
Sources of Birth, Marriage and Death Records

204 Research Guide

Most Recent Update:
June 2016

This research guide provides information on sources of birth, marriage and death information at the Archives in Ontario *in addition to* vital statistics records created by the Office of the Ontario Registrar General that are also in the Archives' collections. (For information on vital statistics records, [click here to consult Research Guide 202: Vital Statistics Records](#))

All linked descriptions for records mentioned in this guide are available in our online Archives Descriptive Database. You will find the database and all guides mentioned in this guide in the "Start Your Research" section of our website. Ask a reference archivist for information on accessing the other records.

THE RECORDS

In addition to Ontario vital statistics records, the Archives has various church, court, local and non-governmental records documenting births, marriages, deaths and burials in Ontario.

Individual and family fonds at the Archives may have birth, marriage and death records. For more information, search the:

- [Click here to search the Archives Descriptive Database](#)
- [Click here for information about Genealogies Collection](#)
- [Click here for information about the Archives of Ontario genealogical and biographical research files.](#)

Cemetery Tombstone Recordings

Ontario Genealogical Society's Cemetery Tombstone Recordings: The Ontario Genealogical Society has recorded the information found on tombstones throughout Ontario. Microfilm of these recordings is available:

- Check the description for F 977 Ontario Genealogical Society's Cemetery Recordings collection in the Archives' Descriptive Database or [click here to access a listing of these records through the Microfilm Interloan Service Catalogue.](#)

The complete recordings on paper, including those not yet available on microfilm, are part of the Canadiana Collection, North York Central Library Branch, Toronto Public Library (5120 Yonge Street, North York, Ontario, M2N 5N7, 416-395-5623, [click here to access the Toronto Public Library website.](#)).

The William D. Reid collection (F 280) includes selected transcriptions of memorial stones from the following cemeteries:

- *Burlington*: (1) Port Nelson - Middle Road: Old Burial Place, better known as the Van Norman Burial Grounds. (2) New Burial Grounds - Port Nelson, Middle Road. (3) Burlington Burial Place. (4) Burial Place on Dundas Street, better known as the Church on Banks of 16 Mile Creek.
- *Oakville*: (1) St. Jud's Burial Place, West of Oakville (2) Oakville Town Burial Grounds, North of Town (3) Palermo - West Side of Palermo, Burial Place on Dundas Street (4) Munn's Corner, near Pastrulle, on Dundas Street. (5) Bronte - Burial Grounds, south of Highway.
- *Mississauga*: (1) Erindale - St. Peter's Church grounds, Dundas Highway.

[Click here to access the database listing for William D. Reid collection \(F 280\)](#)

The William Perkins Bull Papers (F 332) includes transcriptions of memorial stones from 106 cemeteries in Peel County. Contact a reference archivist for instructions on how to access this material at the Archives. Please note the full collection, on loan with the Region of Peel Archives, also includes other births, marriages and death records for Peel County.

The Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries (65 Overlea Boulevard, Suite 500, Toronto, ON M4H 1P1, 416-696-7866) provides the names and date of death and burials of individuals buried in some of Toronto's major cemeteries. To view this information, *you must book an appointment.*

Church Records Collection (F 978)

The Archives has a few parish registers and other church records, and baptism, marriage and burial records of travelling ministers who were not attached to a particular parish or congregation. [Click here to access the online finding aid for more information.](#)

Some of the records in this collection are available on self-service microfilm in the Reading Room or [click here for information on how to access the records using our Microfilm Interloan Service.](#)

See also the information on the Archives' Marriage Records Collection and Other Non-Governmental Records collections, below.

Please note that most church records that still exist are in the custody of the archives of each religious denomination. You will need to know the denomination of the persons involved and the location of the event to determine which religious archives to contact. [Click here to access a list of church and other religious archives in Ontario.](#)

Marriage Records Collection (F 982)

The Marriage Records collection is an artificial creation of the Archives of Ontario. It assembles miscellaneous marriage certificates, licenses and registers in one place which cannot be assigned to any one specific church.

The collection includes marriage contracts, baptism records, cemetery transcripts and data on births, marriages and deaths abstracted from newspapers and Old Age Pension applications, and a set of instructions about the issuance of marriage licenses. Some of the records have indexes.

Most of the records in the collection document marriages performed in Ontario, but the collection also documents marriages performed in Alberta and in La Prairie, Québec.

[Click here to access the database description for the Marriage Records collection.](#)

Religious Society of Friends Records (F 997)

Listed below are birth, death, and marriage records from various Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) meetings in Ontario. They are microfilm copies of original records housed at Pickering College, Newmarket, Ontario. These microfilm are available in the Archives' Reading Room, please speak to a Reference Archivist for details.

- *Yonge Street Meeting*
 - Births and deaths, 1803-1866
 - Marriage certificates, 1804-1885
 - Births, marriages, and deaths, 1740-1823
 - Marriage certificates, 1804-1840
- *Norwich meeting*
 - Marriage register, 1859-1973
- *Pelham Meeting*
 - Births, marriages, and deaths, 1790-1856
 - Marriage register, 1807-1906
- *Toronto Meeting*
 - Marriages, 1941-1942
- *West Lake Meeting*
 - Births, deaths, and marriages, 1829-1866
- *Yarmouth Meeting*
 - Marriages, 1859-1974.

Other Non-Governmental Records

The Archives has a limited number of private (non-governmental) records documenting births, marriages and deaths. The section below is arranged alphabetically by county. See the online description (where available) or speak to a Reference Archivist for information on how to find and use these records.

Essex County

- *F 378 Hiram Walker Historical Museum Papers*: Collection includes:
 - Church of the Assumption, Sandwich: Hand-written copy of vital statistics records, 1761-1786
 - St. Andrew's Church, Amherstburg: Marriage certificate for Joel Doty and Lucenda Stockwell of Cholchester Township, March 5, 1837
 - St. John's Church, Sandwich Township: Hand-written copy of records of marriages, baptisms, and burials, 1842-1860
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 378 Hiram Walker Historical Museum Papers collection.](#)
- *F 519 William Hands fonds*: Among other records, includes marriage returns for Essex County, 1842-1844.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 519 William Hands Fonds](#)

Essex County—Windsor

- *F 688 Stollman Family Fonds*: The fonds includes marriage receipts and marriage register books, 1944-1987, of Rabbi Samuel Stollman of the Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue in Windsor.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 688 Stollman Family Fonds.](#)

Glengarry County

- *F 966 Hay Family Fonds*: Series 6-4 in this fonds has notices of marriage banns from St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Glengarry County, 1839-1845.
- [Click here to access the database description for F 966 Hay Family Fonds.](#)

Glengarry County—Alexandria

- *F 970 Ewan Macdonald Fonds*: The fonds includes the following from St. Raphael's Catholic Church in the Alexandria area of Glengarry County:
 - B-1-9. Roman Catholic census for various areas, including Lanark County, Cornwall in Stormont County, and Lochiel Township in Glengarry County, 1812-1865.
 - B-1-10. St. Raphael's Church, Marriage promises, 1816-1849.
 - B1-11. St. Raphael's Church, Register of births, marriages, and deaths, 1802-1865.

Grenville County

- *F 2040 Frederick John French Fonds*: Fonds includes:
 - Return of Marriages for Grenville County, 1858 - 1865

- Marriage Certificates for Andrew N. Buell to Calcina Richards, 1827 and for Samuel D. Chatterton to Julian Lenox, 1829.
- Funeral Notices for Hon. Levius Sherwood, 1850; Sarah Ann Fitzsimmons, 1872 and Murdock McDonnell in Perth, 1852
- Funeral notices for Briockville:
- 1860: John Reynolds, Buelah Anne Harvey, Jane Munro and Mrs. Anne Taylor
- 1861: Constance Dickinson
- 1862: William Buell
- 1864: James H. Brooks
- 1865; Elizabeth Blyth.
- [Click here to access the database description for F 2040 Frederick John French Fonds](#)

Grenville County--Augusta Township

- *F 962 Robert Blakey Fonds*: The fonds includes marriage register, 1821-1827, and baptismal register, 1821-1841. To view this material request box MU 274.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 962 Robert Blakey Fonds](#)
- *F 362 Frederick Peter Smith Collection*: The collection includes burials of the Blue Church, near Prescott in Augusta Township, 1821-1828.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 362 Frederick Peter Smith Collection.](#)

Grenville County--Edwardsburgh Township

- *F338 Edwardsburgh Township Settlement Papers*: The fonds includes a photocopy of a register of births and burials, 1822-1863. To view this material, ask for box MU 3804.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F338 Edwardsburgh Township Settlement Papers.](#)

Lincoln County—Grimsby

- *F 1138 Niagara Historical Society Collection*: Series B2 includes registers of Rev. William Sampson, first Anglican rector of Grimsby, Lincoln County, containing: burials 1817-1819, baptisms 1817-1822 and marriages 1817-1821.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 1138 Niagara Historical Society Collection.](#)

Northumberland and Durham

- *F 351 Port Perry History Collection*: The collection includes photocopies of two marriage certificates: James Holmes & S. Unger of Haldimand Township, Northumberland County, Jan. 1, 1846 and J. Holman (?) of

Ontario County & Flora MacQuarrie of Caledon Township, March 14, 1888.

- [Click here to access the database description for F 351 Port Perry History Collection.](#)
- *F 368 B.K. van Buren Collection:* The collection includes marriage licenses from Northumberland County.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 368 B.K. van Buren Collection.](#)
- *F 417 Cobourg County Vital Statistics Collection:* The collection consists of a scrapbook of birth, marriage and death notices from the Cobourg Star, 1831-1849.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 417 Cobourg County Vital Statistics Collection.](#)

Prince Edward County

- *F 379 Prince Edward County History Collection:* The collection includes photocopies of marriage certificates of the Allen family of Prince Edward County, found among other Allen family documents dated 1791-1918.

York County--Richmond Hill

- *F 502 Matthew Teefy Fonds:* The fonds includes marriage affidavits (required before a license is issued), 1874-1884, sworn before Matthew Teefy of Richmond Hill, York County.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 502 Matthew Teefy Fonds.](#)

York County--Sharon Temple

- *F 4177 Children of Peace Collection:* Collection includes some Marriage Certificates 1821, 1827, 1829 – 1833, 1835 – 1837.
 - [Click here to access the database description for F 4177 Children of Peace Collection.](#)

Court Records: Affidavits of Bastardy and Affiliation, 1834-1921

These records consist of affidavits of bastardy and affiliation filed with Clerks of the Peace for the following counties:

- Grey
- Leeds and Grenville
- Lincoln
- Northumberland and Durham
- Perth
- Stormont, Dundas, and Glengarry.

The affidavits were filed by unmarried mothers for support. The father of the child is mentioned in the affidavits, which were sworn before local Justices of the

Peace. The affidavits are arranged chronologically according to the date filed by the Clerk of the Peace.

Access to these records is governed by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1990. Requests for access to records 100 years old or less must be submitted in writing to the Information and Privacy Unit of the Archives of Ontario. (See our contact information at the end of this guide).

Reference Code	Title	Dates	Link to Archives Descriptive Database Description
RG 22-2095	Grey County Clerk of the Peace Register of Officials, Naturalizations and Affidavits of Bastardy	1853-1921	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-2095.
RG 22-2987	Leeds and Grenville United Counties Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Affiliation and Bastardy	1837-1921	No link.
RG 22-3188	Lincoln County Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Affiliation	1834-1916	No link.
RG 22-3789	Northumberland and Durham United Counties Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Bastardy and Affidavits of Affiliation	1837-1861	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-3789.
RG 22-4258	Perth County Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Bastardy	1838-1902	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-4258.
RG 22-4983	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties Affidavits of Affiliation	1863-1902	No link.

Court Records: Children of Unmarried Parents Act Records, 1921-1980s

The Children of Unmarried Parents Act, 1921 allowed for disputes regarding the parentage of children born outside of marriage to be brought to the courts. The Archives of Ontario holds registers, order books and case files from various counties. Search the [Archives Descriptive Database](#) under the county name and the title of act. There is restricted access for most of these records. See the series descriptions for details.

Court Records: Births, Marriages and Deaths

A limited number of records documenting births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials for various counties and districts are in the following court records:

Reference Code	Title	Dates	Link to Archives Descriptive Database Description
RG 22-4993	Eastern District Marriage Bonds	1806-1807	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-4993.
RG 22-1897	Essex County Clerk of the Peace Birth, Baptism, Marriage and Burial Returns	1826-1858	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-1897.
RG 22-2986	Johnstown District Clerk of the Peace Baptism, Marriage and Death Returns	1831-1862, 1870-1875	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-2986
RG 22-2985	Leeds and Grenville United Counties Clerk of the Peace Marriage Register Requests for this series must be submitted in writing to the Information and Privacy Unit of the Archives of Ontario	1950-1956	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-2985.
RG 22-4286	Perth County Clerk of the Peace Baptism, Marriage and Death Records	1853-1871, 1896-1899	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-4286.
RG 22-1818	Western District Clerk of the Peace Marriage Bonds	1826-1828, 1835	Click here to access the database description for RG 22-1818.

Local Government Records

Records from various counties, districts and local municipal governments at the Archives have registers or returns of births, marriages, deaths and burials, as listed below. There is restricted access to some of the records. Please speak with a reference archivist if access to the records you are interested in is restricted.

Reference Code	Title	Records and Dates	Link to Archives Descriptive Database Description
F 1795	Morrison Township	Registers of births, 1895-1947 Registers of marriages, 1895-1949 Registers of deaths, 1895-1949	Click here to access the database description

Reference Code	Title	Records and Dates	Link to Archives Descriptive Database Description
			for F 1795.
F 1805	Town of Niagara	Registers of births, marriages, and deaths, 1848-1856 Correspondence and returns relating to vital statistics, 1848-1910	Click here to access the database description for F 1805.
F 1867	Pittsburgh Township	Registers of births, 1872-1891 Registers of Deaths, 1872-1891 Registers of Marriages, 1869-1891	Click here to access the database description for F 1867.
F 1886	Raleigh Township	Registers of Births, 1868-1948 Registers of Marriages, 1857-1948 Registers of Deaths, 1895-1948	Click here to access the database description for F 1886.
F 1897	Ryde Township	Register of births, 1878-1884, 1914-1929 Registers of Marriages, 1879-1884, 1915-1928 Registers of Deaths, 1879-1884, 1914-1929	Click here to access the database description for F 1897.
F 1933	South Walsingham Township	Registers of Births, ca.1860-ca.1920 Registers of Deaths, ca.1869-1920 Registers of Marriages, ca.1869-1919 Marriage returns 1910-1932	Click here to access the database description for F 1933.

Upper Canada Marriage Bonds

Marriage bonds were documents issued prior to the issuance of a marriage license. They were signed by two friends or relatives of the couple, who assumed liability in case of impediment to the marriage. Marriage bonds have little information besides the names of the betrothed and the guarantors, their places of residence and the date and value of the bond.

Most bonds are in the custody of Library and Archives Canada. [Click here to access Library and Archives Canada's website.](#) (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca). The 1803-1848 bonds and the accompanying index are available in the Archives' Reading Room and through inter-library loan from Library and Archives Canada. [Click here to access the description for the Upper Canada marriage bonds \(D 354\), 1803-1848 for more information.](#)

There is a database for the 1803-1865 bonds at Library and Archives Canada on their website. Bonds for the years 1803-1834 are transcribed and indexed in

Thomas A. Wilson, *Marriage Bonds of Ontario, 1803-1834* (Lambertville, N.J.: Hunterden House, 1985). A reference (non-circulating) copy is in the Archives' Reading Room.

Marriage License Affidavits

Under the 1896 Act to Consolidate the Act respecting the Solemnization of Marriage (59 Vict. chap. 39) each person wishing to marry was required to swear that the parties involved were not related and thus a lawful marriage could be enacted.

[Click here for information regarding the Winchester Township, County of Dundas, 1897 \(RG 8-18\), held at the Archives of Ontario.](#) Each form has basic information about the parties, including their place of birth, age, and residence.

MAKING CONTACT

Ready and Willing

Although unable to do your genealogical research for you, our reference archivists are waiting to assist you. You may telephone or write to them by mail or email or — best of all — visit the Archives of Ontario.

Contact us

Telephone: 416-327-1600 Toll free (Ontario): 1-800-668-9933
Fax: 416-327-1999
Email: [Click here to email the Archives of Ontario](#)
Address: Archives of Ontario, 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd., Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

Website

For information about the Archives' holdings, as well as access to research guides and other customer service materials available through the Archives of Ontario, [click here to visit the Archives of Ontario's website.](#)

Customer Service and Research Guides

The Archives of Ontario has published a series of in-depth research guides on a variety of specific topics. For more information, please see "Research Guides and Tools" under "Accessing Our Collection" on the home page of the Archives website.

occasionally occur. Therefore, we cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information. Readers should where possible verify the information before acting on it.