

Genealogy Basics – Changes in the Ancestry and FamilySearch Software for the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database

By Joe Petrie

INTRODUCTION

This article resulted from input provided by an O'Brien cousin. Our O'Brien roots go back to the early 1800s in Bridgeport, Cape Breton, Our Boutilier roots go back to Halifax in 1750 and to Lunenburg in 1752.

In cbgen/Records/Families, I have documented all of my Cape Breton Families. Most of the O'Brien and Boutilier records came from the late Charles "Chick" Buchanan and the late John Howie.

My cousin provided information on one family that was incomplete. In my database, I had a family of 5 for Patrick Walsh and Hester "Sis" O'Brien. Actually, there were 3 families. Patrick was a widower with 4 living children when he married Sis O'Brien Cathcart, the widow of James "Barnie" Cathcart, who had 2 children with Barnie. Patrick and Sis Walsh had 2 children of their own.

BACKGROUND

Cousins send me information on Family members that I had not recorded or had missing vitals. Before I add new records or change my records, I validate the proposed changes.

Validation can be time-consuming. Essentially, I usually search for Genealogy Vitals (Dates and Places of Birth, Christening, Marriage, Death and Burial) for individuals who lived in Cape Breton. Often, I have the following databases open:

- Ancestry Library for any event.
- FamilySearch for Census information and the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database (1823 – 1905).
- Novascotiagenealogy.com (for Births, Marriages and Deaths). Some records identify the cemetery.
- Automated Genealogy Index, Census of Canada for 1901, for 1911, and for 1921.

This article focuses on the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database in Ancestry and in FamilySearch.

ANCESTRY LIBRARY'S ANTIGONISH CATHOLIC DIOCESE DATABASE.

Supposedly, it is the mirror image of the FamilySearch database. Unfortunately, there aren't any images in the Ancestry version.

I love to read the images. For new records, seeing images is essential. Many priests record a birthday. Almost all Baptism registers usually identify the godparents.

In addition, for a prior article, I found a link to a baptism record for my mother in the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database. Mom's baptism record was finally discovered in the 1920s when she applied for a birth certificate before she migrated to Massachusetts. It was never transcribed or digitized for the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database. Errors are rare in Ancestry.

FAMILYSEARCH'S ANTIGONISH CATHOLIC DIOCESE DATABASE.

Previously, to access the Antigonish Catholic Diocese database, I went to the following FamilySearch site: [Histfam.familysearch.org](https://histfam.familysearch.org). I selected: [Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese, 1823-1905](#)

FamilySearch has added the database to the Catalog. I search Antigonish to access the database.

All records have the images. For my uncle Eddie (Charles Edward) Petrie, I learned from the image that his Cummings grandmother and her third husband were his sponsors.

When I developed software for the government, I provided test plans to ensure a bug free database. I provided six software installations a year. I had to ensure that the database was not damaged from the installation.

On the following screen print page there are 4 damaged O'Brien records. Focus on the Surnames for all but the second record. O" is not acceptable in the names for the other 4.

In addition, I wonder whether there are more damaged records for any surname beginning with "O" "

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the FamilySearch website. The search results are for 'Agnes O'Brien' with a birth place of 'Bridgeport, NS, Canada' and a spouse name of 'Richard Petrie'. The results table shows four records, each with a name containing a quote character (e.g., 'Agnes O"Brien'). The records list various relationships and children.

Name	Events	Relationships	View
Agnes O" Brien Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese, 1823-1905		spouse: Richard Petrie children: Annie Bell Petrie	[Icons]
Agnes O'Brien Nova Scotia Deaths, 1890-1955		spouse: Richard Petrie children: Mary Petrie	[Icons]
Agnes O" Brien Nova Scotia Deaths, 1890-1955		spouse: Richard Petrie children: Richard Petrie other: Mary Curran	[Icons]
Agnes O" Brien Nova Scotia Deaths, 1890-1955		spouse: Richard Petrie children: Helen MacLellan other: J E MacLellan	[Icons]
Agnes O" Brien Nova Scotia Deaths, 1890-1955		spouse: Richard Petrie children: Veronica Warburton other: James Warburton	[Icons]

SUMMARY

I use the FamilySearch database because it has access to the images.

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Your corrections, comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please Email me at:

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Please note that Friends of Irish Research is the repository for my published genealogy articles in the *Newfoundland Ancestor*; and in *EZINE*, the electronic magazine of the Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association. (Please see friendsofirisresearch.org specifically: the Tabs for Publications and Joe's Free Web Sites.) Also, please note that I am the author of the Genealogy Basics Series.

Membership in Ireland Reaching Out (irelandxo.com) is free. It has an Electronic Magazine named XO Chronicles (irelandxo.com/irelandxo/history-and-genealogy). One of the three XO Chronicles Series is XO People. XO People focus on the Irish Diaspora (people who immigrated and never returned permanently). XO People has seven of my XO People articles about ancestors. My relatives are: John Cummings (Thurles Parish, Tipperary, Newfoundland and Lingan, Cape Breton Island); Patrick Tobin (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland); and Judith Keeffe (Gowran Parish, Kilkenny and Newfoundland). My wife's relatives are; John McGrath (Ballyphilip, Kilcockan, Kockanore, Waterford and Massachusetts); Helena O'Brien (Fermoy, Youghal, Cork, Boston); Peter Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston) and Mary A (Nee) Connolly (Kilcummin, Galway, Boston).