

Genealogy Resources in Mississauga Central Library

The Arts & History Department and the Canadiana Reading Room on the third floor of Mississauga Central Library have an extensive collection of genealogical resources. The focus is on southern Ontario, especially Peel County. Out-of-province material is limited, although there is some material available for English speaking countries, chiefly in CD-ROM format. Most of these genealogical resources do not circulate and are intended for in-house use only. Exceptions include manuals and handbooks and some local histories. Staff provides reference service to enable researchers to use the collection independently. A quick reference service is available by telephone, mail and e-mail, while more extensive research may be available for a fee. Staff will assist individuals wishing to interloan resources from such places as the National Library in Ottawa and the Archives of Ontario in Toronto.

Biographical Sources & Indexes

The Library acquires biographies of both local and notable people. Collected biographies such as *Who's Who* publications provide short, detailed entries on people from a geographical area (*Canadian Who's Who* and the Dictionary of National Biography) or from a specific group (*Who's Who Among Black Americans and Newsmakers*). These are located in the 920s of the Arts & History Department. A collected biography of local interest is William Perkin Bull's *Families of Peel County*.

There are also indexes to biographical sources such as: *Biography and Genealogy Master Index* and *The Atlantic Canadians, The Central Canadians, The French Canadians* and *The Western Canadians 1600-1900*.

Births

The Library does not have official registers of births, deaths or marriages. Librarians use the subject heading "Registers of births, etc." to describe any list of people which includes some vital records. The

Arts & History Department has published records such as transcriptions of parish registers or indexes to vital statistics. The Library tries to obtain all of these available for Ontario. Transcriptions of births and/or baptismal registers include publications by Ruth Burkholder and Dan Walker as well as the Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Registers.

In addition, the Arts & History Department has *Index Books Birth, Stillbirths and Delayed registrations, 1869-1908* available on microfilm next to the History Information Desk. This index applies to Ontario only; an additional year is added annually. Customers may use these indexes to obtain microfilmed certificates from the Archives of Ontario in Toronto.

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) also includes many references to baptisms and births, although these must be viewed with caution. The most up-to-date IGI information is available on the Internet at www.familysearch.org

Customers may use *Ancestry Library Edition*, an electronic database available free of charge at the Mississauga Central Library.

Ancestry is currently providing access to digitized copies of Ontario birth, marriage and death registers.

The Canadiana Reading Room

In addition to information about the historical development of the City of Mississauga and surrounding areas, the Canadiana Reading Room has a number of resources to assist genealogical researchers which are outlined in this document.

Due to the unique nature of this collection, which includes many out-of-print and valuable items, the collection is for reference use only in the Canadiana Reading Room. Please note that the Canadiana Reading Room's hours of operation differ from those of the Mississauga Central Library.

CD-ROM Collection

The Library has CD-ROMs of interest to genealogists which may be consulted in the Canadiana Reading Room, including:

- *1851 Dublin City Census* contains over 60,000 names and addresses;
- *1861 Personal Census of Simcoe County, Ontario* is a complete transcription with an index to every name which appeared in the original census;
- *Freedman's Bank Records* has been compiled from the bank's registers into a searchable data base on disk. You can hunt for African-American ancestors among 480,000 names of depositors and their family members;
- *Griffith's Valuation* is Sir Richard Griffith's General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland is a mid-nineteenth century survey of land owners and tenants, a substitute for the Irish census. It is comprehensive, but gives little information beyond location;



- *National Burial Index for England and Wales*, the first edition of the NBI includes well over 5 million records from more than 4,300 parish, nonconformist and cemetery burial registers;
- *Ontario 1858 - 1869 Marriage Index* is Family Tree Maker's coverage of Ontario marriage records between 1858 and July 1869, making it possible to search for marriages without knowing the exact location. Approximately 50,000 individuals referenced;
- *Red Drouin Dictionnaire National des Canadiens Francais 1608-1760* contains marriage records;
- *The Tanguay Collection* provides genealogical details about ancient Quebec families prior to 1800.

Cemetery Records

The cemetery records available for consultation in the Canadiana Reading Room are transcriptions of headstones, which also include burial records where available. The Canadiana Reading Room has all available transcriptions for cemeteries in Halton and Peel Counties. In addition, the Arts & History Department has received, as a donation, a number of cemetery transcriptions for Grey, Halton, Welland, Wellington and Wentworth Counties. Headstone inscriptions for



other areas include:

- *Cemetery Inscriptions, Tecumseth and West Gwillimbury Townships, Simcoe County...;*
- *Gravestones of Glengarry*
- *Loyalist Graves in the Bay of Quinte Region;*
- *Midland's Past Inhabitants: Tombstone Inscriptions of the Cemeteries of Midland...;*
- *Monumental Transcriptions (Central North Simcoe County)*

Some Ontario records are indexed at: <http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/homepage.html>

An index to additional cemetery records which may be interloaned from the Archives of Ontario is available at: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/interloan/cemetery.htm>

Census

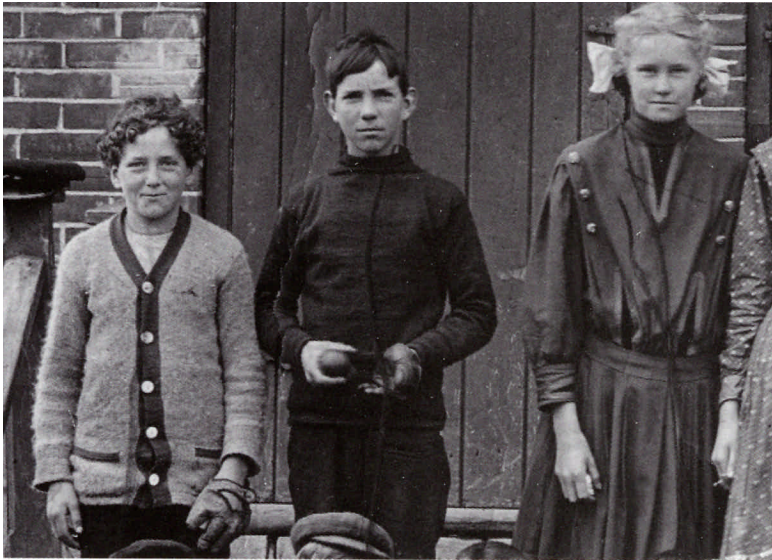
Canada began taking a regular census in 1851, continuing every ten years. Some Assessment Rolls are also available for earlier periods, but these refer to the head-of-household only. Census returns give varying amounts of personal information, including age, sex, occupation, religion and ethnic origins for each member of a household. Specific census years may also yield additional details. For example, the 1861 census asked couples the year of marriage and the 1901 census requested year of immigration and full birthdays

The Arts & History Department has all available census records for Ontario on microfilm from 1841 to 1901 as well as some for southern Ontario in 1911. A number of printed indexes to census records have also been published, notably the Index to the 1871 Census of Ontario series, published by the Ontario Genealogical Society. This index is also available online at: <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/arc/hivianet/index-e.html> which is also offering access to scanned images of the complete Census of Canada, 1901, currently searchable by geographic location only.

In addition, searchable indexes as well as the complete transcriptions of the 1880-81 censuses for Britain, Canada and the United States are available in CD-ROM format in the Canadiana Reading Room as well at www.familysearch.org. Complete transcriptions to other Canadian census records are also becoming available on the Internet on a daily basis, for example, the 1901 and the 1911 census records.

City Directories

The Library has a limited number of retrospective City Directories available on microform: **Darlington Twp.** 1898, 1900; **Dufferin Co.** 1887, 1898, 1900; **Halton Co.** 1887; **Hamilton** 1898-1902; **Ingersoll,** 1884, 1887, 1893, 1900; **Kingston** 1899-1901; **London** 1893-1902; **Ontario Co.** 1884/5, 1893, 1898, 1900; **Peel Co.** 1886, 1884/5, 1887, 1893, 1898, 1900; **Ottawa** 1899-1902; **Toronto** 1866, 1901/2; **York Co.** 1866, 1884/5, 1887, 1893, 1898, 1900. A number of earlier Toronto city directories are available online through Toronto Public Library's Virtual Resource Library at <http://historicity.torontopubliclibrary.ca/> Mississauga Central Library has several printed directories for rural



areas, such as *Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Wellington, for 1871-2* and *Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Simcoe... 1872-3*

Deaths

The Library does not have official registers of deaths. However, the Arts & History Department does have some published transcriptions such as:

- *Death Notices from the Christian Guardian, 1836-1850*
- *Death Notices from the Christian Guardian, 1851-1860*
- *More Notices from Methodist Papers, 1830-1857*
- *Obituaries from Ontario's Christian Guardian, 1861-1870*
- *Obituaries from Ontario's Christian Guardian, 1873-1880*
- *Obituaries from Canada Christian Advocate, 1873-1884*

In addition, the Library has *Index Books Deaths and Delayed Registrations 1869-1933* available on microfilm, with the expectation that an additional year will be added annually.

Customers can also see *Ancestry Library Edition*, an electronic database available free of charge at the Mississauga Central Library.

Directories of Nobility

These publications list the aristocracy of the British Isles, often with extensive genealogies and coats of arms:

- *Burke's Peerage Baronetage & Knightage;*
- *The Complete Peerage of England, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain...*

Electronic Resources

- *Ancestry Library Edition.* Subscription database available free of charge at the Mississauga Central Library. Provides access to a vast amount of genealogical resources, including digitized newspapers, the Canadian Collection, the UK Census Collection and the United States Census Collection. The Canadian Collection currently provides fully digitized images of Ontario birth registrations 1869-1907; Ontario death registrations 1869-1932 and Ontario marriage registrations 1857-1922.

Family Histories

The Canadiana Reading Room has some family histories, especially those with a connection to Peel County. Donations which fall within the scope of this collection are always welcome. The Arts & History Department has William Perkins Bull's Families of Peel County on microfilm. An increasing number of genealogies are also being made available online by family historians who are interested in exchanging information.



Heraldry

Heraldry is the deciphering and recording of the coats of arms borne by nobility. The Library has a number of dictionaries of heraldic terms and works on mottoes and crests, located in the 929.6 area of the Arts & History Department.

Immigration

The National Archives is the main depository for the few early immigration records extant for Canada. The Arts & History Department has some books about specific groups immigrating to Canada such as *A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation* and *The Famine Immigrants*. William Filby's *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index* indexes these and smaller publications.

Local Histories

Local histories often give information on individuals and families. These may be searched for under the township and county names. The Library has histories produced by local organizations, such as the Tweedsmuir History of

Streetsville on microfilm, compiled by the Women's Institutes of Ontario.

Manuals & Handbooks

Manuals and handbooks define terms, describe the kinds of records that exist for a particular place and how to access them. The Arts & History Department has a fairly extensive collection both for Canada and the United States as well as for some other countries.

Maps, Atlases & Gazetteers

The Canadiana Reading Room has a number of historical maps relating to Peel County, as well as The Aerial Photo Collection which consists of a complete set of aerial photographs of the City of Mississauga from 1975 to 2001. The current year is available at Mapping and Planning Department of the City.

Both the Canadiana Reading Room and the Arts & History Department have the Ontario county atlas series of nineteenth century landowners, which includes maps and some local histories. In addition, an online index to many of these atlases is available at:
<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

The Arts & History Department has genealogical atlases for Britain and Ireland, such as *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* and *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* as a limited number of gazetteers which may include brief descriptions of places and give locations.

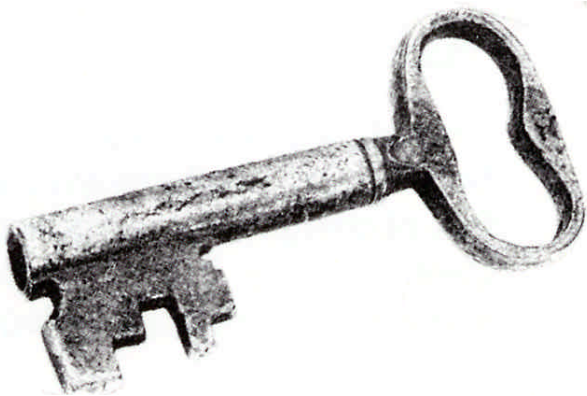
Marriages

The Library does not have official registers of marriages. The Arts & History Department has only published records such as transcriptions of parish registers or indexes to vital statistics. These include:

- *Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West (for different Districts, 1795-1858);*
- *Marriage Bonds of Ontario, 1803-1834;*
- *County Marriage Registers of Ontario, Canada 1858-1869 (for different Counties);*
- *Index to Marriage Registrations of Ontario, Canada, 1869-1873;*

In addition, the Arts & History Department has on microfilm, Index Books Marriages and Delayed Registrations 1869-1923. The Archives of Ontario are adding one year annually. *The International Genealogical Index (IGI)* also contains many references to marriages, although again the source of this information must be considered.

Customers can also see Ancestry Library Edition, an electronic database available free of charge at the Mississauga Central Library.



Microform Collections

- 1803-1850 *Canada West Census;*
- 1808-1847 (some early *Assessment Records* are available);
- 1851-1901 *Ontario Census;* 1911 Ontario Census (southern Ontario only);
- Birth, Marriage and Death Indexes (see above);
- City Directories (see above);
- Newspapers for Peel County (see below);
- *Ontario Land Records Index;*
- *Surrogate Court Records Index* (1793-1858 for Ontario and 1867-1968 for Peel);
- *Toronto Township Papers;*
- *Tweedsmuir History of Streetsville;*
- *Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register;*
- *William Perkins Bull Papers*

Military Records

The Arts & History Department has some guides to genealogical research in military records such as:

- *In Search of the 'Forlorn Hope': A Comprehensive Guide to Locating British Regiments and Their Records (1640-WWI);*
- *RAF Records in the PRO;*
- *U.S. Military records: A Guide to Federal and State sources.*

The Toronto Reference Library has much more substantial holdings of Canadian and British regimental histories and military lists.

Other outside sources include *Soldiers of the First World War* (1914-1918) which may be searched for through the National Library:

http://www.archives.ca/02/020106_e.html and the *Commonwealth War Graves Commission* at:

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



Names

Books on the origin and meaning of first and last names, such as *The Surnames of Scotland and Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings* are available in the Arts & History Department.

Newspapers

Major Canadian and some international newspapers are housed on the second floor of the Library in the microform section of the Sciences Department. The oldest Canadian newspaper the Library has on microfilm in this section is the *Globe & Mail*, dating back to 1925.

The Mississauga Library System has a subscription to *Pages of the Past: The On-line Archives of the Toronto Star Back to 1894*. This resource is currently available at all Mississauga branch locations.

The Arts & History Department has local newspapers on microfilm. In order to find a reference, usually the date must be known. Only a few of these newspapers are currently indexed, specifically the *Streetsville Review*:

- *Booster* 1964-June 1993;
- *MaltonPilot/Mercury/Messenger* 1973-1979;
- *Mississauga News* 1965-2001;
- *Mississauga Review* 1968-1973;
- *Mississauga Times* 1970-1980;
- *Port Credit News* 1927-1968;
- *South Peel Weekly* 1968-1969;
- *Streetsville Review/Herald* 1843-1961; 1968-1978.

Bibliographies of newspapers are also helpful to genealogists. These sources locate newspapers in other libraries, as well as outlining which newspapers were published at a particular time for a specific place. One example is *Inventory of Ontario Newspapers 1793-1986* by Brian Gilchrist.

Periodicals

More than a dozen genealogical periodicals are available in the Arts & History Department, usually for up to five years, although the Ontario Genealogy Society's *Families* is available in bound hard copies back to 1971. They range from *Avotaynu*, for those with Jewish ancestry to *Practical Family History*. Check at the Arts and History Information Desk for holdings.

Telephone Directories

Current telephone and *Might's* directories for Canada and the United States are located in the Business Department on the fourth floor in various formats.

The Canadiana Reading Room has older editions of Bell Canada phone books for the Halton-Peel Region from 1979 to 2000, although 1980, 1984, 1986 and 1988 are missing. There are some random *Might's* directories for the 70s and 80s, including some Toronto ones for the 40s, 50s and 90s. A more extensive collection of telephone directories may be found at Toronto Reference Library.



United Empire Loyalists

Many North Americans have Loyalist ancestors, people who remained loyal to the Crown during the American Revolution. Both the Canadiana Reading Room and the Arts & History Department have a number of books relating to United Empire Loyalists, including:

- *Early Ontario Settlers: A Source Book*;
- *Index to Rolls of the Provincial (Loyalist) Corps., Canadian Command, American Revolutionary period*;
- *Loyalists in Ontario: the sons and*

daughters of the American Loyalists of Upper Canada;

- *UE Loyalists & Military claimants of Upper Canada, Register Warrants & Fiats, 1798-1865: A Compiled Index of the Ontario Archives Warrants & Fiats*;
- *United Empire Loyalists Inquiry into the Losses and Services in Consequence of Their Loyalty: Evidence in the Canadian Claims.* [microform]

Wills

Wills may provide a wealth of genealogical material, identifying both property holdings and family members. The Library does not have any wills, but there are three indexes and most Ontario wills are available at the Archives of Ontario in Toronto:

- *Index to Peel County Surrogate Court Records, 1867-1968* [microfilm];
- *Surrogate Court Index of Ontario, Canada, 1859-1900*, vol. 1-27, reference books available in the History Dept. at 929.3713 SUR;
- *Surrogate Court Records Index, 1793-1858* [microfiche].

Mississauga Library System
301 Burnhamthorpe Rd W
Mississauga, ON L5B 3Y3
Telephone: 905-615-3500

E-mail address: library.info@mississauga.ca
Website: www.mississauga.ca/library