records kept by early travelling ministers in New Brunswick centred on Queens County, New Brunswick. (<https://motty.lib.unb.ca/>)
- ["Find A Grave"](http://www.findagrave.com) (www.findagrave.com) to locate graves of individuals or family members in the American or British colonies.

Land Records

- [New Brunswick Lands Grant Database & Land Petitions: Original Series Database](#) (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick) are searchable databases of land grants and petitions covering the loyalist settlement period.
- [Nova Scotia Archives](#) website includes digital and indexed items relating to Loyalists. The [Nova Scotia Commissioner of Crown Lands fonds, Nova Scotia Land Papers, 1765-1800](#) are available online through the Nova Scotia Archives website. (<https://novascotia.ca/archives/landpapers/>). Many loyalist grants were made when New Brunswick was still part of Nova Scotia.
- [The Abegweit Branch](#) of the UELAC hosts muster rolls relevant to Prince Edward Island loyalists.
- [Atlantic Canada Portal Virtual Archives](#) features petitions relating to land grants in New Brunswick in which African Americans are either the petitioners or the land granted to African Americans is the subject of attention. *Contested Terrain: Aboriginal Land Petitions in New Brunswick, 1786-1878*, features a digital collection of petitions relating to land grants in colonial New Brunswick, in which either Aboriginal people are the petitioners or their land is the subject of attention.
- [Land Petitions of Upper Canada \(1763-1865\)](#) – Index Only (Library and Archives Canada)
- [Land Petitions of Lower Canada \(1764 -1841\)](#) – Index plus Digitized Images (Library and Archives Canada)

Military & Muster Rolls

- *The On-line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies* provides reliable, high-quality material on the Loyalists in the fields of military research, genealogy, and living history. (<http://www.royalprovincial.com/>)
- *Ward Chipman Papers*, Library and Archives Canada, digitized muster rolls of Loyalists and their families.
- *British Military and Naval Records*: Use the index to locate individuals which consists of typed index cards available on Library and Archives Canada's website. (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/mass-digitized-archives/british-military-naval-records-index/Pages/british-military-naval-records-index.aspx>).

Private Papers

- *The Winslow Papers* (originals held in UNB Archives & Special Collections) are available online (<https://lib.unb.ca/winslow/>). Edward Winslow mentions many loyalists in the extensive record he created during the period of major loyalist activity.
- *The MacDonald Family Letters* (1779-1801) virtual archive features ten letters written by John and Helen MacDonald between 1779 and 1801. Their correspondence offers a rare glimpse into the early settlement of St. John's Island (renamed Prince Edward Island in 1799). <https://preserve.lib.unb.ca/wayback/20141205151334/http://atlanticportal.hil.unb.ca/virtual-archives>
- *Loyalist Women in New Brunswick, 1783-1827*, features diaries, letters, poems, reminiscences, and legal records relating to Loyalist women in colonial New Brunswick, including women in three generations of the *Winslow family*.
- *Travels with Elizabeth Simcoe – A Visual Journey Through Upper and Lower Canada* (Archives of Ontario) published book on archive.org.
- *Gideon White Family Papers* – Loyalists of Shelburne (Nova Scotia Archives)

Loyalist Claims

- Library and Archives Canada has a nominal index available on reel [C-9821](#).
- If you have an Ancestry.com subscription, the [American Loyalist Claims, 1776-1835](#) may be searched.
- *Maryland Loyalism Project* has scanned, transcribed, and made searchable claims from Maryland loyalists as well as entries from the *Book of Negroes* relating to former residents of Maryland.

Newspapers

- *New Brunswick Historical Newspapers Project* indexes the holdings of UNB Libraries microfilm newspapers as well as providing searchable, digital content.
- The digital database *America's Historical Newspapers: Early American Newspapers* is invaluable for searching American, colonial newspapers during the Revolutionary period. It is available linked under "Newspapers Packages" on the Journals & Newspapers tab of the UNB Libraries website.

- [Daniel F. Johnson's New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics](#), Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website for nominal searches.
<<http://archives.gnb.ca/Search/NewspaperVitalStats/Default.aspx?culture=en-CA>>.
- [Island Newspapers](#), UPEI, Robertson Library. Available freely online at islandnewspapers.ca
- [Nova Scotia Digitized Historical Newspapers](#), Nova Scotia Archives. Available freely online at novascotia.ca/archives/newspapers/
- [Vocabularies of Identity/ Vocabulaires Identitaires](#), "The evolution of collective identity in Acadian and Loyalist texts published in New Brunswick newspapers from 1880 to 1940" analyzes the evolution of collective identities in public discourse among Acadians and Loyalist descendants in New Brunswick at the end of the 19th century and in the first part of 20th century.

Black Loyalist History

- [African Nova Scotians](#) by the Nova Scotia Archives contains two sites of interest: **1.** African Nova Scotian Diaspora contains digitised and searchable records relating to early immigration and emigration, reflecting the experiences of Black Refugees who came at the end of the War of 1812; and **2.** African Nova Scotians includes a variety of types of documents with a searchable database of those who came between the years 1783 to 1816.
- [The Atlantic Slave Trade and Slave Life in the Americas](#) provides images related to the American slave trade and slave societies and includes a searchable database as well as eighteen browsable themes. Each of the images contains an accompanying write up.
- ["Black Loyalist"](#) focuses on historical data about the African American loyalist refugees recorded in the *Book of Negroes*. (Note: this site seems to be down currently)
- [The Black Loyalists Digital Collections](#) explores the Black Loyalist experience in Canada.
- [Black Loyalist Heritage Society](#) (Birchtown, Nova Scotia)
- [Black Loyalist Refugees, 1782-1807- Port Roseway Associates](#) (Library and Archives Canada)
- [Digital Library on American Slavery](#) contains three sites of interest: **1.** Race and Slavery Petitions Project contains information pertaining to slaves, slaveholders and free blacks extracted from different state legislative petitions and county court petitions, as well as from other types of documents; **2.** North Carolina Runaway Slave Advertisements provides online access to all known runaway slave advertisements published in North Carolina newspapers from 1751 to 1840, providing a "glimpse into the social, economic, and cultural world of the American slave system and the specific experience within North Carolina"; and **3.** The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database which includes information on over 35,000 slave voyages between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- [The Geography of Slavery in Virginia](#) contains a comprehensive digital collection of advertisements for runaway and captured slaves and servants from newspapers in Virginia and Maryland, covering the years from 1736 through 1803. Access is available through a searchable database as well as by browsing the ads by date of publication or by place names mentioned. Also contains browsable listings of transcribed selected documents under these categories: **1.** Official Records - Virginia Laws, 1660-1789; County Records from Accomack, Augusta, Essex and Richmond counties, 1751-1785; and the legal case pertaining to the runaway Simon Howell, 1770; **2.** Newspaper Materials from the *Maryland Gazette* and *Virginia Gazette* providing articles about slaves and slaveholders,

1750-1773; and **3.** Slaveholder's Records - Carter Family Correspondence, 1738-9, 1763-91; and Charles Yates Letterbook, 1773-1780.

- [Legacies of British Slave-ownership](#) contains a database searchable by slave-owner or an individual related professionally or personally to a slave-owner. It can be used as an index to slave compensation returns in Treasury 71 (T71).
- [Remembering Black Loyalists, Black Communities in Nova Scotia](#), Nova Scotia Museum
- [Sierra Leone Collection](#), University of Illinois at Chicago. The collection consists of primary documents related to the British administration of Sierra Leone, including public and private papers of British officials in the colony of Sierra Leone, 1792-1825.

Health & Medicine

- [The National Archives Health Subject Guide](#) acts as a gateway to health records available through The National Archives, London, England. These records have a wide time frame, spanning from the eighteenth to twentieth century, as well as a wide geographic area of coverage.
- [Wellcome Library](https://wellcomelibrary.org/): one of the world's major resources for the study of medical history. (<https://wellcomelibrary.org/>)
- [Early Modern Maritime Recipes](#) examines recipes circulating before 1800 in print and manuscript in the area now defined as Canada's Maritime provinces. Early modern recipe writing focused on food and medicine, but recorded a range of other practices associated with alchemy, cosmetics, veterinary, medicine, and laundry, amongst other things.

Seafaring and Privateering

- ["Spoils of War: Privateering in Nova Scotia"](#) is a site hosted by the Nova Scotia Archives featuring digital primary material and list of secondary sources.
- The [Canadian Nautical Research Society](#) site includes an index for their journal *The Northern Mariner* which features articles related to piracy and privateering. Some PDF copies of articles are available freely on the site.
- Memorial University's [Maritime History Archive](#) includes a searchable catalogue and online material. A particular feature of the Archive is *The Lester Diaries* (1761-1802) which was written by two brothers engaged in trans-Atlantic trade.
- [The Royal Museums Greenwich](#) (England) website features numerous images and objects related to pirates and privateers in its [collection](#). As well, a [research guide](#) to pirates and privateers is available and a [blog series](#) on British piracy.
- [Reports of Cases in the Vice Admiralty of the Province of New York and the Court of Admiralty of the State of New York, 1715-1788](#), edited by Charles Merrill is available digitally and contains primary source material with an emphasis on prize cases.
- [War of 1812: Privateers](#) contains useful indexes of British and American privateer vessels as well as background information.
- A digital version of [Lloyd's List](#), a wealth of historical information on ships on the Atlantic, is available online, and the Guildhall Library has created an [index](#) of the "Marine News" section. As well, the online version of [Lloyd's Register](#) may be of use to researchers.

- An online transcription of *Notes on Nova Scotia Privateers* by George E. E. Nichols and read before the Nova Scotia Historical Society in 1904 is found on [Fort Havoc](#) via the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website.

Other

- [Spy Letters of the American Revolution \(Clements Library, University of Michigan\)](#) from the Sir Henry Clinton collection (<http://clements.umich.edu/exhibits/online/spies/>)
- [The Loyalist Link: The Forest and the Sea](#) (Shelburne County Museum/Virtual Museum of Canada)
- [The United Empire Loyalists of Remsheq: Refugees from the American Revolution](#) (Wallace and Area Museum/Virtual Museum of Canada)
- [British North American Legislative Database, 1758-1867](#) includes characteristics of all the legislation passed by the pre-Confederation assemblies of eastern British North America: Nova Scotia (1758-1867); Cape Breton (1785-1820); Prince Edward Island (1768-1867); New Brunswick (1786-1867); Lower Canada (1792-1838); Upper Canada (1792-1840), the United Canadas (1841-1867); and Newfoundland (1832-1867).

Blogs

- [Atlantic Loyalist Connections](#) Shares research experiences involving *The Loyalist Collection* and relations within the British colonial Atlantic world.
- [The Junto](#) A Group Blog on Early American History.
- [Borealia](#) A Group Blog on Early Canadian History.
- [100 Hidden Histories](#) Material history at the Kings County Museum, Hampton, New Brunswick.
- [TURN to a Historian](#) offers historical analysis of "TURN: Washington's Spies", a television drama about spies of the American Revolution.
- [Boston 1775](#) "History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution in Massachusetts."
- [Acadiensis](#) a forum for historians of Atlantic Canada to share their ideas and thoughts about Atlantic Canadian history and methods with each other and the public at large.
- [Age of Revolutions](#): A HistorioBLOG.
- [Morristown National Historical Park Museum & Library](#), New Jersey.
- [Unwritten Histories](#): The Unwritten Rules of History. See particularly "[A Guide to Online Resources for Teaching and Learning Loyalist History](#)"

For research assistance contact us at mic@unb.ca

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