Researching Cape Breton Genealogy

By
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Founding Member, Friends of Irish
Research

My Resume

- My parents were born in Cape Breton. They met, married, died and are buried in Boston.
- My first vacation was to Dominion, Cape Breton in 1939.
- I am a dual citizen. Dad, who was born in Bridgeport and educated in Dominion, had not become a US citizen until the 1940s. He supposedly registered my birth in 1939.
- I am retired and spend my free time volunteering as a genealogist mostly at or for:
 - Friends of Irish Research doing individual consults and seminars
 - Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association writing research articles. My articles are also on www.friendsofirishresearch.org on Joe's Free Links and Publications.
 - Morrill Memorial Library in Norwood MA doing individual consults and seminars. The next set of consults has been scheduled for October. Reservations are required. Phone # is 781-769-0200 X110.
- I am a member of other genealogy societies including the Association of Professional Genealogists, specializing in Research. I do not accept clients.

Strong Points about Cape Breton Research

- Most researchers start with Census Records. From 1871 to 1921, there are 6 Canadian Nominal Censuses that can be researched. (Coverage is about 2+ generations.) There are 2 head of Household Censuses, 1851 and 1861. Three of the Censuses (1851, 1901 and 1911) are also available on the Automated Genealogy web site which allows feedback from users. (They corrected my father's given name for 1911.) For some Censuses Searches (like 1921), I sometimes use Ancestry Library, a free site but not 24/7.
- Researchers use Official Published Vital Records: Birth (B), Christening,
 Marriage (M), Death (D), Obituaries and Wills. There are sources for all;
 especially, novascotiagenealogy.com for Births (currently at 1914), Marriages
 (currently at 1939), and Deaths (currently at 1959).
- For people living in Cape Breton, there are at least 3 Genealogy Libraries: Family History, Beaton Institute at Cape Breton University and Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association (CBGHA). Years ago, I did a lot of research at the Beaton Institute. (I have not left the country since 9/11 we were at Logan when they closed Logan.)
- For the rest of us, there is the New England Historic Genealogical Society (I am a member) and multiple Family History Libraries (I use Franklin MA).

Web Sites that I will cover to help you to collect Cape Breton Vitals

- Automated Census of Canada. http://Automatedgenealogy.com. I use 3 of their Censuses (1851, 1901 and 1911). I'll show you the Censuses of 1911. I copied many records including my grandfather's records and pasted them into my software's genealogy notes. They changed my Dad's Given Name from "?" to Leo. The 1911 Surname will be Peterie forever.
- Nova Scotia Genealogy Start Page https://novascotiagenealogy.com. Nova Scotia Births are supposedly at 1914. Marriages are supposedly at 1939. Deaths are supposedly at 1960. You'll see a fragment of my Grandfather's Death record.
- FamilySearch, Antigonish Catholic Diocese, 1823-1905. https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list The records are mostly Christening and Marriage records from 32 Cape Breton Island Catholic Parishes. (Images of the records are generally available to registered FamilySearch users.) I'll show you my Uncle Eddie Petrie's Baptism Register Record from Immaculate Conception Parish, Bridgeport.
- CBGHA's subscription web site, www.cbgen.org. There is an enormous collection of material. I love the Obituary and the Gravestone photos. I'll show you my aunt Hazel's gravestone which had her date of death on it. (She died in 1932 in Massachusetts but only the Massachusetts Death Index by Year is available online.) Please note that the date of birth on the cbgen.org's cemetery record is later than the date that she was christened.

Other Web Sites that I wish that I had time to cover

- Nova Scotia Genealogy Records Online.
 Http://www.genealogysearch.org/canada/novascotia.html
 This is a portal site with lots of links to Cape Breton web sites. Ed Galvin's and Jeanne Joyce Stone's sites are fantastic. Both research Richmond County.
- Cape Breton Counties GenWeb Project.
 http://www.capebretongenweb.com
 This is also a portal site with links to many Cape Breton web sites. Robert J. Morgan, PhD, the late Director of the Beaton Institute at the University of Cape Breton compiled a Loyalist List which is on this site. I gathered some cemetery and obituary records from the site.

Background: My Notes for my Petrie Grandfather (1872 – 1948) page 1 of 2

- Web Site Sources: Automated Census of Canada 1901 and 1911; NovaScotiagenealogy.com; Ancestry Library, US Border Crossing Records
- The Automated Canadian Census of 1901 indicates a October 1872 birth date.

•	Petrie Edward	M	Head	M	Oct	1872
•	Petrie Hester	F	Wife	М	Jul 11	1879

- Birth information from Glace Bay indicated a 22 June 1872 birth date on his birth and death certificates' images on the NovaScotiaGenealogy web site.
- The Automated Census of Canada for 1911 shows a surname of Peterie.

•	Peterie Edward	M	Head	M	Jun	1873	37
•	Peterie Hester	F	Wife	M	Jul	1880	30
•	Peterie Edward	M	Son	S	Oct	1902	8
•	Peterie Hazel	F	Daughter	S	Dec	1903	7
•	Peterie Leo	M	Son	S	May	1906	5
•	Peterie Russell	M	Son	S	Apr	1909	2

- Note that for my Dad's record, I have registered and sent a given name change. Dad's Given Name was originally recorded "?". I also requested Peterie to Petrie surname changes for all the family members.
- On Russell's birth record for 12 April 1909, Grandfather is listed as a butcher.
- Ned at various times in his life was a miner, a meat cutter at the Dominion Co-op, a traveling grocer who sold meat off the back of his wagon, and a grocery store owner in Dominion until the store burnt in 1947.
- On his Death Certificate, my father (the informant) indicated that he was a retired miner for 18 years. I wonder if my grandfather worked in the Company store for 18 years and then retired. He really retired in 1947 at age 75 when his store burned down.

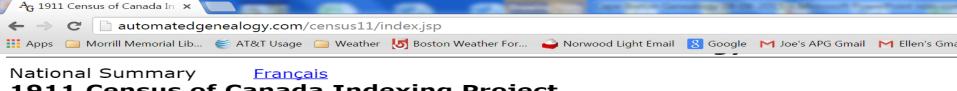
Background: My Notes for my Petrie Grandfather (1872 – 1948) screen 2

- To his siblings, he was the glue that kept them together after his parents died in the 1890s. He and his sister Mary, the two oldest of the 10 children, raised the others. He and grandmother continued to help Mary after their marriage.
- Because we lived 1500 miles away, we have few memories of grandfather. My brothers had memories from the 1939 trip when we stayed in Dominion most of the summer. We all had memories of our 1946 trip to Dominion when we stayed at our Aunt Dot's house next door to our grandparents. Grandfather took us to Glace Bay Harbor to see the fishing boats come in to sell the catch. We came back to Dominion brandishing swords that were cut from swordfish fish that we saw landed that day. We stashed them overnight next to the foundation of our grandparents house. We retrieved them each day for our mock battles. Dad would not let us pack them for the trip home! So they stayed there next to the foundation until grandmother complained about a "Ripe" smell under her window! Ah, grandfather found the "Ripe Swords" and gave them a suitable burial!
- As near as I can tell, he came to the US three times. He came to settle his grandmother's and mother's estates. He had to work with his O'Brien uncles in Lawrence Massachusetts and Danbury Connecticut.
- In March 1925, he came to visit Aunt Hazel before Ned moved grandmother, Russell, Roy and Dorothy to Boston in late April through June 1925. Uncle Eddie and Aunt Hazel had come earlier. Ned made the trip with my Dad.
- He visited us once to celebrate Dad's citizenship. We have photos of him at our house in Dedham and at a cousin's cottage in Wareham. He loved to chew "Apple Tobacco". One day, my brothers and I were dispatched to our neighborhood store to get a new supply. We went from store to store no one sold his brand! Thankfully, we brought back asubstitute he was delighted to see or hear us coming! I think that our mother was not a party to his decision that we make that trip.
- Dad called him "Father" a traditional French term probably a reflection of Dad's mother's Boutilier roots. We called him grandfather!
- Grandfather died of Pancreatic Cancer early in 1948. Grandmother died of Pancreatic Cancer later in 1948. Dad described the 1948 1949 as sad years. His parents and 3 uncles died in those years.

Automated Census of Canada Strengths of the Automated Census

- Given Names can be corrected, for example, Dad's Given Name was? on the original automated Census record. Now it is Leo.
- Now, the designers show an audit trail identifying who requested the correction. Good to know! It is often a relative.
- Until I read the 1911 page, I never knew that grandfather's sister Veronica (Petrie)
 Warburton's family lived next door.

Automated Census of Canada, 1911 Start Page



1911 Census of Canada Indexing Project

You are here: <u>Home</u> / **1911** <u>Sign on</u>

Want to volunteer? Please register.

7,584,298 lines transcribed so far! (100.01%)

Province	Lines	
<u>Alberta</u>	413,284	This is an index to every name
British Columbia	406,275	enumerated in the 1911 Census of
<u>Manitoba</u>	481,101	Canada with the personal data
New Brunswick	362,576	transcribed, links to images of the
Northwest	31,856	original census pages, and links to other records for individuals
<u>Territories</u>	31,830	including: census records from
Nova Scotia	508,524	other years, birth, marriage, death,
<u>Ontario</u>	2,642,677	and other records.
Prince Edward	98,103	
<u>Island</u>	50,105	Transcription, proof reading, and
<u>Quebec</u>	2,078,542	linking is done by volunteers and no
<u>Saskatchewan</u>	542,508	registration or payment is required
Yukon Territory	18,800	to view the index.

Images of the 1911 census forms are loaded directly from the <u>1911 Census</u> site at the <u>Canadian Genealogy Centre</u>, a program of <u>Library and Archives Canada</u>.









Automated Census of Canada, 1911 Search for Nova Scotia Peteries

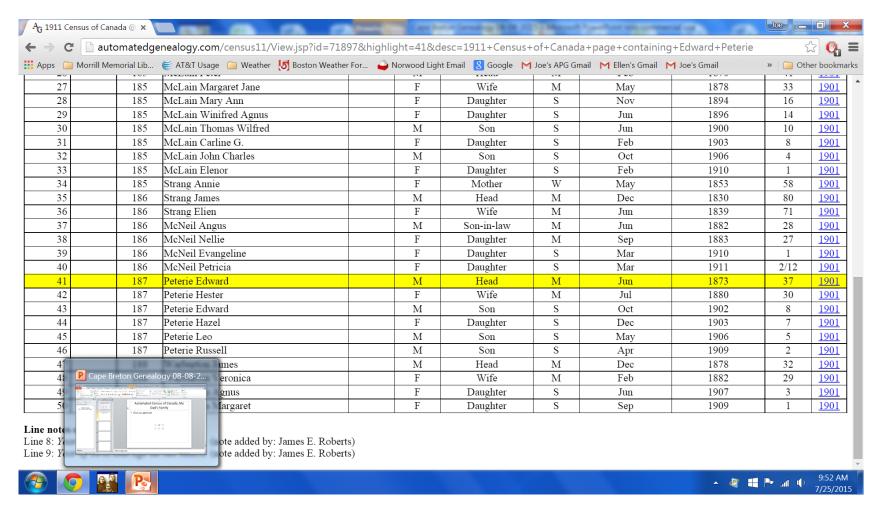
The Census-Taker spelled my Grandparent's Petrie Surname as Peterie – so I am searching for Peterie.



Automated Census of Canada, 1911 6 of the 21 Peterie records shown below are for my grandparent's Petrie Family. See lines 41 – 46 on Page 22.



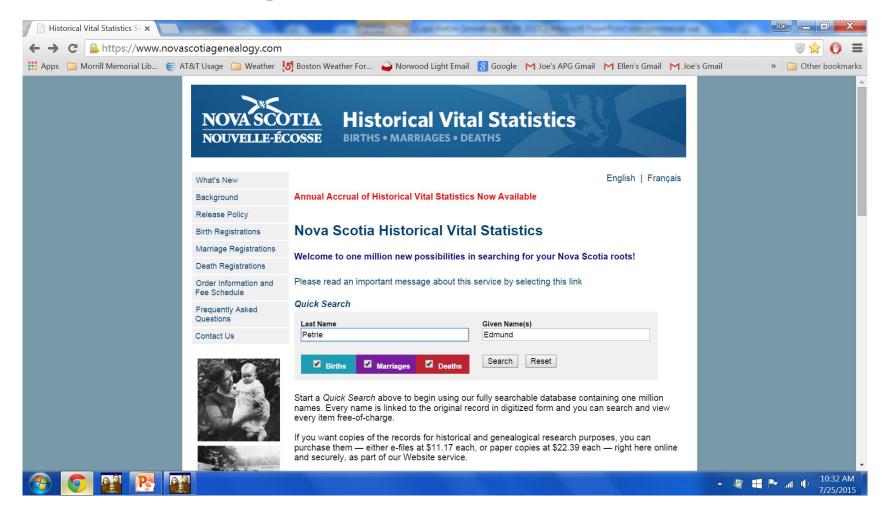
Automated Census of Canada, My Grandparents' Family on Page 22.



Novascotiagenealogy.com Birth, Marriages and Deaths

- Cape Breton's 4 counties are being indexed in one locale.
- It appears that Cape Breton counties records in this database currently end about 1959. Births at 1914 and Marriages at 1939 lag behind Deaths at 1959.
- To use the site, users must agree to attribute, i.e. to document whatever was gathered using the web site. Like other sites with official records, the web site suggests how gathered items are to be attributed.

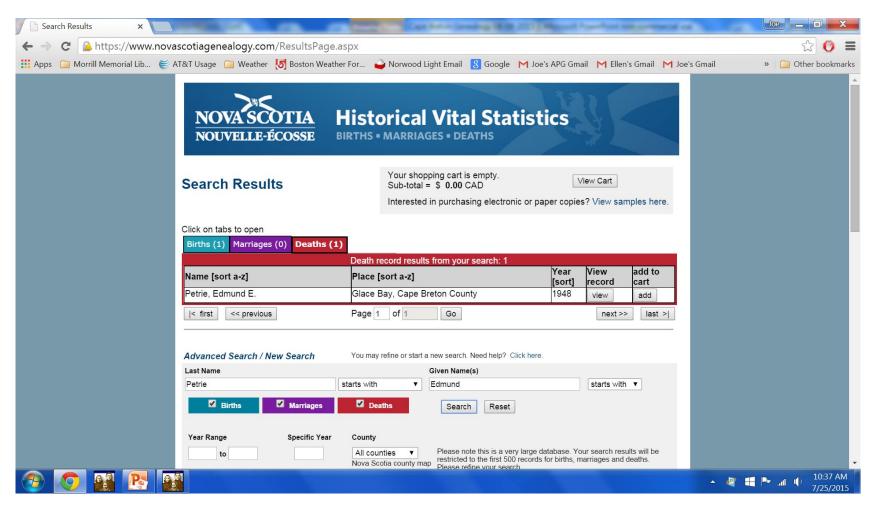
novascotiagenealogy.com Start Page Searching for Grandfather's Death



novascotiagenealogy.com Part of the Attribution Agreement



Novascotiagenealogy.com Search Results for my grandfather



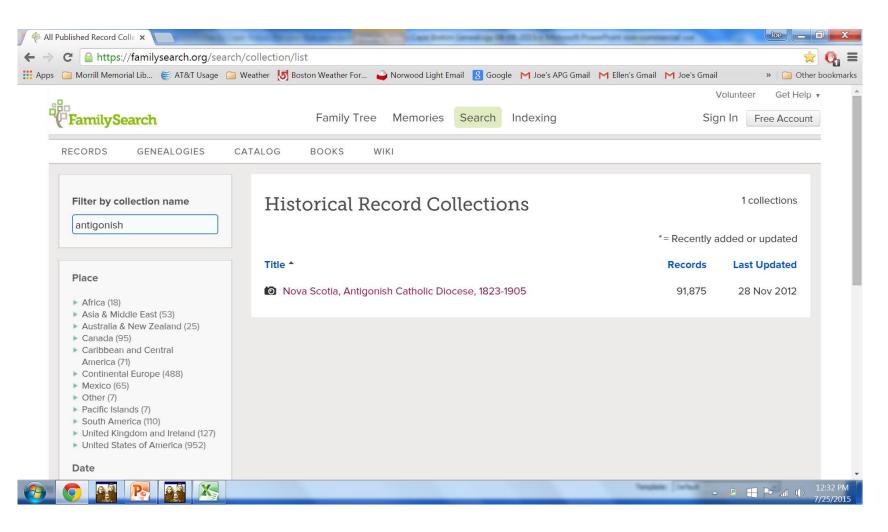
Novascotiagenealogy.com Death Record Image



FamilySearch, Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese – www.FamilySearch.org/search/collections/list/

- For Registered FamilySearch users, images are usually available. To register, click the Free Account on any page to Register. Select your own User-id and Password.
- I use FamilySearch.org/Search/Collections/List/ to search for the Nova Scotia Antigonish Catholic Diocese Historical Collection. I click on Sign In on any screen by clicking on the Sign In Button.
- In the Filter by Collection Name block on the left, I begin to type Antigonish and the software displays the Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese 1823 1905 database about 5 characters into my typing. The Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese 1823 1905 is a line on the frame to the right.
- I click anywhere on the Nova Scotia, Antigonish Catholic Diocese 1823 – 1905 line to get the search screen – to search by Given Name and Surname or only by Surname.

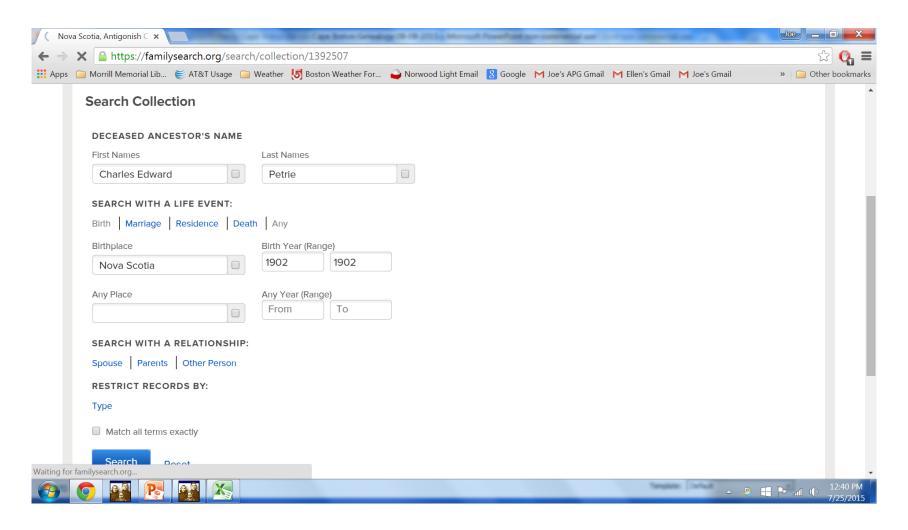
ResultsScreen FamilySearch.org/search/collections/list



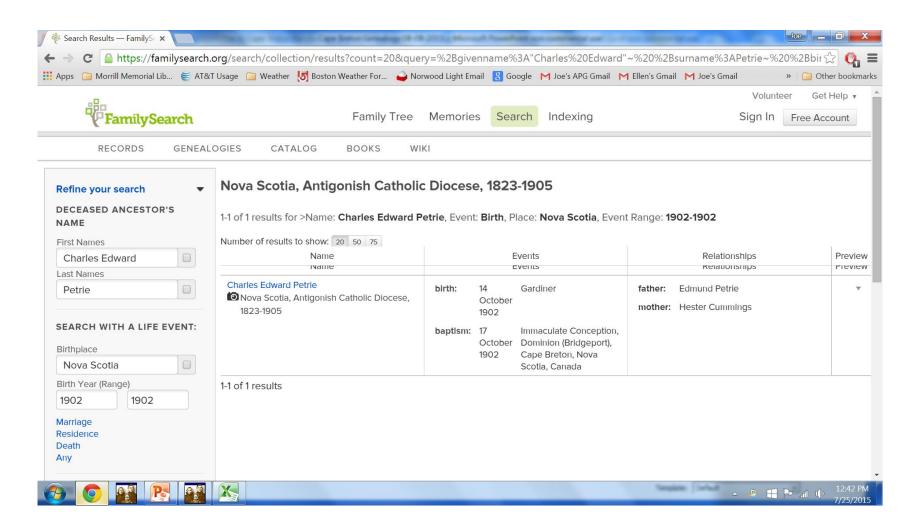
List of the Cape Breton Parishes that Provided Registers for the Database

County	Parish
Cape Breton	
Big Pond	St. Mary's
Boisdale	St. Andrew's
Bras D'or	St. Joseph's
Dominion (Bridgeport)	Immaculate Conception
Frenchvale	St. Mary's
Glace Bay	St. Anne
Glace Bay	St. Anthony's
Glace Bay	St. John the Baptist
Grand Mira	St. Margaret's
Main-à-Dieu	Immaculate Conception
New Waterford	St. Alphonsus (New Victoria)
New Waterford	St. Joseph's (Lingan)
North Sydney	St. Joseph's
Port Morien	St. Mary's & St. Gregory's
Reserve Mines	St. Joseph's
Sydney	Sacred Heart
Sydney Mines	Immaculate Conception
Inverness	
Broad Cove	St. Margaret of Scotland
Brook Village	St. John the Baptist
Creignish	Stella Maris
<u>Judique</u>	St. Andrew's
Mabou	St. Mary's
Port Hawkesbury	St. Joseph
Port Hood	St. Peter's
Richmond	
Glendale	St. Mary the Angel
<u>Johnstown</u>	Sacred Heart
<u>L'Ardoise</u>	Holy Guardian Angels
Lower River Inhabitants	St. Frances de Sales
River Bourgeois	St. John the Baptist
St. Peter's	St. Peter's
Victoria	_
<u>lona</u>	St. Barra (Boisdale)
lona	St. Columba

Antigonish Catholic Diocese Search Screen for Charles Edward Petrie



Antigonish Catholic Diocese Result for the Search of Charles Edward Petrie



Result of Clicking on the Charles Edward Petrie Link to see the transcription Note the Camera Icon on the Right

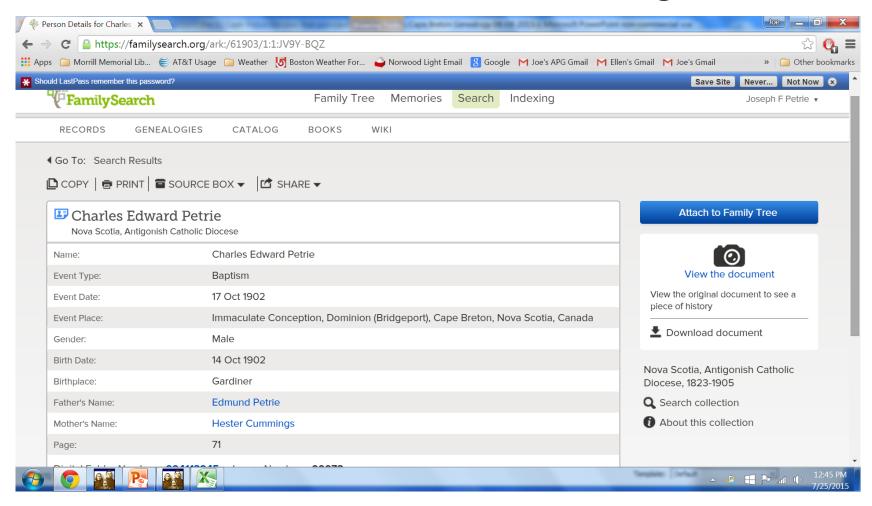
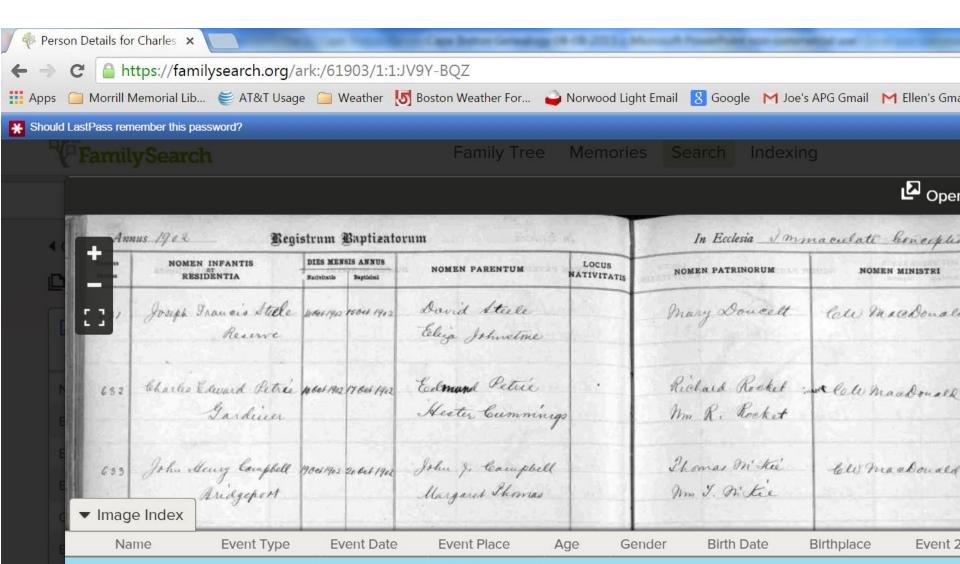


Image - Result of Clicking on the Camera – Uncle Eddie is the 2nd person on the image



What did I learn from the Image?

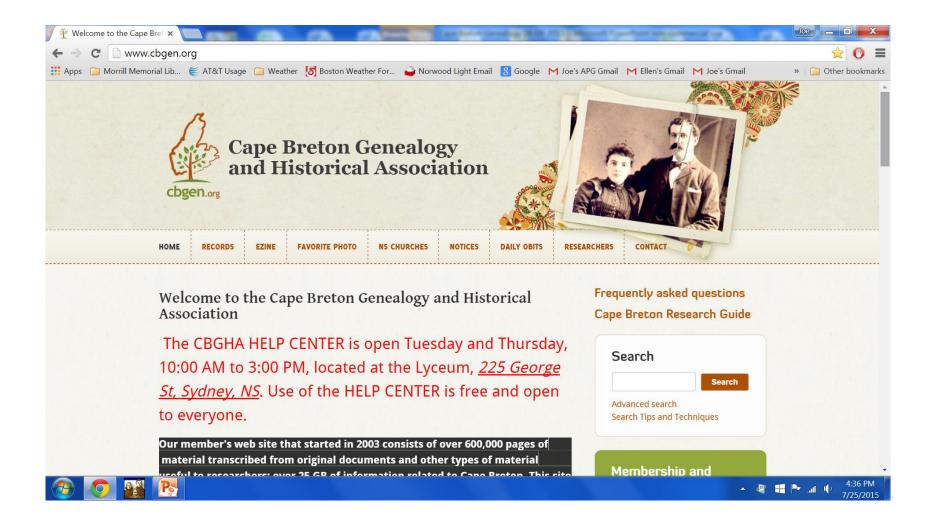
 The Transcript did not list sponsors. I learned that Uncle Eddie's thrice wed Boutilier Grandmother (Mary Ann (Boutilier) Neville Cummings Rockett) was one sponsor and her third husband was the other sponsor.

Please note that Mary Ann had 4 children with John Neville before he passed away in a mining accident. She had my grandmother and her twin sister by John Cummings who passed away as a crew member in a ship accident. She had a son with Richard. Her list of descendants is enormous! (I plan to prepare a Register Report for her soon.)

Cape Breton Genealogy and Historical Association's Web Site www.cbgen.com

- Our member's web site that started in 2003 consists of over 600,000 pages of material transcribed from original documents and other types of material useful to researchers; over 25 GB of information related to Cape Breton. This site has the largest collection of Cape Breton genealogy information available anywhere. Our collection is large and varied, please take the time necessary to become familiar with the site. ... Below you can find some lists showing some of the material that is found on the website in the members area.
- Our records include an ever increasing collection of Cape Breton related material. No site can have every record for an area, however, our records are vast and increase each month. We have the following types of records - books, cemetery records, census records, monthly magazine the Ezine, family trees, historical records, land grants, maps, helpful links to other sites, military records, newspaper items, obits, parish records, school records and more.
- We think of our website as a digital Cape Breton genealogy research library. We assemble Cape Breton genealogy research material, from many sources, in one easy to access site so our members can do their research from the comfort of their homes.

Cbgen.org Start Page

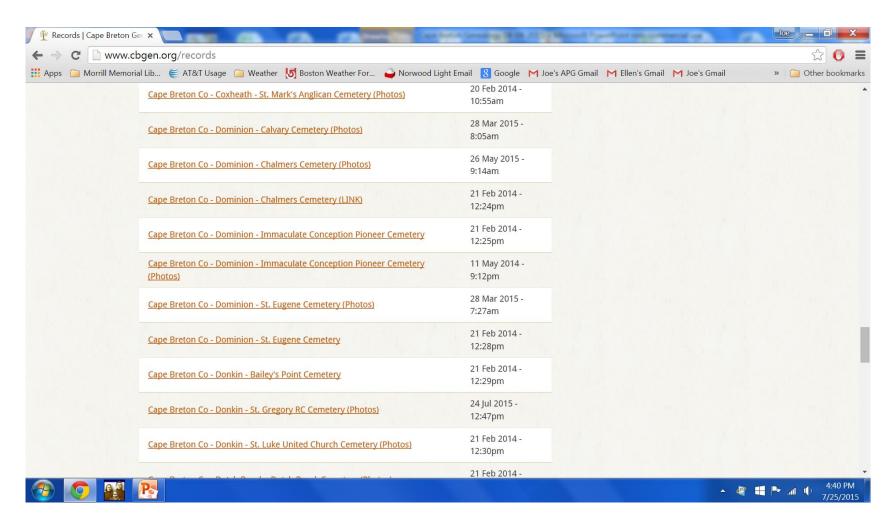


Cbgen.com Records Tab

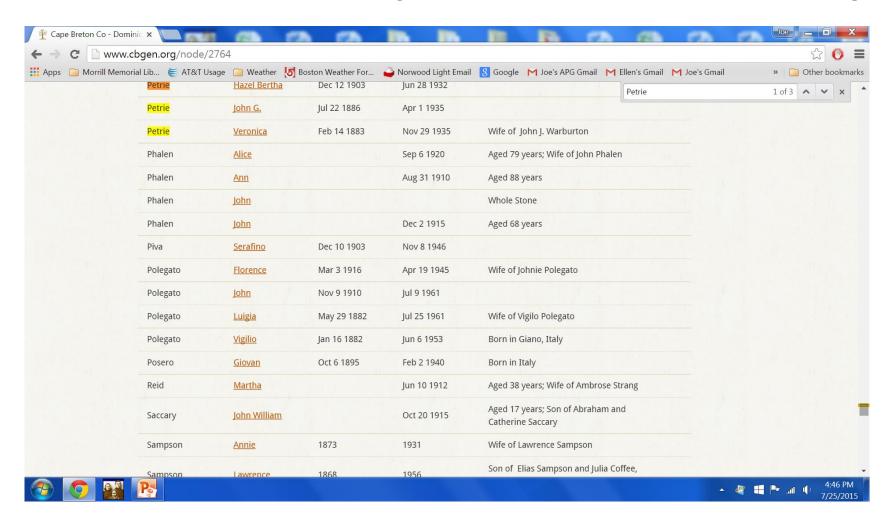
- Books
- <u>Civil</u>
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Ezines
- Families
- Funeral Homes
- Help
- Historical
- Land Grants

- Land Maps
- Links
- Military
- Newspaper
- Parishes
- Research
- Schools
- Ships and Shipping

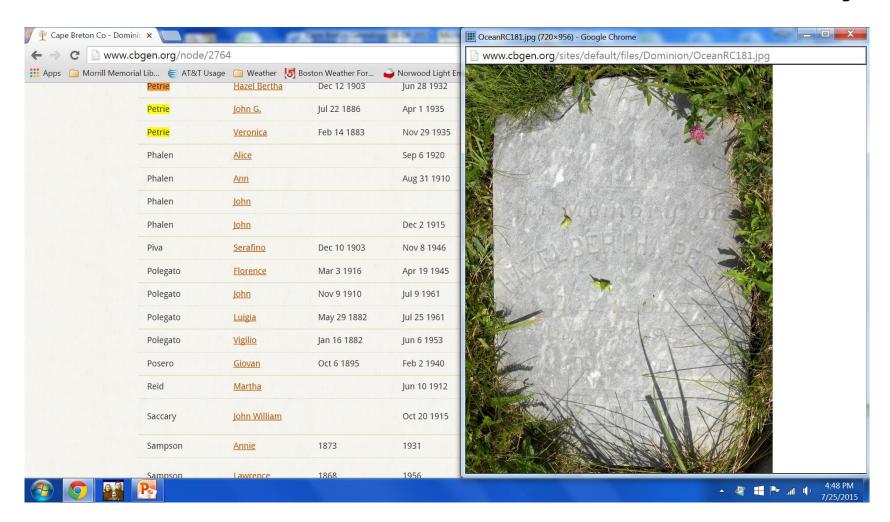
Cbgen.com Cemetery Link to Dominion Cemeteries



Petrie Photos on Cbgen.com's link to Immaculate Conception Pioneer Cemetery



Edmund and Esther Petrie's Daughter Hazel's Gravestone in Ocean Av Cemetery



That's All Folks!

The End. Thank you! Joe Petrie