The booklet – *Searching Your Roots in Saint John in New Brunswick* was compiled as an introduction for beginning researchers wishing to do genealogical research on families with roots in Saint John, NB. *Ruby M. Cusack*

Some of the topics discussed are:

- Blue Book Binder
- Books
- Burial Permits
- Catholic Archives
- Census Records
- Church Records
- Catholic Church Records
- Confusing Place Names
- Directories of Saint John
- Helpful Sources
- Land Grant Index Book
- Land Grant Maps
- Land Petitions
- Land Transactions
- Land Registrations of Birth
- Marriage Records
- Newspaper Chart
- Probate Records
- Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
- Starting Your Research
- Tour of Library

*What Do I Need to Start My Research?*

“How do I get started doing my family tree?” is the question asked by many when they first get the idea that they would like to research their roots.

I am going to give you some beginner hints on how to Search Your Family Roots in Saint John, New Brunswick. The following ideas are based on my personal experiences.

I would suggest you purchase:

- **Scribbler**: I prefer the small spiral bound, 6 inch x 9 inch, 5 subject type, about 300 pages. Write only on one side of the paper. This scribbler is your working copy that always travels with you.
- **Two Three Ring Binders** in which to keep all your photocopied pages and microfilm print-outs.
- **Clip Board**
- **Magnifying Glass**
- **Pens or Pencils** will be needed.
- **A Three Hole Punch** is a real luxury item.

Before you write one piece of information, make yourself this solemn promise: “I will always note the source of each piece of information and the date on which I found it. I will also note the Who, Where, When and How as the source for any oral information I am given.”
Take one section of your scribbler and write down every fact you know or have heard rumoured about the family you are going to search. Start with yourself and work backwards. By that I mean put down your parents names and any dates (birth, death, marriage), and include your aunts and uncles and their families. Next take your grandparents and do the same. If you are fortunate enough to have a grandparent, aunt or uncle, talk to them. Ask such questions as, “Where did you live as a child?” “Where did you go to School?” “What jobs did you work at?” “Did you ever hear your Mother or Father talk about their younger days?” “Did any relatives ever come from afar to visit when you were a child?” “Who has the Family Bible?” “Who has all the old pictures?” “What Church did you attend?” I’m certain you will think of many more questions to ask.

**The Search Begins**

Finally, you have decided that you are ready to enter that world which is strange to you now but which will soon become your favourite place to go – The Saint John Free Public Library. Go uptown to Market Square. Go to the second floor and enter the Library. Don’t stop here. Go right up those long stairs to the Reference Center.

**Now What? Everything looks very confusing to you.**

Just ahead of you is a Round Table behind a wooden shelf of books. Have a seat there and make this your **reference point**. To your **right** is the Reference Desk. Walk past that and on your left you will see Big Blue Box Cabinets. On these cabinets, there is a Blue Three Ring Binder. This Blue Three Ring Binder is going to become your best friend and partner in your search. It tells you what is available on Microfilm and the **Reel Number** of the Microfilm.

Different people will give you different ways to start the Search. I am going to suggest that if you know the complete name of the ancestor, you look in those little indexed drawers – called the Miscellaneous Card File Index – in the tall wooden cabinet to the far right of the blue cabinets. At this time, all you are interested in doing is just copying references. Look at the back of the wooden cabinet and you will see a sign that explains some of those letters and numbers on the Miscellaneous Cards. If after ten minutes, you have not found your ancestor (now don’t try to write down all the reference to the name “Smith”, just to your particular full named ancestor) leave this part of your search for another time.

**Let’s Take a Tour**

Go back and have a seat at the Round Table for a few minutes and just Look Around You! Get up and walk towards the Reference Desk; this is where you go to ask a Staff Member for information, but don’t stop. Those machines against the wall on your left are Microfilm Readers and the first one is the only one that you put your money in to get out print outs of the microfilm articles you want. Walk past the microfilm readers and on your right you will find metal cabinets that contain the reels of microfilm. (Don’t refile these reels – take them to the Reference desk).

As you walk back up by the microfilm readers, you will see on your right – the Big Gray Cabinets. These cabinets contain Death Certificates, N.B. Census Information, Marriage Registers, Land Petitions, Newspapers by Place and Title, and Probate Records and other Headings.

The Tall Beige Cabinet, at the end of the Big Gray cabinets contains the Vertical Files. (Index for this file is in a book at the Information Desk). On the other side of this tall beige Vertical File Cabinet are the Blue Box Cabinets, --they are the CB Files of Local History and the CB Files of Family History. CB stands for Cabinet. In the Family History Files, the families are arranged in alphabetical order, and you choose the one you are interested in and look it over. For the most part, the CB files are made up of information that people have donated and newspaper clippings pertaining to Genealogy.
Straight ahead, near the last aisle is a beige low metal map cabinet. On top of the cabinet is a very large Black Book referred to as the **Roe & Colby Atlas – 1875.** This Atlas shows all the **Wards** and **Parishes** of Saint John County. It is of great assistance when doing research in Census Records.

As you head back to the round table and as you pass the Reference Desk you will notice another wooden file cabinet of little drawers. This is an **Index of Miscellaneous articles.** If you which to check this source, ask one of the staff for assistance.

Go back to the **Round Table,** our starting position. The **photocopier** is at the head of the stairs and is coin operated.

To find the books that contain **Family Histories,** you must walk past the Reference Desk to the last shelf on your right. The side of that shelf facing the tables and windows have all the Family Histories, arranged in alphabetical order by family name. Also on the shelves are:

- City Directories
- Vital Statistics from New Brunswick Newspapers
- Index to the Saint John County Probate Court Case Files

**Census Books**
The Blue Books are some Epitaphs from Cemeteries
There are several booklets that have indexes to some of the Scrap Books on microfilm.

Walk to the other end of the Family History Shelf and make a right turn. Walk up the aisle until you reach the other end of the library. **Look up!** At the end of every shelf there are little signs, with numbers on them – this is the way books are arranged in a Library. Look for the aisle where the 920’s being and walk down it. **STOP** when you spot the numbers **929.3** on the back of the books here are books dealing with Genealogy.

When checking to see what books are in the Library, the numbers are your guide to the proper shelf. Look carefully for an “R” or “RA” in front of the number. If you see an “R” it is telling you to look upstairs in the Reference Center on a shelf. If you see “RA” it is telling you that this is **Archival Material** and you will need to ask a Member of the Staff in the Reference Center to get it for you.
If you do not see “R” or”RA then the book is on the First Floor – Circulation Department.

**Blue Book Binder – Inventory of Microfilms**
This binder is divided into several sections. Take time to look through it very carefully.

- **Burial Permits**
- **Census Records**
- **Marriage Registers**
- **Land Petitions**
- **Newspapers by Place and by Title**
- **Probate Records and other Headings**

Near the back of the Blue Binder is the Listing of the Reels placed by the Saint John Branch of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society: Church Records, Probate Court Files, Etc.

**Directories of the City of Saint John**
City Directories are made up of an alphabetical listing of the names of people that were working in Saint John in any given year and will usually include the Head of the Household. Businesses and their Advertisements are also listed. The Street Directory is at the end of the book, and this appears to list the Head of the Household. Check the Beginning Pages of each Directory to determine what is in this Particular Directory.

Here are some names from page 245 of the 1915-16 Directory:

*Cusack Decric J, painter C McDada, bds 33 Marsh Rd*
*Cusack Edward, bds 202 Waterloo*
*Cusick Fred., eng Partington Pulp & Paper, h(ome) Havelock, w e*
*Cusack George, grocer 29-33 Marsh Rd, h do*
*Cusack Harold, butcher Geo Cusack, bds 33 Marsh Rd*
*Cusack John J, clerk Geo Cusack, bds 33 Marsh Rd*
*Cusack John, labourer, h 25 Winslow, w e*
*Cusack M Stephen, glass blower M A Wks, bds 202 Waterloo*
*Cusack Mariner, emp AM Steam Laundry, bds 66 Metcalf*
*Cusack Mary A, wid Edward J, h 202 Waterloo*

**Looking at this, what conclusions can I come to?**

#1 George Cusack has a Grocery Business at 29-33 Marsh Rd. The “h” means home and the “do” means same place. Since there is a “do” after “h”, when it names the business “grocer”, we also know he has his store and home at the same address, on the Marsh Rd. He has a business so maybe I can find an advertisement in this Directory or in another one.

#2 Since there are three males Cedric J. Cusack, Harold Cusack and John J. Cusack, all boarding at 33 Marsh Rd. and we now know 33 Marsh Rd is home (h) of George Cusack we could assume that they are probably the sons or relatives of George Cusack.

#3 By checking the Street Directory page 867, we find that 33 (29-33) Marsh Rd. is occupied by George Cusack. We also see that it is almost on the corner of Short St.

#4 Since we know from family stories that this Cusack Family lived near the Marsh Bridge, we now, probably, have the names of three of their children.

Upon checking City Directories, we were able to establish the approximate time of death of George Cusack, as Elizabeth Cusack was listed as widow of George Cusack and residing at 33 Marsh Rd. in 1920. We now can work backwards or forwards with the City Directories. In all probability, we will be able to follow the places of employment of the family members as well as the address for their residences.

**A Little Hint:** When using City Directories, always check the Street Directory Section to see who else lives at that street address. Many a time it has been the key that opened a door for me. The abbreviation “bds” (boards) is also worth watching for.

**1900 is a Special Directory.** as at the back of this directory there is also a listing for Saint John County. Saint John City Directories for the years 1863, 1864 as well as the years 1869 to 1982 are on microfilm as is the business Directory for 1859. On the shelf are some of these Saint John City Directories. I suggest you look on the shelf for the Directory that you need and, if is not there, then go to the microfilm. (The New Brunswick Museum on Douglas Avenue has most of the City Directories on their shelves).
Census Records
The first Census that gives personal information on the inhabitants of Saint John County is the 1851 Census. If the person was not born in New Brunswick, the 1851 Census tells us the year the person arrived in the province and what country he came from. It has been compiled as a book.

Little of the 1861 Census for Saint John County has survived.

An Index has been compiled for the 1871 Census of Saint John County. (May be possibly kept at the Reference Desk – ask for it)

The 1881 Census for Saint John County has not been indexed.

An Index of the 1891 Census of Saint John County has been compiled and consists of two books (May not be in the Library).

The 1901 Census is on microfilm.

Check all possible spellings for the name you are researching. For example I have found when researching the name TAYS that the spelling given was TEAS and the name O’Brien spelled Bryan.

The following four pages give details on the type of information to be found in the Census Records. Sometimes the search is easier if you start with the 1891 Census.

If you are uncertain of the place of residence, look in a City Directory.

If you need the Parish or Ward, look in the Roe & Colby Atlas of 1875.

1851 Census Saint John Printed in Book Form

Surname McBrearty Page ??? Ward/Parish Sydney
The names and information provided in this example are fictitious and used only to demonstrate tracing a household through census records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First Name</td>
<td>Relation to Head of Family</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td>Date Of Arriving in N.B.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bridget</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Native</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James McKinney</td>
<td>Visitor</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1848</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

John McBrearty
Lives in Sydney Ward, South End of Saint John, is the Head of the Household, is 32 years old (in 1851), making his birth date about 1819 was born in Ireland arrived in New Brunswick in 1848, occupation is Wheelwright. We can also conclude that his wife, Bridget is 26 years old thus born about 1825 arrived in N.B. in 1848 from Ireland.
His son Patrick was born about 1847 in Ireland.
His daughter Margaret was born in N.B. about 1849.
The information also suggests to us that:
- John and Catherine were married in Ireland.
- Son Patrick came with them from Ireland.
- Daughter Margaret was born after they arrived in N.B.
- Residing in this household at the time was a Visitor, James McKinney, who is 3 years younger than Bridget. As the research on the McBrearty family is continued, one should make note of the name McKinney. Since James McKinney arrived in New Brunswick the same year as Bridget and John McBrearty, he could possibly be a relative.

The names and information provided in this example are fictitious and used only to demonstrate tracing a household through census records.

1871 Census Saint John Index is in Book Form – Ask at the Reference Desk.

Only Name and Reference Number are given in this Index book.

Read page i. Using the Census Index for explanation of codes used in this book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Born within 12 months</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Province of Birth</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brown Henry</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>England</td>
<td>Ch of Eng</td>
<td>Engl</td>
<td>Grocer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>51</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Ch of Eng</td>
<td>Scotch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan John</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>Servant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Married or Widowed</th>
<th>Married within 12 mos</th>
<th>Going to School</th>
<th>Over 20 unable to read</th>
<th>Over 20 unable to write</th>
<th>Deaf or Dumb</th>
<th>Blind</th>
<th>Unsound Mind</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the above information, we could determine this Family lives in Duke Ward, South End of Saint John and that:

Henry Brown
Is 54 years old in 1971 so was born about 1817.
Was born in England.
Is a Grocer.
Is a member of the Church of England.
Is able to read and write.
His wife Margaret
Is 51 years old so was born about 1820 was born in Scotland.
Is also a Member of the Church of England.
Is able to read and write.

Living with them in this household is John Ryan.
21 years old so was born about 1850.
Born in Ireland.
Is a Servant in their household.
Is a Catholic.
Is unable to read or write.

1881 Census Saint John Not Indexed – Search Microfilm

Your search in this Census will be much easier if you have some idea of the parish or ward your ancestor lived in so I suggest using the McAlpine’s 1880 Directory first.

The names and information provided in this example are fictitious and used only to demonstrate tracing a household through census records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Number</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Born within 12 mos</td>
<td>Country Province of Birth</td>
<td>Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smith Robert</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>Bapt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smith Sarah</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>Bapt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brown John</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>Presbyt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jones Matilda</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>Bapt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>18</th>
<th>19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Origin</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Married or Widowed</td>
<td>Going to School</td>
<td>Deaf and Dumb</td>
<td>Blind</td>
<td>Unsound of Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scot</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>____</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scot</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scot</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td>____</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Robert Smith
74 years old and was born in Scotland about 1807.
Married.
Baptist.
Farmer.

His Wife Sarah Smith
70 years old and was born in New Brunswick about 1811.
Family origin was English.
Baptist.
Blind.

Also in the household is **John Brown**.
18 years old and born in New Brunswick about 1863.
Presbyterian.
Not married.
Farmer.

And **Matilda Jones**
40 years old born in New Brunswick about 1841.
Baptist.
Widowed.

As the search on the family is continued, one would try to find the connection, if any, of John Brown and Matilda Jones to Robert and Sarah Smith. Matilda Jones could possibly be a daughter or since Sarah Smith is blind, she could be the housekeeper.

**1891 Census Saint John**
A Two Volume Index of this Census by Timothy Walton lists the Head of Household and gives the Page Number, Ward or Parish and District Number on the Reel of Microfilm.

The Names and information provided in this example are fictitious and used only to demonstrate tracing a household through census records.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Number</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Age</td>
<td>Married or Widowed</td>
<td>Relation To Head Of Family</td>
<td>Place of Birth</td>
<td>French Canadians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Bell John</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>W</td>
<td></td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clara</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>___</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bain James</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>___</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>16</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>22</th>
<th>23</th>
<th>24</th>
<th>25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth Place of Father</td>
<td>Birth Place of Mother</td>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Occupation</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Write</td>
<td>Deaf and Dumb</td>
<td>Blind</td>
<td>Unsound of Mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scot</td>
<td>N.S.</td>
<td>Method't</td>
<td>Tinsmith</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>Method't</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>N.B.</td>
<td>Presbyt</td>
<td>Cooper</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
<td>_</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

By now you are getting really good at reading the Census Records so I will not spend time explaining this example of the 1891 Census.
Quite often while working with Census Records it helps to start the search in the 1901 or 1891 Census and work back to the 1851 Census.

**Summary of Census Records for Saint John**

1851 Published in Two Volumes
1861 Forget that year
1871 Index Book
1881 Not indexed – must search Reel
(Check 1880 City Directory for an Address)
1891 Index Books
1901 Not indexed – must search Reel

Do not be concerned about the spelling of the names or the ages that were given. In those days people Spelled words as they sounded. A name such as *Wright* may be written as *Rite*. You need to be a good detective and check all possible spellings of surnames.

I suggest you look at the households before and after the one you are interested in, as quite often you will find relatives living near one another.

**Late Registration of Birth**

1810-1887

These Registrations of Birth are based upon proof supplied by the individuals who required a birth certificate.

The information was typed on cards. The cards were sorted alphabetically and microfilmed.

There are 12 reels of microfilm of these documents. For example let us say I am looking for members of the Quinlan Family. Look in the Blue Book for the Reel Number.

G 8 Murphy, A. to Nesbett, M.
G 9 Nesbit, K. to Robertson C.
G 10 Robertson, C. to Steeves, K.

We would find Quinlan on Reel #G9

Sample:

Name of Child: Walter Cornelius Quinlan
Date of Birth: June 30, 1882
Place of Birth: West St. John
Sex of Child: Male
Name of Father: Robert Bird Quinlan
Father’s Birthplace: Salmon River N.B.
Name of Mother: Frances O’Leary
Mother’s Birthplace: Ireland

The above *Late Birth Registration* gives the researcher a great deal of information. There are 25,000 cards on these 12 reels of microfilm.

Inquire where the booklets on Birth Registrations for the Province of New Brunswick are kept. If you are looking for a Saint John County Birth – also check book “Z” as there is a section at the end containing
Saint John County Birth information. (These are also available online through the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick [http://archives.gnb.ca/archives](http://archives.gnb.ca/archives).

**Probate Records**

The Probates of Saint John County for the years 1785-1887 are on six Reels of Microfilm. The Index is on Reel #48 and covers the years from 1785-1912. When you find the name you are searching for in the index, note the date. The books were arranged in alphabetically order by year. For example, the Probate of William Donald might state: June 27, 1828. You would look in the Blue Book and see that the year 1828 is on Reel #49.

After you have found and carefully read the Probate then search The Saint John County Probate Court Case Files. These files are arranged alphabetically by the year for 1785-1932.

An Index is on Reel #G 0 and it also is in Book Form. (On the shelf next to the City Directories). Some names have been omitted in the index therefore I suggest you always check the microfilm for the year of the year after the ancestor’s death even if the name is not in the Index.

Since very important information may be found in Probate Records, always take the time to search all available material. The division of material possessions or property may give some insight of the character of your ancestor.

*Reading the last wishes of an ancestor may be as close as we ill ever get to really knowing that person.*

**Marriage Registers**

Marriage Registers for Saint John County from 1810 to 1888 are on Microfilm.

If you look in the Blue Book on the Blue Filing cabinets you will see that there are eleven Marriage Books or Registers for Saint John County. They are lettered from “A” to “K”.

**Reel #21 has the Indices for Registers “A” to “K”**.

The marriages were indexed for each register in a sort of alphabetical order for the Groom. For example all the men with surnames starting with “F” are in the one column and the Brides’ names are in the next column. **Check all possible spellings of the surname**. There is no alphabetical listing for the Brides. Once you have found your desired name, then consult the Blue Book for the proper microfilm Reel number.

When you find the marriage there are several things to look for:

**Groom**

Name.
Married before Widower.
Address Usually the Parish.
Occupation.
Signed his name or marked with an X.

**Bride**

Name.
Spinstir if not married before.
Married before Widow or Alias.
Address Usually Parish.
Signed her name or marked with an X.

Look carefully at the Witnesses, for on many occasions they are relatives of either the Bride or Groom.

The minister or priest that performed the Ceremony might lead you to their religion, but not always.

Marriage registers were kept in the County Office, and the Officiating Person, at his convenience, would record the marriage. Do not be concerned about the different spelling so the names. On one entry, the recording person might write the Bride’s name as McCarthy or Carty, yet they were all of the same family.

There are also marriages recorded in the Church of the marriage. I have found marriages that were not recorded in the Civil Register by the Officiating Person but were recorded in the Church Records.

An Index to the Marriages for all of New Brunswick 1887 – 1926 can be found on the PANBV website at http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives.

Many of the Saint John County Marriage Registers have been transcribed.

**Burial Permits**
These documents are exactly what the title suggests, a permit to bury a body. In using these permits, I have found that they were only for those burials of people who:

- Died in Saint John City
- Were being brought to Saint John to be buried
- Were being sent through Saint John to be buried elsewhere

Burial Permits were issued from March 17, 1889 to 1919.

The Burial Permits are in the order that they were issued.

The Burial Permit Index is on Reel # 14 and is in 10 parts.

Part 1 1889-1900
Part 2 1901-1910
Part 3 1911
Part 4 1912
Part 5 1913
Part 6 1914
Part 7 1915-16
Part 8 1917
Part 9 1918
Part 10 1919

If a Burial Permit were found in the Index dated Feb. 08, 1904 – then one would look in the Blue Book and find that the year 1904 is on reel #6. The next step is to view reel #6. The Burial Permit would be found in the month of February.
An Index to the Burial Permits can be found on the PANB website.

Local Board of Health
Return of Death on Application for a Burial Permit

This information is from a Burial Permit on Microfilm Reel #8, page 85:

Date of Death: Jan 29, 1908
Name of Deceased: Ann DeBoo
Age: 66 years
Colour: White
Sex and whether Single, Married or Widowed Female: Married
If married Woman’s Husband’s Name: William DeBoo
Residence: 455 Main Street.
Place of Death: St. John
Place of Birth: Hampton, Kings Co.
Occupation: -----
Name of Father: James Kenny
Birthplace of Father: Ireland
Place of Interment: Old Catholic Cemetery
Nature of Disease/Cause of Death: Asthmatic Bronchitis
Name of Physician: James Christie M.D.
Name of Undertaker: John O’Neil

Land Petitions

Many of the residents of New Brunswick petitioned for a piece of Crown Land. They did not always receive the land they petitioned for but in many cases they left valuable information for Researchers. The land Petitions are indexed in alphabetical order on six Reels of microfilm. If I wanted to check to see if a member of the Floyd Family petitioned for Crown Land anywhere in New Brunswick I would look at:

Land Petitions - Index
Reel #1 Aasley, Daniel – Chambers, J.
Reel #2 Chambers, James – Foster, Isaiah
Reel #3 Foster, Isaiah – Kimbal, Moses
Reel #4 Kimbal, Richard – McNiel, Norman
Reel #5 McNiel, Donald – Steeves, Enoch
Reel #6 Steeves, Frederick – Zinger

I would choose Reel #2 of the Index since the name Floyd would be between Chambers, James and Foster, Isaiah. When I look at this Index, I might find that James Floyd had petitioned for Land in 1825. If I wish to view this document I would return to the Blue Book and look for the year 1825 of Land Petitions. I find there are 4 Reels for 1825:

Reel #50 1824 J Stewart – 1825 J Cain
Reel #51 1825 J Caldwell – 1825 A Hicks
Reel #52 1825 J Hicks – 1825 W McLeod

I will choose Reel #51 as the name Floyd would be between J Caldwell – A Hicks.

Some petitions have lots of information, while others contain little to interest us. It seems to me that the earlier one has biographical information on the person that is applying for a grant than the later ones. The
applicant may state that he arrived in New Brunswick four years prior, or a woman may state she is petitioning for land as she is a widow with a family.

An Index to the Land Petitions 1783 – 1918 is available at the PANB website.

**Crown Land Grant Index Book**
This book lists the following information:

- Name of person receiving Grant of Land.
- Location of Grant.
- Parish of the Grant.
- County of the Grant.
- How many acres in the Grant.
- Date of the Grant.
- Volume and Number of its Recording.

When I looked in this Crown Grant Index Book I found:
James Floyd.
Received Grant #3 Hardingville,
Parish of St. Martins, County of Saint John,
Contains 200 acres,
Date: May 02, 1825
Recorded Vol. 7, Number 1795

**Land Grant Maps**
On the Grant Map we are able to see the location of the Grant as well as the neighbouring grants.

Land Grant Maps can be purchased at:
Service New Brunswick – King’s Square North – Saint John.

**Land Transactions**
The Registry Office is located in the Provincial Service Centre in the Old Calp’s Building, King’s Square Northern. There is an access fee for using these records.

When you visit the Registry Office, you will find that the Index Books are arranged by years and indexed alphabetically by both the Grantor and the Grantee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>On the left page the Name of the Grantor is given (The Grantor is the person transferring ownership), followed by the name of the Grantee (The Grantee is the person to whom ownership is being transferred). Next is the Parish, then the Reference as to what the transaction is: Sale or Mortgage or Lease. This is followed by the reference to the Volume Number and the page number.</th>
<th>On the right hand page the name of the Grantee is first, followed by the name of the Grantor.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Each page is in alphabetical order.
Newspapers
I have included a chart to help you determine the newspapers that are available for any certain time period. (Check Blue Binder for update of newspapers that are on microfilm in the library.)

When you are looking up an obituary or other event, take time to check all the newspapers for that date. One newspaper obituary may state the person was born in Ireland and another newspaper could say in the village of Bantry, County Cork.

Newspapers on Microfilm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Gazette 1811-1841 incomplete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Sun 1878 - 1910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Citizen 1936-1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loyalist 1842-1852 Daily Telegraph 1862 - 1923</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning News 1839 - 1862 Herald 1877-1878 Telegraph 1899-1904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening Times 1927 to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Freeman 1851 - 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Freeman 1900 - 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brunswick Courier 1811 - 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.John Morning Journal 1865-1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John Monitor 1904 - 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telegraph Journal 1923 to date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1785 - 1872 Royal Gazette 1785 - 1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.John Gazette 1784-1807</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John Daily News 1863-1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John Standard 1909-1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star 1820-1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint John Globe 1862 - 1875 1877 - 1927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Chronicle 1836-1859</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St.John Star 1901-1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watchman 1875-1877 Telegraph 1899-1904 Semi-wkly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are looking for a newspaper for Saint John, let us say for the year 1899. Look at the above table – 1890 column – then look down that column. You will see that for the year 1899 the following newspapers have been microfilmed:

1) Daily Sun
2) Daily Telegraphy
3) Royal Gazette
4) St. John Globe
** Place Names Can be Confusing**

I tell this story quite often, so I will repeat it again. When my husband and I first started researching the Cusack Family, we knew just about zero on background information, we knew that some of the family lived in the States. We became very excited when we found a marriage stated Elizabeth Moran of Portland married George Cusack. I copied the marriage in my note book and very carefully inserted after Portland the letters USA, as everybody knows that Portland is in the States. We were very pleased because we now knew the family connection to the States – My husband’s Grandmother lived there! But how come so many other relatives all lived in Portland, USA? After much puzzling, we finally stumbled across the information that Portland was the town that bordered Saint John, and had been a part of Saint John for about a hundred years. If we had looked at the Roe & Colby Atlas, we would have been much more knowledgeable.

The other incident that stands out in my mind was the obituary of Margaret Moran. We knew little about her, except that some of her children stayed in Saint John while others went to the States. The obituary or Death Notice was very short and stated she had died in South Bay. I copied this information and very carefully added after South Bay the words New Brunswick. Everybody knows that South Bay is just outside of Saint John. We were puzzled as to what member of the family she might have been living with. Many years later we found out that she had died in South Bay, Boston. If you insert your interpretation make a note of it.

Some others to watch out for:

Carleton – West side of Saint John.


Pisarinco – Lorneville.

Marsh Road – Rothesay Avenue.

Botsford Mill Road – Loch Lomond Road to Silver Falls.

Rural Cemetery – Fernhill Cemetery.

Old Catholic Cemetery – St. Mary’s Cemetery.


** Church Records**

Look in the Blue Binder for the Church records that are available on microfilm in the Reference Center. Because the Roman Catholic Church Records are housed in the Archives of the Diocese of Saint John, I will deal with those records in detail in the following pages.

**Catholic Church Records**

Dioceses of Saint John – Archives

One Bayard Drive
I wish to thank Mary McDevitt, Archivist of the Diocese of Saint John, for the following summary of the Available Resources of the Archives of the Diocese of Saint John.

**Church Records on microfilm:**

**Saint John County**

1. **St. Malachy’s Church, Saint John 1814 – 1855**
   St. Malachy’s was the first Catholic church in the Saint John area. It was built in 1814, and with numerous additions and alterations, served the Catholics of Great Saint John until the Cathedral was built in 1855. With the opening of the Cathedral on Christmas Day 1855, the old St. Malachy’s chapel was used as a school and meeting hall. It burnt on the day of the Saint John fire, in June 1877. The present-day St. Malachy’s Memorial High School stands on the site of the old church.

   The records for St. Malachy’s are complete except for the period from late 1819 to mid 1821, and, for the most part, are in good condition.

2. **Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Saint John 1856 – 1889**
   The Cathedral was constructed in 1855 and is still the Seat of the Bishop of the Diocese of Saint John. The records from 1855 up to the end of 1899 are complete and in very good condition. Diocesan policy is that post-1900 records of baptism and marriage are considered confidential, out of respect for the privacy of those who may still be living. (Inquiries about those records must be made directly to the church in which the ceremony took place.)

   The Cathedral records also contain the records of St. Peter’s Church in Portland, until 1884. The original St. Peter’s, a small wooden chapel, was a mission of the Cathedral and, previous to that, of St. Malachy’s. That is, it had no resident priest and no separate record book. In some, but not most, cases, the entry identifies the parties as being members of St. Peter’s. In 1884, with the construction of the present-day church, St. Peter’s kept separate records.

3. **St. Peter’s Church Portland. North End of Saint John 1884 – 1899**
   The records for this period are complete and in good condition.

4. **Cathedral Missions:**
   Golden Grove, Kennebecasis and Musquash – St. Patrick’s, St. Bridget’s and St. Elizabeth’s, respectively. 1857 – 1870

   The records of these three missions of the Cathedral were kept in a separate book for this thirteen year period. They are in excellent condition, with no missing months.

5. **Church of the Assumption, West Saint John 1849 -1899.**
These records are complete for the period noted. They are not as readable as the Cathedral records, but this is a function of small, indistinct handwriting, not of missing pages or parts of pages. These records appear to encompass residents of many of the outlying regions of the western part of the harbour and coast.

6. **St. Rose of Lima, West Saint John, the Milford Area. 1886 – 1899**
   This church was a mission of the Assumption from its construction in 1879 up to 1886, when they began to keep separate records.

7. **St. John the Baptist, South End Saint John 1889 – 1899**
   This church was a mission of the Cathedral from its construction in 1884 up to 1889, when they began to keep records.

8. **Holy Trinity Church, Valley area of Saint John 1892 – 1899**

9. **St. Joachim’s Church, Silver Falls, East Saint John 1880 – 1899**

10. **St. William’s Church, St. Martins 1847-1899**
   This church served quite a wide area and has as mission churches; St. Luke’s, Upham, St. Mary’s, Black River, and St. Catherine of Sienna, Saddleback. These records are complete for the period noted and most are in good condition.

**Other Material for Saint John County**

Along with the aforementioned church records, the Archives also contain the following;

1. An indexed guide to obituaries in the New Freeman, from 1900 to present day.
3. Burial permits for the City of Saint John 1889 – 1919
4. Records of interment for;
   - St. Mary’s Cemetery.
   - St. Joseph’s Cemetery.
   - Old St. Peter’s Cemetery.
   - Indiantown Cemetery.
   - Holy Cross Cemetery.
   - Assumption Cemetery.

These records are not as complete as the baptismal and marriage records. Most have been compiled by staff of the archives using other sources as aids.

5. Lot-owner’s cards for St. Joseph’s, St. Mary’s and Holy Cross cemeteries.
6. Tombstone inscriptions form the Catholic cemeteries in the area, as well as many cemeteries in other parts of the Diocese.
7. Mater Misericordiae Home Records (Saint John)
8. Various Family Histories
9. Brief Biographical files on priests who have served in the Diocese
10. Many of these records have been transcribed and reconstructed into family groups. They have been cross referenced according to the woman’s name and cross-checked with available burial and census records. This is an ongoing project.

**Kings County**


The St. Francis Xavier Church in Sussex served the whole Sussex area and had as mission churches; Norton, Ward’s Creek, Dutch Valley and White’s Mountain. Before places like Norton got a resident priest and started keeping separate records, they were served by priests from St. Francis Xavier, and records were all kept in one central location. The second volume was, most unfortunately, lost in a fire. Hence, the twenty year gap in the records. This loss preceded the dawn of microfilming and so these 1851-1871 baptismal and marriage records are lost – except for those that were recorded in the civil records.

Queens County
St. Joseph’s Church, Chipman 1863-1899.

Charlotte County
1. St. Andrew’s Church, St. Andrews 1827 – 1899.
   St. Andrew’s is the sight of one of the oldest Catholic Churches in the province. The records are complete for the period noted but require the patience of Job to read for any length of time. Some areas are better than others.
   2. St. George’s Church, St. George 1886 – 1899.
   The records of St. Stephen’s Church in Milltown are in better condition than those early records of St. Andrew’s. Like the St. Andrew’s records, they contain a few scattered references to Maine residents.
   5. These four Charlotte County churches were quite far-ranging, the early churches in St. Andrews and Milltown particularly so. Placed like Flume Ridge and Rolling Dam were missions.

Sunbury County

York County
1. St. Dunstan’s, Fredericton 1827 – 1870.
Some gaps in these records – 1832 to 1836 are missing. The original records are in Fredericton but apparently the period 1832 – 1835 was missed by the microfilmers. Fredericton also has 1825-1826. These years were not filmed either.

Carleton County
St. Gertrude’s served quite a large area, being the only Catholic Church in the area for a time. The early records, 1842 to 1850, are barely legible. The remaining ones are better.

Northumberland County
4. St. Bridget’s, Renous 1853 – 1971
5. St. Patrick’s, Nelson-Miramichi 1826 – 1858

The Miramichi Records are much more complete in the Miramichi parishes themselves. St. Michael’s Museum Association in Chatham may be particularly helpful.

The above list of material is available at the Archives of the Diocese of Saint John

It is necessary to make an appointment to visit the Archives of the Diocese of Saint John at one Bayard Drive, Saint John E2L 3L5.
If you write to request information, you can expect to pay for this research work.

The records that the staff of the Archives of the Diocese of Saint John have transcribed and arranged in Family Groups have been a great help to me and have saved me hours and hours of searching.

Books
I’m giving names of some of the books that I often use in doing research:

Index to the Death Roll of the St. John Globe 1897 – 1926.
Ruby M. Cusack
In a January issue of the St. John Globe, from 1897-1927, with the exception of 1915, a DEATH ROLL of about 500 names of some residents and former residents who had died during the previous year would be published. It gave the date of each death and in some cases the age of the deceased. If you find the name you are searching for in the list then go to the microfilm of all newspapers of that time period and search for an obituary.

The Burial Records of the Church of England Cemetery.
Saint John, NB Lennox W. Bagnell

Saint John, NB Graeme F. Somerville

The Old Cedar Hill Cemetery and Carleton Burial Ground of Saint John West, N.B.
Daniel Johnson

The Cedar Hill Extension Cemetery, Saint John
Daniel Johnson

We Hardly Knew Ye: St. Mary’s Cemetery, Saint John.
Mary Kilfoil McDevitt

Passengers to New Brunswick: The Custom House Records 1833, 1834, 1837, 1838.

Together in Exile.
Peter Murphy
Families that came from Carlingford, County Louth, Ireland and settled in the South End of Saint John.

The Loyalists of New Brunswick.
Esther Clark Wright
Vital Statistics from new Brunswick Newspapers.
Daniel Johnson

Provincial and City Directories.

Indexes to Scrap Books.

Index to the Saint John County Probate Court Case Files.
1785-1910 (1960)

Roe & Colby Atlas of Saint John County 1875.


Geographical Names of New Brunswick.
Alan Rayburn

Researching Your Ancestors in New Brunswick.
Robert Fellows

Early Loyalist Saint John.
D.G. Bell

Early New Brunswick Probate Records 1785 – 1835.
R.W. Hale


Other Helpful Sources
I have found the following sources very helpful when I have been doing research at the Saint John Free Public Library.

CB Files – Family History

They are in the big blue Chest-like cabinet, before you reach the microfilm readers. The material is mainly photocopies from newspapers and articles that have been donated by folks that are doing or have done work on family research. You never know what gems of information you will find!

Biographical Data Relating to N.B. Families
D.R. Jack
This material, collected by D.R Jack, is on microfilm and has been a great help to me.

Journals of the House of Assembly of the Province of N.B.
If you have some free time before you leave the Library, take a stroll down past the microfilm readers – way back – to the other side of the last set of shelves. Here are the Journals of the house of Assembly of the province of New Brunswick. Take one out and browse through it. The information you can find reminds one of opening presents on Christmas Morning: you may not find anything that is of any use to you, but you may find something you have always been looking for.

Genealogical Society
Saint John Branch
The Genealogical Society welcomes anyone who is interested in doing Family Research to attend their meetings. I have found that I have gained a great deal of research information not only from the programmes but in conversation with others over a cup of tea at the end of the meeting. The meetings are usually held in the Lion's Den at the Loch Lomond Villa, Loch Lomond road on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 P.M. Occasionally field trips are taken elsewhere. Visit the Saint John Branch website at www.nbgssj.ca

Other Institutions with Family History Material of Saint John
Family History Center of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Saint John

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, Fredericton

Catholic Archives of the Diocese of Saint John, 1 Bayard Drive (Appointment necessary)


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 8, 2007</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>Updated. 10,875 births have been added for the years 1911-1912.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 17, 2007</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>Updated - 1956-1957 Marriages Added (9,637 records). This index includes marriages from 1882-1956. The index was compiled from the records of Vital Statistics in RS141 located at PANB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 13, 2006</td>
<td>Daniel F. Johnson's New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics</td>
<td>The Database of Vital Statistics from New Brunswick Newspapers, based on over twenty-three years of work by Danny Johnson, is an extraordinary contribution to genealogical, biographical, demographic and historical research.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28, 2006</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>Births - RS141A1b only: 1911 (3,406 records)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2006</td>
<td>Archival Portfolio</td>
<td>1300 documents from various PANB collections intended primarily for Grade 3 and 4 students.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 19, 2006</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>Births - RS141A1b only: 1910 (3,315 records)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 3, 2006</td>
<td>County Guides</td>
<td>The County Genealogical Guides have been updated. The '2006' versions are now available for download.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27, 2006</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>Births - RS141A5 only: Digitized images of the original are available for 1909. (5,290 images)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6, 2006</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>3,419 deaths for Madawaska County 1909-1919</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 23, 2005</td>
<td>RS141 Vital Stats</td>
<td>1,000 deaths for Sunbury County 1888-1919</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I hope this information is of help in your search for ancestors in Saint John, New Brunswick.

Ruby M. Cusack

Email: rmcusack@nbnet.nb.ca

**Searching**

Tracing your roots
Through the pages of life,
Who was your forefather?
Who was his wife?

Go to the Library
And there on the shelf
Find a part of your family
A part of yourself.

This book will help you
To sort it out, you see.
It will help answer your questions
As you do your family tree.

Grace MacCollum