

ESTHER CLARK WRIGHT ARCHIVES

ACADIA UNIVERSITY

**TOWNSHIP OF HORTON (KINGS CO., NS)  
COLLECTION**

**Multiple Accessions**



**Compiled by Wendy G. Robicheau  
January 2010**

**Township of Horton collection. – [textual records, cartographic material]. – 1760-[19--]. – 15 folders of textual records**

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### Scope and Content

The collection consists of 15 folders, assumingly created by clerks and commissioners of the Township of Horton, which record vital statistic information, proof of appointments, and property plans for the years 1760 to 1885. Many of these items are photocopies.

1900.355-HOR/1 [plan](#) (1760) of Horton Town, surveyed and laid out in June 1760, by Charles Morris, Chief Surveyor. Includes names of those who were given each lot (measured at 250ft by 100 ft.). Scale 250 ft. to 1 inch. Measures 22" x 12" but folded in file folder

1972.002-HOR/1 [manuscript](#) (1761-1826). Volume entitled: "Book of Records for the Township of Horton, commencing Anno Domino 1761" in which are recorded marriages of township residents, as well as the distinguishing marks used by various farmers to identify their cattle and sheep

1972.002-HOR/2 manuscript, ca. 1761-1844 [19--? ; photocopy]. Volume is a photocopy of the record book in file 1, up to page 108

1972.003-HOR/3 manuscript, ca.1764-1880 [19--? ; photocopy]. Volume is a photocopy of the record book in file 1 and entitled "A Register of the Marriage Births & Deaths in the Township of Horton Kings County Nova Scotia"

1900.223-HOR/1 - 2 manuscript, 1846-1870 [19--? ; 2 photocopies]. Volume is a photocopy of record book entitled "Book of marks for the Township of Horton 1846". Inscription notes: "Transferred from the old Book of Marks commencing Anno Domini 1761"

1972.004-HOR/1 legal document, 1875 [19--? ; photocopy] appointing James Manning to Commissioner of Cornwallis Bridge

1972.004-HOR/2 legal document, 1866 [19--? ; photocopy] appointing James T. Manning to Commissioner of Sewers for the Bishop Dyke

1972.004-HOR/3 legal document, 1878 [19--? ; photocopy] appointing James L. Bishop to Commissioner of Sewers for the Township of Horton

1972.004-HOR/4 plan, 1881 [19--? ; photocopy] of the John Lovelass property in Greenwich

1972.004-HOR/5 plan, 18--? [19--? ; 2 photocopies] for part of the Trecolthick farm

1972.004-HOR/6 plan, 1885 [19--? ; photocopy] for survey for James L. Bishop to H. Bishop

1972.004-HOR/7 plan, 18--? [19--? ; photocopy] of the Greenwich area

1972.004-HOR/8 plan, 1812 [19--? ; photocopy] from Grant book C, folio 20 and 21

1972.004-HOR/9 plan and description, 1879 [19--? ; photocopy] of land sold to John W. Elderkin by I.L. Bishop

### Administrative History

In 1759, the Governor of Nova Scotia was empowered to give land grants to settlers wanting to come to Nova Scotia. The intent was that “[a]s soon as the people were settled, townships of a hundred thousand acres each, or about 12 miles square, would be formed, and each township would be entitled to send two representatives to the Assembly [in Halifax]”. In advance of the settlers taking their land grants, agents were sent to scout the lands of Nova Scotia for settlement. Eaton lists these agents as “well-to-do persons” and calls them “worthy gentlemen and prominent persons” (Eaton 1910, 60-63).

In 1759/1760, Charles Morris, the chief land-surveyor for Nova Scotia, came with the agents to look at various sites along the Bay of Fundy. He was able to lay out townships which he would divide in to towns, sections, and lots. The Township was bordered by the Gaspereau and Habitant Rivers and included the ‘great marshes’. Eaton notes that the name ‘town’ or ‘township’ was given to areas in New England with large settlements. The name ‘township’ was used in Nova Scotia until the original townships formed into municipalities in 1879 (Eaton 1910, 63-77).

The first land grants were given in 1759 for the newly named Township of Horton; some were never claimed and so additional new grants were given in 1761. Settlers to the Township came mostly from Connecticut and arrived in 1760. The Township consisted of 100,000 acres and the land was distributed among 200 families (Eaton 1910, 65-67).

By 1762, it was estimated that the Township was home to 150 families (approximately 900 people) and was steadily growing. The census of 1791 records a population of 1,175 and over 3,000 by the 1827 census. Besides New Englanders from Connecticut, the Township was home to Loyalist families and Irish immigrants who arrived in the 1770s and 1780s. Farmers, fishers, millers, and many other labourers, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, helped the economy of the Township thrive. The towns of Upper Horton and Horton Corner were established some time after the first community of Lower Horton, which was located at the mouth of the Gaspereau River (Gwyn 2010, 55-64).

### Custodial History

Little is known about the custodial history or the provenance of these records. Since these records were not acquired together as a unit, it is assumed that they came in from different donors at different times. Due to the uncertainty about provenance, the items were grouped together as a collection.

### Notes

Supplied title based on contents of collection.

Arrangement imposed by Archivist.

Location of originals is unknown.

Some records are available digitally.

Records subject to the *Copyright Act*.

See also "History of Kings County Nova Scotia" by AWH Eaton [SPCOLL FC2345 .K52E28 1910]

See also "Planter Nova Scotia 1760-1815: Horton Township" by Julian Gwyn [SPCOLL]

See also "Land and Families in Horton Township" by Debra McNabb [SPACAD FC2345 .H6M33 1986]

See also "The Basin of Minas and It's Early Settlers" by WC Milner [SPCOLL FC2345 .M5M55 1930z]

See also "Township Books Kings County Nova Scotia" compiled by Lorna Woodman Evans [SPCOLL CS88 .K55E93 1996]

See also "Historical and Statistical Account of Nova Scotia" by TC Haliburton [SPDEN FC2311 .H35 1839]

See also "History of Nova Scotia" by Beamish Murdoch [SPCOLL F1038 .M97 3 vols]

Related records are available at the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management.

Related records are available at the Kings County Museum.

### Citation for this electronic finding aid:

This finding aid should be cited as a website. Relevant information is as follows:

Title: Township of Horton collection

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### Access Points

Township of Horton (Kings Co., NS)

Horton (*town*) (Kings Co., NS)

Wolfville (Kings Co., NS)