



## Searching for Births, Marriages, and Deaths

### Newspapers

#### Local Newspapers

**Brantford Expositor** ([brantford.library.on.ca/localhistory/bmd/search-the-bmd/](http://brantford.library.on.ca/localhistory/bmd/search-the-bmd/))

The microfilm is kept in the Local History Room. The index on our website provides the date and page number that the event appeared in the newspaper. Check the website to find out which years have been indexed. Please note that there is a **Brantford Weekly Expositor (1852-1916)** and a **Brantford (Daily) Expositor (1873-present)** and the early years of the daily newspaper have not yet been indexed.

**Your Life Moments** ([yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/landing.asp](http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/landing.asp)) has recent death notices from the **Expositor**.

#### **Brantford Courier**

This newspaper is available on microfilm from **1884 to 1918** in the Local History Room. There is a print index for the years **1884 to 1902** (R929.371347 BRA-C Local History).

#### **Brantford Telegram**

This newspaper is available on microfilm from **1881 to 1890** in the Local History Room. There is a print index for this newspaper (R929.371347 BRA Local History).

#### **Brant News**

There are print indexes and scrapbooks for some of the 1990s editions of this newspaper. The indexes are in binders in the Local History Room on top of the cabinets next to the telephone books. The scrapbooks are kept in the locked cabinet.

#### **Tekawennake**

There are print indexes and scrapbooks for various years of this newspaper starting with the late 1990s. The indexes are in binders in the Local History Room on top of the cabinets next to the telephone books. The scrapbooks are kept in the locked cabinet.

#### Early BMDs From Other Newspapers

Other sources of BMDs that cover different time periods and different locations in Ontario include:

**Christian Messenger: births, marriages, deaths (1854-1884)** (GenRef 929.3 CHR, volumes 1-21)

**Death Notices from the Christian Guardian, 1851-1860** (GenRef 929.3713 MCK)

**Death Notices of Ontario** (GenRef 929.3713 REI)

**The Hamilton Papers** (GenRef 929.37135 HAM)

## **Internet Resources**

Other public libraries, archives, etc. may have their own BMD databases. Online examples are:  
**Halton Newspaper Index** (Halton Hills, Burlington, Milton, Oakville) ([news.halinet.on.ca/](http://news.halinet.on.ca/))  
**Norfolk Genealogy** ([www.noronet.on.ca/~jcardiff/b-m-d/index.html](http://www.noronet.on.ca/~jcardiff/b-m-d/index.html))  
**Oxford County Library** (Ingersoll) ([www.ocl.net/genealogy/](http://www.ocl.net/genealogy/))  
**Woodstock Public Library** ([woodstock.news.halinet.on.ca/search](http://woodstock.news.halinet.on.ca/search))

## **Recent BMDs on the Internet**

For more recent death notices you can check the websites of the different newspapers. The notices are available for varying lengths of time, depending on the newspaper. Examples:

**Globe and Mail** (<http://v1.theglobeandmail.com/life/deaths/>)  
**Hamilton Spectator** ([www.thespec.com/](http://www.thespec.com/)) – click on “Obituaries”  
**Kitchener-Waterloo Record** ([www.lifenews.ca/waterloorecord](http://www.lifenews.ca/waterloorecord))  
**Ottawa Citizen** ([www.ottawacitizen.com/index.html](http://www.ottawacitizen.com/index.html)) - click on “Obits”  
**Stratford Beacon-Herald** ([www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/](http://www.stratfordbeaconherald.com/)) – click on “Obituaries”

## **Other Websites**

There are other websites that index BMDs for various newspapers from Canada, the United States, and other countries. Examples include:

**Obituary Daily Times** ([www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~obituary/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~obituary/))  
**Obituary Central** ([www.obitcentral.com/obitsearch/](http://www.obitcentral.com/obitsearch/))  
**Free Obituaries On-line** ([www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/obit\\_links.htm](http://www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/obit_links.htm))  
**National Obituary Archive** ([www.nationalobituaryarchive.com/](http://www.nationalobituaryarchive.com/))  
**Online Searchable Death Indexes & Records for the U.S.A.**  
([www.germanroots.com/deathrecords.html](http://www.germanroots.com/deathrecords.html))

## **Ancestry**

Check Ancestry often since new records and new databases are always being added. The Birth, Marriage & Death Records collection includes:  
Australia and New Zealand Obituary Collection  
Canada Obituary Collection  
United Kingdom and Ireland Obituary Collection  
United States Obituary Collection

## **Cemetery Records**

### **Brant County**

All of the cemeteries in Brant County have been transcribed by members of the Brant County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. We have print copies of these indexes on the top of the microfilm cabinets in the Local History Room.

### **Other Counties in Ontario**

Most of the cemeteries in Ontario have been transcribed by local genealogical society branches. These publications can be purchased from the branches. A lot of the Ontario cemetery transcriptions (completed up until December 2000) were microfilmed and are available through

interlibrary loan from the Archives of Ontario. The list of cemeteries and reel numbers are available on their website ([www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/cemetery.aspx](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/cemetery.aspx)).

### **Internet Resources**

#### **Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid** ([ocfa.islandnet.com/](http://ocfa.islandnet.com/))

Searchable index of more than 3 million Ontario burials; this website has not been updated since 1998 so recent burials will not be listed

#### **TONI (The Name Index)** ([www.ogs.on.ca/toni.php](http://www.ogs.on.ca/toni.php))

A searchable database created by the Ontario Genealogical Society with cemeteries included (look for t = tombstone for burial records)

#### **Canada Genweb Cemetery Project** ([cemetery.canadagenweb.org/](http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/))

Provides a list of known cemeteries in Canada, their location, links to online transcriptions, indexes, photographs, and links to where you can purchase the cemetery transcripts if they are not available online.

#### **Canadian Headstone Photo Project** ([canadianheadstones.com/](http://canadianheadstones.com/))

The goal of this website is to get digital images and complete transcriptions of headstones in cemeteries across Canada; over 1,678,000 records so far.

#### **Canadian Gravemarker Gallery** ([www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cangmg/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cangmg/))

Provides photos of tombstones from various cemeteries.

#### **British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid** ([bccfa.islandnet.com/](http://bccfa.islandnet.com/))

A searchable database which provides the surname, cemetery name, and location of over 344,000 interments.

#### **Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project** ([www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansacem/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansacem/))

1,688 of the more than 3,300 cemeteries in the province are transcribed or photographed on this site.

#### **Find a Grave** ([www.findagrave.com/](http://www.findagrave.com/))

-search for the graves of ancestors buried in Canada, the United States, England, and other countries

#### **Gravestone Photographic Resource** ([www.gravestonephotos.com/](http://www.gravestonephotos.com/))

An international directory of grave monuments for various countries, including: Australia, Canada, England, Italy, and New Zealand.

#### **Interment.net** ([www.interment.net/](http://www.interment.net/))

Has thousands of cemetery records from the United States, Canada, England, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries.

## Government Records

### Ontario Vital Statistics

Vital statistics registration started in 1869 in Ontario. The following years have been released to the Archives of Ontario by the provincial government. Another year in each series is released every year. We have the index reels on microfilm in the Local History Room for.

**Births:** 1869-1917 (MS 931 Series)

**Marriages:** 1873-1932 (MS 934 Series) (For marriages that occurred between 1869 and 1873 check: **Index to Marriage Registrations of Ontario, Canada, 1869-1873**, GenRef 929.3713 RUM, Books 1-6)

**Deaths:** 1869-1942 (MS 937 Series)

(**Note:** Births-1915-1917, Marriages-1930-1932, Deaths-1940-1942 have to be ordered through interlibrary loan.)

The indexes are in alphabetical order by surname. There are multiple years on early reels (e.g., MS 937 Reel 1, Deaths Index, A, 1869-1919). As additional years are microfilmed they are put on separate reels (e.g., MS 937 Reel 15, Deaths Index, A-Z, 1927). You need the registration number from the index to request the reel containing the actual registration of the event through interlibrary loan. To find out which reel is needed you must check the Archives of Ontario catalogue (in a binder on top of the microfilm cabinet in the Local History Room) or the Archives' website (<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/vsmain.aspx>).

To find the correct reel in the catalogue:

1. Find the right section (births, marriages or deaths).
2. Find the appropriate year. Note: Some events are not registered in the year in which they occurred so be sure to check the two-digit registration year after the registration number.
3. Locate the range of numbers that the registration number falls between to get the correct reel number. The specific series and reel number must be listed on the interlibrary loan form (e.g., MS 929 Reel 142). If the registration number is between 200,000 and 399,999 it was a delayed registration recorded after the year that the event occurred. Remove the first digit (the "2" or the "3") and look for the rest of the registration number. In some cases, there may be registration numbers greater than 400,000. Consult the Archives' website to see what you have to do to get these records.

Note: For further assistance in finding these records you can follow the steps listed in the Vital Statistics Records research guide ([http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research\\_guide\\_202\\_vital\\_statistics\\_EN.pdf](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/access/documents/research_guide_202_vital_statistics_EN.pdf)) on the Archives of Ontario website.

Things to remember:

1. Many registrations were not sent in, especially during the early years of vital statistics registration since the Clerks who were responsible didn't consider it a priority.
2. There may be errors so variations of surnames and/or given names should be checked (sometimes no first name is listed).

3. Sometimes pages of the index may be missing or out of focus so check the beginning of the film for possible retakes.
4. Entries with surnames too difficult to read have been indexed under "U" for "unknown".

### **Ancestry**

The Ontario Vital Statistics are available on Ancestry. In most cases you can view the original image.

**Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1913**

**Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1801-1928, 1933-1934** (includes district and county marriage records)

**Ontario, Canada Deaths, 1869-1938, 1943-1944**

### **Family Search**

The Ontario Vital Statistics are available on Family Search. In most cases you can view the original image.

**Ontario, Canada Births, 1869-1912**

**Ontario, Canada Marriages, 1869-1927**

**Ontario, Canada Deaths, 1869-1937**

### **Internet Resources**

**Ontario Vital Statistics Project** ([www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onvsr/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~onvsr/))

Volunteers have transcribed registrations for different counties for various years.

**Divorces in Canada (1841-1968)** ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/divorce-1841-1968/Pages/search.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/divorce-1841-1968/Pages/search.aspx))

Search for divorces in Canada, which during this time period were granted by private acts of the Parliament of Canada.

### **Official Vital Statistics in Other Provinces Available on the Internet**

**British Columbia** ([search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/basicSearch](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/basicSearch))

Baptisms (1836-1888); Births (1854-1903); Marriages (1859-1941); Deaths (1872-1996)

Can now view many of the registrations online

**Manitoba** ([vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php](http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php))

Births more than 100 years ago; Marriages more than 80 years ago; Deaths more than 70 years ago

**New Brunswick** ([archives.gnb.ca/Archives/default.aspx?culture=en-CA](http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/default.aspx?culture=en-CA))

Includes provincial registrations of birth (1898-1921); marriages (1847-1965), and provincial returns of deaths (1815-1966)

**Newfoundland and Labrador** ([ngb.chebucto.org/](http://ngb.chebucto.org/))

Different records available for different locations and years

**Nova Scotia** ([www.novascotiagenealogy.com/](http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com/))

Births (1864-1877, 1908-1915); Delayed Births (1830-1915); Marriage bonds (1763-1864); Marriage registrations (1864-1940); Deaths (1864-1877; 1 October 1908-1965)

**Prince Edward Island** ([www.gov.pe.ca/archives/parosearch](http://www.gov.pe.ca/archives/parosearch))

Searchable database of baptisms (1777-1923), marriages (1827-1919), and deaths (1906-1964)

**Saskatchewan** ([genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx))

Births more than 100 years ago; Deaths more than 70 years ago (ones prior to 1917 available now); Marriages more than 75 years ago (have not started yet)

## Church Records

To find church records you need to:

1. Figure out the family's location at a specific time.
2. Find out their religious affiliation (try the census).
3. Discover the location and the name of the appropriate church, minister, circuit or mission through historical reference material.
4. Find out if the relevant registers still exist and where they are currently kept.

## Finding Aids

1. Branches of genealogical societies may have published records for the churches in their area. Check the publication lists for the different branches in the appropriate area. Examples in our local history collection include: **Dumfries Street Presbyterian Church, Brantford, Ontario: baptism register 1821-1857, Grace Anglican Church burials: 1836-1867, Mohawk Church baptisms, marriages, burials 1827-1836.**
2. **Checklist of Parish Registers**, published by the National Archives, lists the microfilm that they have. We have the 1986 edition at Genealogy Reference 929.371 PUB.
3. Church records collection at the Archives of Ontario – listing of microfilm they have is on their website ([www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/church\\_records.aspx](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/church_records.aspx)). The Archives has some Catholic Church marriage registers on microfilm and you can check the index, **Roman Catholic Marriage Registers in Ontario, Canada 1828-1870**, compiled by Renie Rumpel (Genealogy Reference 929.3713 RUM) to see if these microfilms would be useful.
4. To find Anglican Church records, you need to locate the correct Anglican diocese archives. Refer to **The Guide to the Holdings of the Archives of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario** (R283.713 GUI) for this information.

## Print Resources

### **District Marriage Registers (1831- )**

Registers for 17 out of the 20 districts have survived (Dalhousie, Midland, and Niagara did not survive). The time periods covered by these marriage registers are not all the same since it depends on when the district came into existence, ceased to exist or when portions became part of new districts. Only 5 of these district registers have oaths and affidavits of marriages performed before 1831: Home, Johnstown, London, Ottawa, and Western Districts.

Sometimes these volumes have lists of baptisms and burials as well. This series is in print (GenRef 929.3713 WAL) and on microfilm (MS 248 Reels 1-4, 13).

### **County Marriage Registers (1858-1869)**

These registers were kept from January 1, 1858 until civil registration began in Ontario on July 1, 1869. Sometimes there are marriages included that were performed before or after these dates and sometimes there are gaps in the record keeping between 1868 and 1869 during the transition to official record keeping by the province. This series is in print (GenRef 929.3713 COU) and on microfilm (MS 248 Series).

### **Wesleyan Methodist Central Registry of Births & Baptisms**

This registry covers Ontario and part of Quebec and is most useful for 1840-1873. However, it is not a complete listing of all baptisms from this time period. These baptisms are listed on a website ([freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wjmartin/wm-index.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wjmartin/wm-index.htm)) and many genealogical societies have compiled the ones listed for their county into a book (e.g., Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register for Brant County, R283.71347 WES Local History).

### **Primitive Methodist Baptism Register-Markham Circuit**

An index to this register was published in the Ontario Genealogical Society's periodical **Families** in 1989 and 1990. We have this periodical in the Genealogy Reference section of the Local History Room.

### **Methodist Episcopal Church Niagara Conference Baptismal Register**

This register includes baptisms for 1849-1906 (predominantly 1858-1886) and covers much of southern Ontario. An index to the register was published in two parts by the OGS and includes all information in the register except the name of the minister performing the baptism. The **Index to Niagara Conference Methodist Episcopal Church baptismal register, 1849-1886: a guide for genealogists** by Louise I. Hope in the Local History Room (R287.632 HOP Local History).

### **Marriage Banns, Bonds & Licences**

Thomas B. Wilson published **Marriage Bonds of Ontario, 1803-1834**, an index and partial abstraction of surviving Ontario marriage bonds (GenRef 929.3713 WIL). Library and Archives Canada has a searchable database, Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds ([www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/marriage-bonds/pages/marriage-bonds-upper-lower.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/marriage-bonds/pages/marriage-bonds-upper-lower.aspx)) which provides references to: 7899 marriage bonds for Upper Canada (Ontario) issued between 1803 and 1865 and 2960 marriage bonds for Lower Canada (Quebec) issued between 1779 and 1858.

### **Vital Records of Upper Canada/Canada West**

Dan Walker and Fawne Stratford-Devai have compiled church records from different sources in the Niagara District, the Gore District, and the Dalhousie District for various years (GenRef 929.3713 WAL). For example, one of the Gore District volumes includes: Dumfries Street Presbyterian Church, Paris, Ontario, baptisms, 1821-1857 and Knox Presbyterian church, Hamilton, Ontario, baptisms 1833-1857, marriages 1834-1857, burials 1841-1857.

Vol. 1, pt. 1, Niagara District, 1795-1856  
Vol. 1, pt. 2, Niagara District, 1792-1849  
Vol. 1, pt. 3, Niagara District, 1816-1866  
Vol. 1, pt. 4, Niagara District, 1820-1869  
Vol. 2, pt. 1, Gore District, 1818-1857  
Vol. 2, pt. 2, Gore District, 1824-1869  
Vol. 2, pt. 3, Gore District, 1806-1869  
Vol. 3, pt. 1, Dalhousie District, 1825-1869

### **Examples of Church Records from Specific Counties in Ontario**

#### **Halton-Peel marriages performed at St. James Anglican Cathedral, Toronto 1800-1896.**

Oakville, Ont.: Ontario Genealogical Society, Halton-Peel Branch, 1998. (GenRef 929.3713533 HAL-SJ)

#### **All Saints Anglican Church baptisms, Register A, 1836-1886, Niagara Falls, Welland County. St.**

Catharines, Ont.: Ontario Genealogical Society, Niagara Peninsula Branch, 1993. (GenRef 929.371338 NIA-ASB, vol. 1)

**Our Lady of LaSalette parish register, 1856-1932.** Dan Walker (ed.). Delhi, ON: Ontario Genealogical Society, Norfolk County Branch, 1990. (GenRef 929.371336 OUR)

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Scarborough, Ontario: a transcription of the registers: baptisms 1854-1923, marriages, 1820-1923, burials 1882-1992.** Toronto: Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998. (GenRef 929.3713541 TOR-SAP)

### **Internet Resources**

**Ontario Marriage Registrations** ([homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maryc/thisisit.htm](http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maryc/thisisit.htm))  
Lists marriages, arranged by county that occurred between 1800 and 1926 from sources other than post-1869 civil registrations as well as marriages from the Ontario vital statistics reels from 1869-1926. These have been entered by volunteers so it is not complete.

#### **Bill Martin's Early Ontario Records** ([my.tbaytel.net/bmartin/earlyont.htm](http://my.tbaytel.net/bmartin/earlyont.htm))

Transcripts and indexes to early Ontario records (many from the Papers and Records of the Ontario Historical Society); includes transcriptions of church registers and early assessment rolls.

### **Ancestry**

Check Ancestry often since new records and new databases are always being added. Examples of databases available:

Brooklyn, New York Catholic Church Baptism Records, 1837-1900  
Devon, England, Extracted Parish Records  
London, England, Marriages and Banns, 1754-1921  
Ontario, Canada: Roman Catholic Marriages, 1827-1870  
Quebec Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967