
Sources for Birth, Marriage and Death Records

204 Research GuideMost Recent Update: March 2011

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. (See *Research Guide 202: Vital Statistics Records*)

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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:

- [Archives Descriptive Database](#)
- [Genealogies Collection](#)
- [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 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, <http://www.tpl.toronto.on.ca>).

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.

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. See our [online finding aid](#) for more information.

Some of the records in this collection are available on self-service microfilm in the Reading Room and through the [Archives' 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.

You will find a list of church and other religious archives in the “Church Records” section of the [Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#).

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.

Religious Society of Friends Records (F 987)

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
- [F 519 William Hands Fonds](#) Among other records, includes marriage returns for Essex County, 1842-1844.

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.

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.

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.

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.

- [F 362 Frederick Peter Smith Collection](#): The collection includes burials of the Blue Church, near Prescott in Augusta Township, 1821-1828.

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.

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.

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.
- [F 368 B.K. van Buren Collection](#): The collection includes marriage licenses from Northumberland County.
- [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.

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.

York County--Sharon Temple

- [F 4177 Children of Peace Collection](#): Collection includes some Marriage Certificates 1821, 1827, 1829 – 1833, 1835 – 1837.

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
RG 22-2095	Grey County Clerk of the Peace Register of Officials, Naturalizations and Affidavits of Bastardy	1853-1921
RG 22-2987	Leeds and Grenville United Counties Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Affiliation and Bastardy	1837-1921
RG 22-3188	Lincoln County Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Affiliation	1834-1916
RG 22-3789	Northumberland and Durham United Counties Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Bastardy and Affidavits of Affiliation	1837-1861
RG 22-4258	Perth County Clerk of the Peace Affidavits of Bastardy	1863-1902
RG 22-4983	Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry United Counties Affidavits of Affiliation	1838-1921

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
RG 22-4993	Eastern District Marriage Bonds	1806-1807
RG 22-1897	Essex County Clerk of the Peace Birth, Baptism, Marriage and Burial Returns	1826-1858
RG 22-2986	Johnstown District Clerk of the Peace Baptism, Marriage and Death Returns	1831-1862, 1870-1875
RG 22-2985	Leeds and Grenville United Counties Clerk of the Peace Marriage Register	1950-1956

	Requests for this series must be submitted in writing to the Information and Privacy Unit of the Archives of Ontario	
RG 22-4286	Perth County Clerk of the Peace Baptism, Marriage and Death Records	1853-1871, 1896-1899
RG 22-1818	Western District Clerk of the Peace Marriage Bonds	1826-1828, 1835

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
F 1693	Haldimand County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Burial register, 1851-1865 ▪ Register of marriages, 1851-1865, 1907 ▪ Registry of births, baptisms, marriages and deaths, 1914-[ca.1929]
F 1740	Leeds and Grenville Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marriage registers, 1869-1873
F 1795	Morrison Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registers of births, 1895-1947 ▪ Registers of marriages, 1895-1949 ▪ Registers of deaths, 1895-1949
F 1805	Town of Niagara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registers of births, marriages, and deaths, 1848-1856 ▪ Correspondence and returns relating to vital statistics, 1848-1910
F 1867	Pittsburgh Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registers of births, 1872-1891 ▪ Registers of Deaths, 1872-1891 ▪ Registers of Marriages, 1869-1891
F 1886	Raleigh Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registers of Births, 1868-1948 ▪ Registers of Marriages, 1857-1948 ▪ Registers of Deaths, 1895-1948
F 1897	Ryde Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Register of births, 1878-1884, 1914-1929 ▪ Registers of Marriages, 1879-1884, 1915-1928 ▪ Registers of Deaths, 1879-1884, 1914-1929
F 1933:	South Walsingham Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Registers of Births, ca.1860-ca.1920 ▪ Registers of Deaths, ca.1869-1920 ▪ Registers of Marriages, ca.1869-1919 ▪ Marriage returns 1910-1932
F 1988	Waterloo County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marriage returns 1858-1869

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](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca) (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. See 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](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca) 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.

The Archives of Ontario holds affidavits for [Winchester Township, County of Dundas, 1897 \(RG 8-18\)](#). 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: reference@ontario.ca
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, please visit our website www.ontario.ca/archives.

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 "Start Your Research" on the home page of the Archives website.

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