

Antigonish Genealogy Search

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Are you searching out information on your family history? Enjoy finding out more about Antigonish and its history? Here are a few ideas to get you started.



The Antigonish Heritage Museum

www.antigonishheritage.org

The Antigonish Heritage Museum is housed in the old train station at the east end of Antigonish. It has a wealth of resources for your search. According to Barry Mackenzie, the curator of the Antigonish Heritage Museum, “People want to know *“Where did my people come from? When did they settle?”* and often, particularly if they’re traveling from outside of the province, they’d like to find the homestead. They’d like to find a piece of land, something that can make them feel a bit rooted to that family’s experience. One thing that is particularly popular amongst locals and visitors alike is the heritage inventory. We have a full inventory of every heritage property that was standing in Antigonish circa 1989.”

In the museum resource library you will find published and unpublished books and manuscripts including school, church, and community histories, biographies, photographs, school registers, maps, newspapers, cemetery inscriptions, many reference materials and finding aids. MacKenzie added

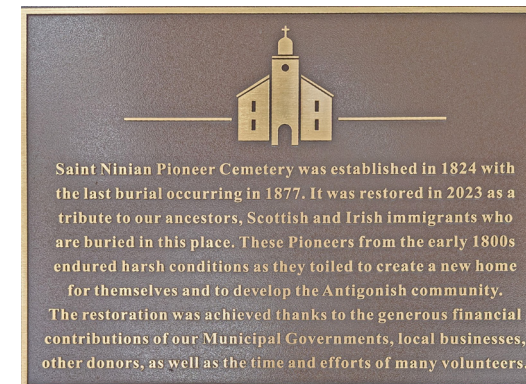
“We’re very blessed to have a database that’s been built by volunteers over the last decade or more and building on research they’ve been doing for 25 and 30 years, which contains thousands of names. It’s often the first place we go when people are trying to trace a family member. It doesn’t always give them all the answers they’re looking for, but at the very least, it gives us a starting point. Particularly for folks that are tracing genealogy from south of the border. They may only know the name of that grandparent.”

If you wish to have assistance with your project please phone ahead. The museum is open to the public and hosts lectures and cultural events throughout the year.

St. Ninian’s Pioneer Cemetery

www.stniniansparishcemetery.ca/st-ninians-pioneer-cemetery/

The St. Ninian’s Pioneer Cemetery on Main Street near the John Paul Centre is an oasis of green space with 46 rehabilitated headstones up to 1877. This was the site of the original St. Ninian’s Cathedral. Now the peaceful and contemplative space with benches and a Celtic cross remind us of the sacrifices in the pioneer setting of Antigonish. There is a plan to include QR codes for historical information.



St. FX

www.stfx.ca/library

The St. Francis Xavier University (founded 1853) Library contains an archive of 115 years of The Casket newspaper in microfilm form and an index of obituaries. The Casket was a weekly paper published in Antigonish from 1852. According to Barry MacKenzie “Here at the museum we are digitizing The Casket to make it available for searching online. Hopefully it will be available next year.”



Celtic Cross in Pioneer Cemetery

Other Resources

- A virtual tour of Antigonish Cultural Heritage.
www.people.stfx.ca/istanley/history/welcome2.htm
- Antigonish People’s Place Library - documents, photographs, maps.
www.novastory.ca
- Antigonish County, Nova Scotia Genealogy. Guide to Antigonish county ancestry, family history and genealogy: birth records, marriage records, death records, census records, parish registers, and military records.
www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Antigonish_County,_Nova_Scotia_Genealogy

Other stops with historical information include the Cape George Heritage Museum, Barneys River Station Schoolhouse Museum, The Hector Heritage Quay (Ship Hector) Pictou, and numerous church graveyards around the county.