

Parish Record Finding Aid for Bay d'Espoir families

If you are looking for vital records (birth/marriage/death) for a family member in the Bay d'Espoir area there are a few options to find them.

Before 1830

Most records for this period were lost except for St. Pierre records which go back as far as 1765. Some reference to the Native families in Bay d'Espoir are made in these records. They can be found at the archives in St. Pierre and maybe copies at The Rooms.

1830 - 1860

Most of the inhabitants of Bay D'Espoir, during this period, were only there during the winter months (aka winter house residents) with their permanent residences at the mouth of Fortune Bay. Twice a year priests from St. Patrick's in Burin would make the trip along the south coast visiting communities which had Catholic residents. These communities included Hr Breton, Gaultois, Great Jervis, Fox Island, Conne River, Stanley's Cove etc. These records can be found at St. Patricks Parish in Burin, the Rooms and the Archdiocesan Archives in St. John's.

1860 - 1890

Priests from St. Jacques would visit the Bay D'Espoir area as permanent residents were starting to settle there by now. These records are found at the Archdiocese archives in St. John's. Sacred Heart Parish, St. Bernards holds the original records. There are some missing years.

1891 - 1943

It is believed that parish records from the years 1891-1916 were burned. If the person you are seeking was born prior to 1921 he/she can be found in the 1921 Census which is transcribed and can be found online at <http://ngb.chebucto.org/C1921/121-for-idx> The 1921 census lists the month & year of births of persons plus those in his/her household. In addition to the online census. The original microfilms can be found at The Rooms.

Microfilms of government vital statistics for the years 1891-1943 are available for public viewing at the Rooms. The transcribed version of these records can also be found online on the Newfoundland

Grand Banks website (see "post 1891 registration records" for Fortune Bay entries at <http://ngb.chebucto.org/Vstats/1vstats-fb-idx.shtml>). NOTE : Government releases more years as privacy restrictions are lifted.

1916 - Present

St. Ignatius Parish was started in 1916, and from then on, records have been kept at the parish office. Copies can also be found at the Diocesan Archives in Grand Falls and the Archdiocesan Archives in St. John's. Because of confidentiality, these records are **NOT** for public viewing but parish and archive staff will do searches for you.

NOTE: there may be a small fee or request for donation since search for records can be labour intensive and require staff to devote a lot of time to it.

Addresses/links

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. John's - Archives & Research
<https://rcsj.org/archives-research>

information on baptismal and marriage records or to arrange an appointment please contact the Archivist: Msgr. Francis Puddister; Tel: (709) 726-3660 | ext 249; Email: fpuddister@rcsj.org

Archives & Research Office - Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday - 10:00am - Noon ; 1:00 pm - 4:00pm; Closed for Lunch 12:00 noon - 1:00pm

St. Patrick's Parish ; P.O. Box 247;
Burin, NL; A0E 1E0P 709-891-1730 ;
F709-891-2233; stpatricks@spsb.ca

Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Falls - Archives
<http://www.rcdiocesegrandfalls.ca/Archives.html>

Sacred Heart Parish, St. Bernards
<https://rcsj.org/stores/sacred-heart-parish-st-bernards>
email: rparishhouse@gmail.com

The Rooms - Archives

<https://www.therooms.ca/collections-research/genealogy-research> Tel: (709) 757-8030 or Email archives@therooms.ca