

Back cover

This book provides genealogical information on four categories of individuals: Jews by religion, Jews by ethnic origin, Jews by descent and non-Jewish family members. Jews by religion refers to individuals who are recorded in the religion column as Jewish. Jews by ethnic origin refer to individuals who are recorded in the origin column as Jewish and in the religion column as being of a Christian denomination. They are listed in the notes and the ethnic Jews section of the wards. Jews by descent refers to individuals who are not recorded as being Jewish by either religion or ethnic origin. They are generally the children of Christian–Jewish marriages and are listed in the notes. Non-Jewish family members refers to individuals who are not of Jewish origin but who reside in a household where a person of Jewish origin is present. Often this is the non-Jewish partner in a Christian–Jewish marriage. They are also listed in the notes.

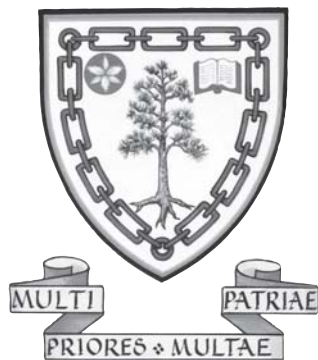
Surnames and given names are reproduced *exactly* as they appear in the census. They are often written unclearly. Names for the same family are often spelled differently from one census to another. Spelling frequently varies from today’s standardized spelling of places and professions. As well as the usual places of origin, such as Russia and Poland, these people came from everywhere from Denmark to Trinidad to Palestine. They engaged in occupations as diverse as junk dealer, farmer or cigar maker. They were hotel owners, blacksmiths, jewellers, peddlers and rabbis.

The Index of Jews Resident in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island lists the hundreds of individuals of Jewish origin living in villages, towns, cities and rural areas between 1871 and 1901 as found within the available censuses of that period. It contains genealogical information drawn from the census schedules on each individual as well as ward, subdivision and page references for locating a particular individual within the Census of Canada microfilm reels.

Of particular interest are the dozens of residents of Lunenburg District with the very “Jewish” surname of Levy (in all its spelling variations) who are all adherents of Christian denominations. Using the existing records the author speculates about who might have been their ancestor(s).

The nominal index gathers similar spellings to aid the researcher, and the place-name index helps determine location. The information contained in this book provides the researcher with all the genealogical and social information necessary to research a particular individual or to research the social characteristics of the development of the Jewish community in the Maritime provinces.

Glenn Eker has masters degrees from McMaster University, the University of Western Ontario and the University of Waterloo. He has worked as a genealogical/estate researcher for the Office of the Public Guardian and Trustee, Province of Ontario. He initially began compiling an index of the 1901 census of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, in order to locate relatives. His interest in Jewish genealogy and history led him to continue the work within the rest of Canada.



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front cover

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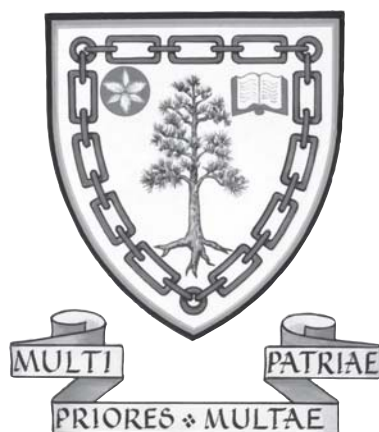
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Clara Elzer



Index of Jews Resident in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island According to the 1861 to 1901 Censuses of Canada

Glen Eker



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Cover photo: Three members of the Maginet family of Glace Bay as found on page 24. Reproduced with permission of their great grandchildren.

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Census Search Information

The history of Jewish settlement in Nova Scotia began in the 1740s with the arrival of numerous Jewish merchants and traders from Quebec, the United States and Europe. Most of these new arrivals settled in Halifax. By the 1750s there was an established Jewish community in Halifax. Many of these new arrivals later left the province to seek business opportunities elsewhere while others assimilated into the local population.

This book provides genealogical information on four categories of individuals: 1) Jews by religion, 2) Jews by ethnic origin, 3) Jews by descent and 4) non-Jewish family members. “Jews by religion” refers to those individuals who are recorded in the census religion column as being Jewish. They are listed alphabetically by ward. Some additional names are however listed in non-alphabetical order at the end of some wards. In some cases surnames were totally illegible. The information that was legible on these individuals is also listed at the end of some wards.

“Jews by ethnic origin” refers to those individuals who are recorded in the census origin column as being Jewish and in the census religion column as being of a Christian denomination. They are listed in the notes section and the ethnic Jews section of the wards. “Jews by descent” refers to individuals who are not recorded as being Jewish by either religion or ethnic origin. They are generally individuals who are the children of Christian–Jewish marriages. They are listed in the notes section of the wards. “Non-Jewish family members” refers to individuals who are not of Jewish origin but who reside in a household where a person of Jewish origin is present. Often this is the non-Jewish partner in a Christian–Jewish marriage. They are listed in the notes section of the wards.

Surnames and given names are reproduced exactly as they appear in the census. They are often unclearly written so it is important to examine any variations of a name when looking for a particular individual. Names for the same family are often written differently from one census to another. Therefore it is important to examine any variations of a name when looking for a particular individual. A question mark [?] in a listing indicates that the information in that particular place was totally illegible in the census schedules and could not be reproduced.

Little is known about Jewish settlement outside of Halifax during these early years. Jewish settlement, however, seems to have occurred in Lunenburg district during this period. It has been suggested that a Dutch Jewish immigrant named Nathan Levy became a Lutheran in 1752 and settled in Lunenburg where his descendants still reside today. It has also been suggested that Tancook Island was settled in 1796 by several Dutch Jewish families named Levy. These families quickly assimilated into the dominant non-Jewish population and many of those whose family name is Levy are descended from these early settlers.

Another suggestion is that most of those whose surname is Levy are descended from Nathaniel Levy who was in Halifax by 1759. Apparently after his first wife died in 1771 he moved to Chester where in 1773 he married Susannah Tufts. They had four children before he died in 1787 at Chester. One of his

sons, Gershom, married Catherine Barbara Graves in 1796. They had three sons before he died in 1801 at Chester. Two of his sons, David born 1797 and Nathan born 1798, settled on Tancook Island during the early nineteenth century. It has been suggested that Nathaniel Levy was the son of Nathan Levy, a Jewish merchant who was in Philadelphia in 1746. He may have been in Nova Scotia to oversee the interests of the firm of Levy and Frank of Philadelphia, one of the firms that provided Nova Scotia with supplies and credit.

This index therefore includes all individuals having the surname Levy found in the 1861–1901 censuses of Lunenburg district, Nova Scotia. The religion of these individuals is recorded as Baptist, Church of England or Methodist. The origin of these individuals is recorded as either German or Jewish. English, French, Irish and Welsh are recorded as the origin of some women whose maiden name is not Levy but who are married to men whose surname is Levy. Scotch is recorded as the origin of the husband and children of a woman whose birth name is Levy but who is married to a man whose surname is not Levy. Those whose single or married surname is Levy are the individuals who are clearly identifiable as being of Jewish origin in the census.

The 1901 Census of Tancook Island, Lunenburg District, Nova Scotia, has not been included in this index because the census schedules providing names and genealogical information was not microfilmed by Statistics Canada. These census schedules were lost.

1911, 1921, 1931 and 1941 Censuses of Lunenburg District, Nova Scotia

The census schedules for censuses after 1901 are not available for research. The census summary tables showing population statistics for censuses after 1901 are available for research. These tables provide statistics for Jews by religion and Jews by origin. A search of Chester, New Ross and Tancook Island may reveal further Levy family descendants if these individuals listed their origin as Jewish. This is shown in the following tables.

	Town	Religion	Origin	Total Population
<i>1911 Census</i>	New Ross	0	16	1372
	Tancook Island	0	101	733
<i>1921 Census</i>	Chester Basin	0	1	547
	Chester East	0	14	874
	New Ross East	0	27	859
	Tancook Island	0	103	650
<i>1931 Census</i>	Chester East	0	1	991
	Chester West	0	1	980
	Tancook Island	0	79	561
<i>1941 Census</i>	New Ross East	0	36	974
	Tancook Island	0	1	543

The relevant Census of Canada microfilm reels are: 1871 Census of Canada Microfilm Reel C-10550, 1881 Census of Canada Microfilm Reels C-13169 and C-13170, 1891 Census of Canada Microfilm Reels T-6318 and T-6319, 1901 Census of Canada Microfilm Reel T-6454.