| **Archives of Ontario** |  |
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| Pathfinder to  Marriage Registrations  Last Updated: August 2024 | |

This Pathfinder will guide you through the **Indexes** to the **Registration Number** andthen to the **Registration**. To find the matching microfilm reel numbers for the Indexes and the Registrations, consult the appendix listings in the ***Marriages*** ***Binder*** for ***Inventory 80 (Records of the Office of the Registrar General)*** *o*r follow the links below. The microfilm is available in the Archives Reading Room and through interlibrary loan.

Please note: Marriages are no longer microfilmed as of 1932 and can only be accessed through ancestry.ca, which holds digital birth records from 1872-1940; [click here to access the ancestry.ca website](http://www.ancestry.ca). Ancestry can be accessed without a membership at the Archives of Ontario and many public libraries at [ancestryinstitution.ca](https://ancestryinstitution.ca). The registrations for 1869-1927 are also available for free (with registration) on the Family Search website; [click here to access the Family Search website](http://www.familysearch.org).

**Person’s Name: Marriage Date:**

## Step 1: When did the marriage occur?

| **Between 1801 (approximately) and December 1873** | **Between January 1874 and December 1932** | **After 1932** |
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| [Click here to consult the Pathfinder to Pre-1874 Marriage Registrations](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/pathfinder_pre_1874_marriage_registrations.pdf)  (\*1873 marriages can be located either through this path or the next path described).  **For other possible sources**:   * [click here to consult Research Guide 204 (Sources for Births, Marriages and Deaths records).](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_204_birth_marriage_death.pdf) * Consult the “Related Records” and “Associated Materials” sections in the ***Deaths Binder***. | See the Marriage Indexes   * [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Indexes to Marriages](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_mi_t.aspx) or view A6in the ***Marriages Binder*** * Match the year and first initial of the surname to the corresponding **MS 934** microfilm reel (index) * The reels are in the **Self Service Microfilm Area.** * If you find the name of the person, go to Step 2 below. | **1933-1942:** These records are available on the ancestry.ca website. [Click here to access ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca/)  **1943:** These records are closed for digitization and will be available on <ancestry.ca> when complete. Contact us if you require a copy for legal or humanitarian purposes.  **1944-Present:** These records are located at the **Office of the Registrar General:**  189 Red River Road  P.O. Box 4600  Thunder Bay, Ontario  P7B 6L8  Phone: 416-325-8305  Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-461-2156  [Click here to access the Service Ontario website](http://www.serviceontario.ca) |

## Step 2: Did you find the Person’s Name on the Indexes to Marriages?

| **Yes** | **No** |
| --- | --- |
| **Write down:**  **Six-Digit Registration Number** **(ignore any hyphens):**  **Two-Digit Registration year (not the marriage year):**  Examples of the registration number and year entry from the Indexes to Marriages**:**  Example from the 1874 Index  Example from the 1929 Index  **Example of the registration number and year from the 1929 birth registration index.** | **Consult Original Indexes, 1869-1911:**   * For **July**-**Dec**. **1869**, retrieve **MS 938, reel 1** * For **1869**-**1911**, [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Original Index Books to Marriage Registrations](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_moi1_t.aspx) or view A13 in the ***Marriages Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel you need to consult from **MS 941**   If you find the person’s name:   * Write down the **registration year**, **county or district**, **volume number or letter**, and **folio (page) number**. * [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Marriages (listed geographically)](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_mgeo1_t.aspx) or view B2 in the ***Marriage Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year**, **volume number or letter**, and **folio number**.   If the person’s name is not on these reels, the marriage was probably **NOT** registered with the Government of Ontario. |

## Step 3: What is the Registration Number?

| **Between  0-199999** | **Between  200000-399999** | **Between  500000-599999** | **Between  900000-999999** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Remove the “0” or “00” at the start of the Registration Number.  [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Marriages](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_mr1_t.aspx) or view A5 in the ***Marriages Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year** and **Registration Number**.  Look up the Registration number on the microfilm. | Remove the “2” or “3” at the start of the Registration Number.  [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Registrations of Marriages](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_mr1_t.aspx)or view A5 in the ***Marriages Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Registration Year** and **Registration Number**.  Look up the Registration number on the microfilm. | [Click here to view the microfilm list for the Delayed Registrations of Marriages](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/v_mr50_t.aspx) or view A22 in the ***Marriages Binder*** to identify the microfilm reel matching the **Marriage Year** and **Registration Number**.  Look up the Registration number on the microfilm. | These records are at the **Office of the Registrar General**  189 Red River Road  P.O. Box 4600  Thunder Bay, Ontario  P7B 6L8  Phone: 416-325-8305  Toll-free in Ontario: 1-800-461-2156  [[Click here to access the Service Ontario website](http://www.serviceontario.ca)](http://www.serviceontario.ca) |