

HALIFAX, 1931  
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**JAMES J. KILROY**  
**“KILROY WAS HERE”**

The slogan “Kilroy was here”, which came to be a symbol of what was right about America in World War II, has a Halifax connection. James Kilroy, his wife Margaret and their children, lived in Halifax. Kilroy was a rate setter for the rivets welded in ship building at the Fore River Shipyard in Quincy. In order to stop the practice of some riveters trying to get paid for the work of others, he began writing “Kilroy was here” near the welded areas of metal he was inspecting .

This slogan caught the interests of thousands of American servicemen as they traveled to Europe in these ships. As these servicemen traveled throughout Europe, they marked this slogan on different places particularly newly captured places.

The slogan and a cartoon drawing depicting Kilroy remains a popular graffiti throughout the world.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.  
and Former Halifax Selectman Margaret ‘Peg’ (Kilroy) Fitzgerald  
Daughter of James and Margaret Kilroy  
From the “Plymouth County Registry of Deeds Notable Land Records Collection”