

A. F. CHURCH MAPPING PROJECT

BULLETIN: #5-2021

A Path to Deeper Local History

Joseph Amato, one of the greatest of contemporary local historians, has written that “[The rewards of local history] are first and foremost the recognition that human life turns on small, individual places and that in them one finds the genesis and formation of selves and individual families.”

The now famous A. F. Church maps of Nova Scotia hold the promise of helping us to a much deeper understanding of local history. Four Nova Scotia heritage groups have partnered to match the geographical locations of the households on these maps with 1881 census genealogical information.

This dual knowledge of place and persons is what your grandmother meant by the word “kith,” in the expression “kith and kin.” Kith-as-place refers to “the country or place that is known or familiar; one’s native land, home; hence country, region, quarter.” Kith-as-persons refers to “the persons who are known or familiar, taken collectively; one’s friends, fellow-countrymen, or neighbours; acquaintance.”

During the last two years, we commissioned physical repair and conservation of some of the maps, conducted digitization of these repaired maps using overhead photography, and then organized those digital images on a website to line them up with the latitudes and longitudes. This is preparation for the patient research work needed to map our historical “kith.”



**Volunteers and Donors Needed in
Antigonish County, Halifax County, Hants County**

If you can Help the County Heritage Groups

Get More Information here:

www.kithobservatory.ca