

A Guide to Researching Genealogy at the Cloverdale Library

Updated July 2017

Ontario



File no. 1928061

Farm Field Trip Collection: Waterdown Public School, Ontario
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This guide is intended to point you in the direction of our major resources for Ontario Genealogy. Please note: this document directs users frequently to our publication, *Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials held at the Cloverdale Library*. Multiple copies of the book are available in the department. An online version is also available.

<https://surreylibraries.ca>> Services > Family History – scroll down to Canadian Family History Resources.

Databases

Ancestry Library Edition (Only available in the Cloverdale Library) An international genealogy resource with the largest online Canadian family history collection, searchable by surname. Includes many original digitized records and matches most of the record sets of **Ancestry.com**, with the exception of the historical book collection. However, the same online book collection can be found in **Heritage Quest**, also available only while in the Cloverdale library.

Ancestry's Ontario record set includes:

- Canadian Census records for Ontario
- Original, digitized images of vital records *
- Border crossings Canada to US 1895-1956 (many from Niagara Falls Ontario through to Buffalo)
- Canadian Soldiers of World War 1 1914-1918

[Note: an index on microfilm is available for other vital years, and both the index and full records can be ordered in on microfilm from the Ontario Archives through Interlibrary Loan for viewing at the Cloverdale Library]

Heritage Quest (Only available in the Cloverdale Library) Although Heritage Quest is best known for its US records, the online historical book collection is valuable for Ontario residents as well.

Points to the Past Nearly 200 million pages of digitized, rare historical content. Includes searchable primary source material such as maps, photos, newspapers, manuscripts, pamphlets, portraits, sermons, poems, and more. Check out the “Gale NewsVault” or “Slavery and Anti-Slavery: A transitional archive”

General Research Guides

Online

The Ontario Archives website offers a number of Ontario research guides online:

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/research_guides.aspx

The Ontario Genealogical Society offers a portal to **Ontario Records and Resources** at this address:

https://ogs.on.ca/ontario_record_resources.php

The Canadian Genealogy Centre at Library and Archives Canada, Ontario research portal:

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/places/Pages/ontario.aspx>

Print

Books You Need to do Genealogy in Ontario: an annotated bibliography.

Taylor, Ryan.

Fort Wayne, Indiana: Round Tower Books, 2000.

GEN 929.3713 TAY 2000

The Central Canadians, 1600-1900: An alphabetical directory of the people, places and vital dates.

Elliott, Noel Montgomery, ed.

Toronto: Genealogical Research Library. 1994.

GEN 929.3713 GEN1994

[Early Ontario Settlers: A Source Book.](#)

Crowder, Norman K.
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. 1993
GEN 929.3713 CRO 1993

[Genealogy in Ontario:](#) searching the records

Merriman, Brenda Dougall
Toronto: ON Genealogical Society, 2013

[The Ontario Genealogical Society Directory of Surnames 1995 edition.](#)

Browne, David J.
Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1995.
GEN 929.3713 ONT 1995

[People of Ontario 1600-1900: Alphabetized Directory of the People, Places and Vital Dates.](#)

Elliott, Noel Montgomery, editor.
London, Ontario: Genealogical Research Library, 1984.
GEN 929.3713 PEO 1984

[Ontario People 1796-1803.](#)

Fitzgerald, Keith E., transcriber and annotater.
Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993.
GEN 929.3713 FIT 1993

[STRAYS! An Index to the OGS Strays Project](#)

Lancaster, Shirley E., project co-ordinator.
Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996
GEN 929.3713 STR

Census Records

Census returns are an excellent way to start your genealogy research, and may contain a lot of useful information about place of birth, origin, level of education, religion, etc. (Obtain further proof! Census records are not particularly accurate). On film, in print and online, census returns for Ontario are publicly available for 1842, 1851[2], 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 with the exception of some smaller, local censuses taken previous to 1842 (not online).

Online

- **[Ancestry Library Edition](#)** (*Only available in the Cloverdale Library*) provides digital images of census records that include Ontario, searchable by name, for 1825, 1842, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1901, 1911, and 1921
- **Automated Genealogy** also provides digital images of census records, searchable by name, for Canada East: 1851, and Ontario 1901 and 1911: <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>
- The **Canadian Genealogy Centre** at Library and Archives Canada has information *about* census records in Canada such as what's included for each census year, a catalogue of returns with microfilm numbers and more: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>
- **Family Search** www.familysearch.org has Canada Census records from 1842 to 1911

Microfilm

Microfilms are available at Cloverdale for all federal census records taken in Ontario, from the early 1800s to 1911. Census films are *not* organized by name, but by place - you must know the geographical location of your ancestors to use microfilm. Various print finding aids will help you identify the microfilm you need. These are all found on the same shelving units as print directories, on the east side of the department, facing the stairwell.

Finding Aids for Microfilm Numbers:

- **1901:** Look on the census/directory shelves for a binder labelled [Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1901](#)
- **1911:** Look on the census/directory shelves for a binder labelled *1911 Canada Census Finding Aid*. This is a full print out of the same index found online at: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/search-help.aspx>

Print

The census/directory shelving unit also includes numerous print transcriptions and indexes for Ontario Census records, primarily for the earlier years. Most are in plastic bins labelled by census year and county. These are easy to use and could help if you encounter difficulties with online transcription errors – i.e., perhaps these transcribers offer a different interpretation of spelling.

Vital Records: Civil and Parish

Official civil registrations in Ontario began in 1869, many years after established colonial settlement. Full compliance was not achieved until approximately 1871. Ontario researchers going back further in time may be dealing with either parish records or British Colonial records. Keep in mind that boundaries and place names for the Ontario area changed significantly from the early days. [see page 8: Geographical Resources]

Online

Ancestry Library Edition (Only available in the Cloverdale Library)

- Original, digitized images of vital records:
 - Births: 1858-1913
 - Marriages: 1785-1935
 - Deaths: 1869 – 1947

Note: Ancestry does NOT include the latest 2 years of publicly released births, and deaths – a microfilm index is available for these years at Cloverdale. If you find an entry in the index, the corresponding original, full record can be ordered from the Ontario Archives through Interlibrary Loan.

Toronto Star – Pages of the Past: 110 years of the Star, digitized online, including birth, marriage and death notices. Usage is by subscription only, however researchers may purchase short term access for very reasonable rates.

<http://pagesofthepast.ca/Default.asp>

Microfilm

The Cloverdale library holds microfilm index reels for Ontario births, marriages and deaths beginning in 1869, including separate indexes for items like “Marriage Index Retakes” and “Delayed Registrations.” **Be advised that the original images of Ontario vitals are available on-line in Ancestry Library Edition.** Study our guidebook, **Canadian Family History Resources**, section 5: pages 5 – 22, for instructions and film numbers. These index reels are organized alphabetically by surname, as per this sample:

Step 1: From the alphabetical lists in the left columns, find the surname you are researching, and then record the year and registration number.

REG. NO.	NAME	REG. NO.	CONT.	PLACE OF EVENT CROSS INDEX	C.O. C.I.	S.C.	DATE			REG. YEAR	REG. YEAR	CODES
							NO.	DAY	YR.			
1	AYMOR FLORA JANETT	000029										
2	AYOTT J JOHN HERBERT		F11	GLADSTONE	2		09	10	09	009023	9	CONTROL
3	AYOTT MILDRED HELEN		F11	SMITH TWP	45		04	14	09	038341	9	1. BIRTH
4	AYOTTE LORETTE		F11	SMITH TWP	45		07	19	09	038357	9	1. STILLBIRTH
5	AYOTTE LUCIEN OCTAVE		F11	CARDIFF TWP	20		02	12	09	020521	9	1. MARRIAGE
6	AYOTTE RENE		M11	KIRKPATRICK TWP	37		05	28	09	023333	10	4. DIVORCE
7	AYOTTE WILFRID		M11	OTTAWA	6		10	09	09	014094	9	
8	AYOTTE WILLIAM D		M11	EASTVIEW	6		01	31	09	010667	24	
9	AYOUB ADELINE		M11	SPRINGER TWP	37		07	21	09	031578	9	

Step 2: You can determine which film to order on your own at: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/index.aspx> or you can ask for assistance from Library Staff to search the Ontario Archives site for the film that corresponds with your index entry. The staff person will process an order for Interlibrary Loan. Films take approximately three to six weeks to arrive. The Library will keep the film on the main floor, front desk, where it can be “checked out” to you for use in the library for the duration of the loan.

More detailed information about these records is available at this site:
http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_202_vital_statistics.pdf

More Recent Vital Records

The Ontario Vital Statistics Agency will only release more recent vital records to qualified individuals, generally immediate family. Details can be found here: <https://www.orgforms.gov.on.ca/eForms/start.do?lang=en>

Ontario Marriage Records 1801 – 1908

The District Marriage Registers consist of marriage registers from a variety of districts on film. From **1780 to 1858** these records are arranged by **District**. From **1858 to June 1869**, the records were arranged by **County**. A scant few also include baptisms.

Entries are typically in log book format like this example:

This is a patchwork collection with inconsistent coverage. It might be helpful to know the religion of your people, as some record sets might be limited to one church, for example: *Baptism register of Rev. John Scott, United Presbyterian, Napanee only*. Census records usually provide the family religion or denomination. Once again, use our *Canadian Family History Resources* guidebook for a table delineating coverage and film numbers.

Church and Cemetery Records for Ontario - 1797 – 1956

This is a miscellaneous collection of parish records across a number of different microfilms. Details about the contents of each film are noted in our guide book, *Canadian Family History Resources*. Records are organized by location, and contents vary widely from reel to reel, for example:

BRANTFORD **MS 881 Reel 4**
West Street Baptist Church
 Building Committee records 1853-1872

ETOBICOKE **MS 102**
Mimico Christ Church
 Register of baptisms, marriages & burials 1827-1860

PERTH
Knox Presbyterian Church **Z-20001**
 Minutes, subscribers 1846-1894

St John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church **Z-20002**
 1. BMD & Burials 1828-1872 (not inclusive??)
 2. Records in Latin

Ashbury Methodist/United Church
Church records 1821-1906

Z-20004

St Andrews Presbyterian Church
Births & Marriages 1817-1952

Z-20005

Print

Cloverdale has a large selection of Birth, Marriage and Death Notices in print for Ontario, often covering pre-confederation events. Browse the book shelves in the call number range **929.3712 – 929.3713**

Useful examples include:

Death Notices of Ontario

Reid, William D. Lambertville.
N.J.: Hunterdon House, 1980.
GEN 929.3713 REI 1980

Marriage Notices of Ontario

Reid, William D. Lambertville.
N.J.: Hunterdon House, 1980.
GEN 929.3713 REI 1980

Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West [17 volumes]

Walker, Dan; Ruth Burkholder and Fawne Stratford–Devai, compilers.
Milton, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, 2000
GEN 929.3713 MAR 2000

Roman Catholic Marriage Registers in Ontario, Canada: 1828-1870

Rumpel, Renie A., editor.
Waterloo, Ontario: Ontario Indexing Services, 1997.
GEN 929.3713 ROM 1997

County Marriage Registers of Ontario, Canada: 1858-1869 [38 volumes]

Britnell, W.E., editor.
Agincourt, Ontario: Generation Press, 1979.
GEN 929.3713 COU

Cemetery Records

Online

The Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (OCFA) offers an online database of over 3 million interments. Although this database is a large and worthwhile tool, it is by no means complete: <http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/homepage.html>

The Ontario Genealogical Society offers some specific information about Ontario cemeteries:

<https://ogs.on.ca/> got to resources >Cemeteries and Name Indexes

Note: Many private and public cemeteries are moving their interment lists online. You must check each one on a case by case basis, and call the appropriate cemetery directly if no interments are found online.

Microfilm

Ontario Cemetery Recordings, a collection from the Ontario Genealogical Society, is partially available on film at the Cloverdale Library, with the remainder available through the Ontario Archives via interlibrary loan.

MS 451, Reels 1 – 19: Cloverdale Library

MS 451, Reels 20 – 136: Ontario Archives

See also **Church and Cemetery Records for Ontario: 1797 – 1956**, under the heading “Vital Record: Civil and Parish” in the preceding section of this booklet.

Print

Cloverdale has many books containing transcriptions of the text on headstones.

To find out if we have cemetery record transcriptions for a particular place, search the library catalogue using “**Subject List**” from the pull down menu, as follows:

[Cemeteries -Ontario](#) [place name]

[A better place : death and burial in nineteenth-century Ontario](#)

Smart, Susan

Toronto, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society/Dundurn Press, 2011

GEN 393.109713 SMA 2011

You may also browse the book shelves under the call number area **GEN 929.5097** for books about Ontario Cemeteries, and **GEN 929.507** for general books about researching cemeteries.

Estate Records

Prior to 1858, wills were probated by either the provincial **Probate Court** or the local **Surrogate Courts**. The Probate Court dealt with larger estates having property valued over £5, and also those with holdings in more than one County or District. The Surrogate Courts dealt with smaller estates and those holding property in a single county. In **1858**, these responsibilities were merged, and the Probate Court was abolished.

Microfiche and Microfilm

Ontario Probate Court Records, 1793-1859 (film)

This is a surname index list, for Probate Court Records 1793-1859. Known as RG22 Appendix A1 --Microfilm series **MS 638 37-71**. These are entire Estate files. They contain all documents relating to a person's estate. The films are in alphabetical order, as seen at above noted surname list.

Go to the link below and look for the deceased name.

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/ontario_probate_rg22fa.aspx Once you find the name there will be a corresponding microfilm number in a separate column. Cloverdale Library has these microfilms.

Ontario Surrogate Court Records, 1793-1858 (fiche)

This fiche index found at Cloverdale Library provides the name of the deceased, county of residence, application for probate number (if available) and the year of application. The corresponding full records on film can be obtained from the Ontario Archives via Interlibrary loan for viewing at Cloverdale.

Ontario Surrogate Court and Application Books 1858-1900 (film)

Entries are in surname order by year. The name of the applicant and an application number will be listed. Make note of the year and application number, then find the corresponding film with the actual probate application from the table in our guide book, [Canadian Family History Resources](#), Section 8–24.

When you find the county or district of filing, you may proceed to the **Surrogate Court Records of Ontario: Counties** to locate the estate file. These records consist of probate record books, original probate papers and their relevant indexes. Probate records *not* found at the Cloverdale Library must be obtained via Interlibrary Loan from the Ontario Archives. Estate files processed **after 1963** must be obtained through the courthouse that originally dealt with the case.

Detailed information about researching Ontario court records can be found at this site:

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/c_efile.aspx

Passenger Lists, Border Crossings and Assisted Immigration

Passenger lists were not required in Canada **before 1865**. Previous to this date, record keeping was inconsistent. For the older time period, researchers will have to rely on a variety of websites, microfilm collections and print material, in hopes of finding an entry.

Online

Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865 – 1935, includes digital images and are searchable by name: [Ancestry Library Edition](#)

Note: Excluded from this online collection are **Form 30A** passenger records on film, 1919 - 24. Please see “microfilm” below. **Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935** [Ancestry Library Edition](#) (At Cloverdale Library only)

Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S. 1895-1960 [Ancestry Library Edition](#) (At Cloverdale Library only)

Online transcriptions from the **Peter Robinson Papers**, documenting the Peter Robinson assisted immigration plan in the **Peterborough** area of Ontario in the early 1800s, provides the names of the ships and passengers:

<http://trentvalleyarchives.com/genealogy/peter-robinson-ships-list/>

Upper Canada & Canada West Naturalization Records 1828-1850

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/citizenship-naturalization-records/naturalization-upper-western-1828-1850/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Microfilm

The library has Canadian government records of ship passengers arriving in both Eastern and Western Ports, in a range of films dating from **1865-1935**. The Ancestry Library Edition collection duplicates this record set in digital format.

However, *Ancestry does not include records from a variety of films that cover various assisted immigration projects, and other record sets that may include immigration information.*

Instructions for use and film numbers for the following microfilm records can be found in the Cloverdale guide book, *Canadian Family History Resources*: Section 3.

- **Form 30A, 1919 – 1924:** These individual passenger forms were used as early as 1919, yet some passengers still appear on sheet manifests as late as 1922. Between 1919 and 1922, a passenger's name might appear in one or both series. These films are organized by surname.
- **The Peter Robinson Papers:** This series pertains to Irish arrivals to the Peterborough area in the early 1800s, under a large assisted immigration plan, headed by Peter Robinson. Found in *Canadian Family History Resources Section 3 page 6-8*. Some passenger records are included.
1823, 1825, 1844: MS 12, Reels 1 – 3
- **Toronto Immigration Office Records: Hawke Papers:** These records were created in the Toronto & Kingston Emigrant Offices. Found in *Canadian Family History Resources section 3 page 4-6*
1831–1892: MS 6909–6917
 - Letterbooks (outgoing correspondence) of the Chief Emigrant Agent for Upper Canada/Canada West (A.B. Hawke)
 - Arrival/destination and assisted immigration registers
 - An emigrant hospital register from the Irish immigration following the Great Potato Famine (includes names of orphans & widows)
 - A report from an inspection of British Home Children
- **Colonial Office Records Index:** Contains names drawn from the correspondence of the British Secretary of State. **1817 – 1831: C-4252**
- **Border Entry Records: US to Canada, 1908 – 1918** (numerous films – consult our guide book *Canadian Family History Records* Section 3 for the film numbers).

Print

Passenger and Immigration Lists Index (PILI): A Guide to Published Records of More than 1,775,000 Passengers who came to the New World between the Sixteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries.

Filby, William P. and Lower, Dorothy, compilers.

Detroit: Gale Research, 1990-.

GEN 929.3 PAS [includes entries from census records]

Assisting Emigration to Upper Canada: The Petworth Project 1832-1837

Cameron, Wendy and Mary McDougalls-Maude.

Montreal: McGill-Queens University Press, 2000.

GEN 325.342 CAM 2000

Peter Robinson's Settlers

McCuaig, Carol Bennett

Renfrew, Ontario: Juniper Books, 1987.

GEN 971.38 EBN 1987.

Province of Ontario immigration records: an overview

Statford-Devai, Fawne.

Milton, ON: Global Heritage Press, 2003.

GEN 929.3713 STR 2003

Directories

Online

Canadian Directories: Who Was Where. Library and Archives Canada's page on Canadian Directories includes a list of digitized historical directories, searchable by name.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/directories-collection/Pages/directories-collection.aspx>

Toronto Public Library provides an informational page on Directories, including a link to a digital collection that includes early Toronto city directories: <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-city-directories.jsp>

Print

Directory of the Province of Ontario 1857: with a Gazeteer

Wilson, Thomas B. and Emily S. Wilson.

Lambertville, N.J.: Hunterdon House, 1987.

GEN 929.3713 WIL 1857

Peel & Halton Directory, 1866 & 1867

Fuller O.L.

Esquesing Historical Society. Georgetown, ON.: Rameses Print & Publishing, 1984.

GEN 929.3713 FUL 1983

Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Wellington for 1871-72

Fergus, ON: Wellington County Museum 1976, 1871. [Reprint of 1871 edition of A.O. Loomis & Company]

GEN 917.13 GAZ 1976

Geographical Sources

Being older than the Western provinces, the area known as Ontario today saw a number of boundary and name changes before confederation:

“The **Province of Upper Canada** (French: *province du Haut-Canada*) was a British colony located in what is now the southern portion of the Province of Ontario in Canada. Upper Canada officially existed from 26 December 1791 to 10 February 1841 and generally comprised present-day Southern Ontario. Its name reflected its position closer to the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River than that of Lower Canada.” [see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Canada]

The Act of Union joined Upper and Lower Canada (Québec) in 1841 to become the United Province of Upper Canada. The Ontario area was then referred to as Canada East until confederation. Keep in mind that records generated before confederation in 1867 were often parish records, or British Colonial records.

Online

The **Canadian County Atlas Project** made available by McGill University, offers digitized versions of original county atlases published in the later 1800s. These books online can be searched by name or place. If you search by name, there is an excellent feature called "Locate on Map." This will reveal the actual lot, usually labelled with the owner's name.

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/search.htm>

[Note: Please see the "Print" section below for information about the hard copies available at Cloverdale]

The **Geographical Names Board of Canada** (GNBC) can be searched for geographical names, past and present. This tool is useful if you have a place name but cannot identify the location. You can restrict your search to a range of geographical areas such as hamlet, village, province or formerly official names.

<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/place-names/search/9170>

Print

The **Illustrated County Atlas** books are reprints of original publications from the late 1800s, and contain a wealth of information about people such as biographical sketches, local histories with names, land maps identified by the property owners' names, portraits and village plans. Although the collection is now online (as per the "online" section above), the web version only includes the land maps and names. [Note: Some of these illustrated county atlases are also available on microfiche here at Cloverdale.]

Gazetteers are useful for locating and identifying historical places and names:

[Gazetteer of Canada: Ontario](#)

Ottawa: published for the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names by the Geographical Services Division, 1988

917.13 GAZ 1988

[Directory of the Province of Ontario 1857](#): with a Gazetteer

Wilson, Thomas B. and Emily S. Wilson.

Lambertville, NJ.: Hunterdon House, 1987.

GEN 929.3713 WIL

[Places in Ontario](#): Their name origins and history [Encyclopedia of Ontario v.2]

Mika, Nick and Helma Nick.

Belleville, ON: Mika Publishing Co, 1977. 3 v.

GEN 971.3 MIK 1977-1983

[Lost names and places of Eastern Ontario](#): previous names of places and names of abandoned places in the geographical counties of Carleton, Dundas, Frontenac, Glengarry, Grenville, and more.

Rayburn, Alan. Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1993.

GEN 971.37 RAY 1993

Land Records

Finding land records can sometimes be challenging research. *Canadian Family History Resources* offers instruction about how to locate Ontario land records, across a wide range of record sets. Keep in mind, documents covering original transactions in which land is "alienated" from the Crown and granted to homesteaders, are generally held separately from documents about subsequent changes of ownership. These secondary transactions are often found in land title offices in Ontario.

United Empire Loyalists arrived by the thousands to Ontario in the late 1700s. If your people can be found in Ontario this far back, there is a good chance they were Loyalists.

People researching Loyalists will benefit from studying land records, in particular, land petitions. In return for being loyal to the Crown, UEL people were entitled to land grants. They applied for these grants with “**Land Petitions.**” Our guide book *Canadian Family History Resources*, lists the various films with these petitions and other related documents found in **Land Books**, under the heading **Land Records**, section 6 -1.

As well, see our previous section “Geographical Sources” in this provincial guide, for the Ontario Atlas collection – both online and print versions of these county atlases provide landowner’s names and property locations.

Online

Before proceeding with your Ontario land research, you may want to first study the Ontario Archives research guide entitled: *From Grant to Patent: A Guide to Early Land Settlement Records, ca.1790 to ca.1850*. This should help you with the unfamiliar legal terminology and processes used in earlier times, and with understanding the many types of documents available that were generated during the land grant process.

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access//documents/research_guide_215_grant_to_patent.pdf

Microfilm/fiche

The *Computerized Ontario Land Records Index* on microfiche might be a good place to start, if you are looking for original homestead records, including land grants to **United Empire Loyalists**. This index consolidates numerous land record documents under one index.

Instructions for use can be found at this site:

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access//documents/research_guide_205_land_records.pdf

Print

[Researching Canadian Land Records](#)

Murphy, Sharon L.

Toronto: Heritage Productions. 2001.

GEN 929.1072 MUR

[A Guide to Ontario Land Registry Records](#)

Toronto: The Society, 1994

GEN 929.3713 GUI 1994

[Land Records in Ontario Registry Offices](#): a Genealogical Research Guide

McFall, A. David and Jean McFall.

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1982.

GEN 929.3713 MCF 1982

Stories and Local Histories

The library has many local histories covering Ontario towns and counties. You can search the library catalogue by *Subject List*, using these terms to see everything available on the topic: [Ontario – History](#)

For more specific locations, use this type of *subject* search: **[place name] – (Ontario : County) -- Genealogy**

You may also browse our book shelves in the call number area **971.3** forward, for a variety of Ontario local history books. To really understand what your pioneer ancestor’s life in Southern Ontario was like during the early 1800s, these two books written by sister emigrants from England, Susanna Moodie and Catherine Parr Trail, are highly recommended:

[Roughing it in the Bush, or Life in Canada](#) [also an [e-book](#), 2010]

Moodie, Susanna.

Ottawa: Carelton University Press, 1988 [First published in 1852, documenting experiences from 1832 forward.]

GEN 917.1 MOO 1988

[The Backwoods of Canada](#)

Traill, Catherine Parr Strickland.
Toronto: Viking Canada, 2006, 1836
GEN 971.1367 TRA 2006

Aboriginal and Métis Nation

Aboriginal

Online

Aboriginal family history can be challenging, whether for interest about personal roots, or for the purpose of obtaining status. A good place to begin might be the research guides available at Library and Archives Canada and other governmental agencies, as well as First Nations websites for Ontario.

Library and Archives Canada: Canadian Genealogy Centre – Aboriginal Research
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/the-public/005-1143-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada: Discover the collection – Aboriginal Heritage
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/Pages/introduction.aspx>

Indian and Northern Affairs: Ontario
<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020284/1100100020288>

Chiefs of Ontario: First Nations Map
<http://www.chiefs-of-ontario.org/map>

As per the section on Census Records, page 3&4 of this hand out:
Searches for 1871 and 1881 allow you to search by “ethnic origin”. One way to help establish First Nations ancestry -use terms such as “Indian” or “Indigeneous” in the keyword fields.

Print

Understanding Ontario First Nations Genealogical records: Sources and Case Studies
Faux, David K.
Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2002.
GEN 929.3713 FAU 2002

Records of the Department of Indian Affairs at Library and Archives Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research.
Russell, Bill.
Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 2004
GEN 929.10899 RUS 2004

Métis Nation

Online

Métis Nation Ontario: <http://www.metisnation.org/>

Ontario Métis Family Records Centre: <http://www.omfrc.org/>

Métis information and online Scrip (land grant) index at Library and Archives Canada – includes many digital images:
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/metis/metis-scrip-records/Pages/find-scrip.aspx#b>

Métis National Council Historical Online Database
<http://www.barbau.ca/content/metis-national-council-historical-online-database>

Microfilm

The Cloverdale library has Métis Scrip (land grant) records on film, but not the related documents found in the online index at Library and Archives Canada. These can be obtained by interlibrary loan. Please see section 7-1 in our guide book, *Canadian Family History Resources* for descriptions and film listings.

Print

You can browse the shelves for books about Métis family history under the call number **929.37127**. Included is this important resource, as well as many more by the same author:

Métis Families: a Genealogical Compendium [6 v.]

Morin, Gail.

Pawtucket, R.I.: Quintin Publications, 2001

GEN 929.37127 MOR 2001

Contours of a people: Métis Family, mobility and history

Norman, OK.: University of Oklahoma Press, 2012

GEN 971.00497 CON 2012

Military Records

Online

World War I Attestation Papers: searchable by name through [Ancestry Library Edition](#) at the **Cloverdale Library**.

Attestation papers are also available through this site: **Canadian Expeditionary Forces (CEF): Soldiers of the First World War** <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/personnel-records.aspx>

Books of Remembrance : Department of Veteran Affairs provides the names of Canadians who lost their lives in 6 different wars: <http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/books>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission offers the *Debt of Honour Register*, “the Commission's database listing the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars, and the 23,000 cemeteries, memorials and other locations worldwide where they are commemorated.”

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

Canadian Virtual War Memorial: “registry of information about the graves and memorials of more than 116,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served valiantly and gave their lives for their country. Included on this site are the memorials of more than 1500 soldiers who died in service to Canada since the Korean War...”

<http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/>

Print

Index to Canadian Service Records of the South African War (1899-1902) : Held at the National Archives of Canada
Ottawa: British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, 1999.

GEN 929.371 IND 1999

Canadian Campaigns 1860-70

Ross, David. London: Osprey Publishing Ltd. 1992.

GEN 971.048 ROS 1992

Canadian Veterans of the War of 1812

Jonasson, Eric, Editor.

Winnipeg, MB: Wheatfield Press, 1981

GEN 971.034 CAN 1981

The C.E.F. Roll of Honor: Members and former Members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who died as a Result of Service in the Great War 1914-1919

Wigney, Edward H. editor, compiler. Ottawa: Eugene Ursual, 1996

946.46771 CEF 1996

Other Internet Resources for Ontario

Ontario GenWeb Project <http://www.geneofun.on.ca/ongenweb/>

Vintage Postcards of Hamilton Ontario <http://hamiltonpostcards.com/>

United Empire Loyalist association of Canada – <http://www.uelac.org/>

Kingston Penitentiary inmates 1913-1916 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/lac-bac/sets/72157649959725467/>

Ottawa Valley Irish <http://www.ottawavalleyirish.com/>