

## Pathfinder to Land Patents

Last Updated: March 2023

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*Letters patent* transferred land ownership from the Crown to private individuals. *Land patent books* contain the original book copies of letters patent. The original letters patent were given to the landowners, and are not part of these collections.

### Land Patent Books, RG 53-1

#### 1793-1867:

Patent books for the period 1793 to 1867 are available on microfilm in the Archives of Ontario Reading Room. If you know the district and year of the patent you're looking for, you can determine the microfilm number you need by consulting the online finding aid:

- [Click here to go to the Archives and Information Management System \(AIMS\), Archives Repository and the description page for RG 53-1, Land patent books](#). You can also access the description by searching the Archives Descriptive Database for "Land patent books", selecting Groups of Archival Records, and clicking through to RG 53-1.
- Scroll down to the Finding Aid section and access the microfilm list. The microfilm list is organized by date and location. Note the microfilm reel number that contains the volume of the land patent record(s) you wish to see.
- Retrieve the microfilm from the self-service microfilm area of the Reading Room.
- If you do not know the district and year, you must obtain a reference to a particular land patent by consulting one of the patent indexes described below.

#### 1867-1984:

If you wish to see a patent issued after June 1867, you must obtain a reference to a particular land patent by consulting the Index to patents by name. You can find instructions on using this index below.

### How to use the Index of Land Patents by Name, RG 53-56

This index provides the name of the patentee, the date of the patent, lot and concession, township, type of transaction, liber (book) and folio (page numbers) where the patent was located in the original patent books.

The index was created in two formats:

- bound volumes from 1826 to 1953
- index cards from 1954 to 1967.

#### 1826-1912

Volumes dated 1826 to 1912 are available on self-service microfilm in the Reading Room and through the Microfilm Interloan Service. Please determine the reel you need by using the online list available through the Archives Descriptive Database.

- [Click here to access the Archives and Information Management System \(AIMS\), Archives Repository and the description for RG 53-56, Index of land patents by name](#). You can also access the description by searching the Archives Descriptive Database for "Index of land patents by name", selecting "Groups of Archival Records", scrolling down, and clicking through to RG 53-56.
- Find the link to the microfilm list at the bottom of the page and scroll down to RG 53-56.
- The table is organized by surname and year. Note the microfilm reel number associated with the patent(s) you wish to see.
- **If you're in the Reading Room**, you can find the microfilm reel(s) in the self-service microfilm area.

- **If you're at home**, you can order the microfilm through our Microfilm Interloan Service. [Click here to view the Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#).

### 1912 to 1953

Index volumes 12 to 16 (for the years 1912 to 1953) are available in physical format only.

### 1954 to 1967

Index cards organized by year are available for the years 1954 to 1967. To access them, contact a reference archivist.

## How to use the Index of Land Patents by District, RG 53-2

This index provides the name of the patentee, date of the patent, number of acres, lot, concession, township, and district. The index covers the years **1793-1825**.

The index is available on microfilm in the Reading Room or through Interloan. It can be found on the microfilm reel **MS 1, Reel 6**.

- The microfilmed index is arranged by districts in the following order: Home; Niagara; Newcastle; Gore; Western; London; London Town, Park & Water lots; Eastern; Johnstown; Bathurst; Ottawa; and Midland.
- **If you're in the Reading Room**, you can find this microfilm reel in the self-service microfilm area.
- **If you're at home**, you can order the microfilm through our Microfilm Interloan Service. [Click here to view the Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#).

## How to use the Index of Land Patents by Township, RG 53-55

This index provides the name of the patentee, the lot and concession, date of patent, number of acres, the liber (book) and folio (page) for the location of each patent in the original patent books. The index covers the years **1793-1852**.

The index is available on microfilm in the Main Reading Room or through Interloan. Please determine the reel you need by using the online list available through the Archives Descriptive Database. The link is below:

- [Click here to access the Archives and Information Management System \(AIMS\), Archives Repository and the description for RG 53-55, Index of land patents by Township](#). You can also access the description by searching the Archives Descriptive Database for "Index of land patents by Township", selecting "Groups of Archival Records", and clicking through to RG 53-55. Access the microfilm list at the bottom.
- Within each township, the records are arranged in chronological order by patent date. If you know the township of the patent, note the microfilm reel that contains the volume holding the land patent you need.
- **If you're in the Reading Room**, you can find the microfilm reel in the self-service microfilm area.
- **If you're at home**, you can order the microfilm through our Microfilm Interloan Service. [Click here to view the Microfilm Interloan Catalogue](#).

## Helpful Details

### If you are looking for a patent from outside the above dates

- Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough:
  - Fax to Crown Land Registry, 705-755-2181
  - Phone 705-755-2193
  - Email [crownlandregistry@ontario.ca](mailto:crownlandregistry@ontario.ca)
  - There is a minimum charge of \$55.25 plus postage for a copy of a patent
- You cannot obtain certified copies from the Archives of Ontario. For certified copies, contact:
 

Ministry of Natural Resources  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, ON,  
K9J 8M5

## Related Record Series not covered in this Pathfinder

There are several other record series related to land patents that are described in Inventory RG 53 or the online Archives and Information Management System (AIMS), Archives Repository. They are:

- [RG 53-3](#), Cancelled land patents
- [RG 53-52](#), Land patents, free grants
- [RG 53-53](#), Land patents, school land sales
- [RG 53-54](#), Militia grants
- [RG 53-4](#), Surrenders of land
- [RG 53-5](#), Crown sales – public works
- [RG 53-6](#), Indian and ordinance lands
- [RG 53-7](#), High school lands
- [RG 53-8](#), Exemplification register
- [RG 53-45](#), Deeds of right to flooded lands