



How to Find Census Information

Canadian Census

The Canadian census was taken every ten years from 1851 to 1921. Censuses before 1851 only named the head of the household and many of these censuses no longer exist. The 1851 census was the first one that listed everyone's name. Census returns were enumerated geographically **not** by name. According to Canadian legislation, 92 years has to pass after a census is taken before the records can be opened to the public.

Most census returns list the following information about a person: age, sex, country or province of birth, religion, racial or ethnic origin, occupation, and marital status. The 1901 census also includes date of birth, year of immigration, and address or location of land. The 1911 census only lists the month and year of birth.

We have census reels for the years 1851 to 1911 for Brant County and some of the surrounding counties in Ontario. If you want census reels that we don't have, check the catalogues on top of the microfilm cabinet in the local history room (there is one catalogue for 1666-1891 and a separate catalogue for the 1901 census) to get the reel number and request it through Interlibrary Loan. The list of census reels, including the reel numbers for the 1911 census, is also available online at the Library and Archives Canada website (www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020121_e.html).

The **death schedule** was only microfilmed for the 1851, 1861, and 1871 censuses. In 1851 and 1861, deaths that occurred within the past 12 months were listed as part of the personal schedule (in a separate column). In 1871 the deaths were compiled in a schedule of deaths that followed the personal schedule (provided the name of the deceased, their age, birthplace, and cause of death). The Mormon Family Search website (www.familysearch.org/) has a searchable database of the 1871 mortality schedules (45,371 records).

There are **agricultural returns** for the 1851, 1861, and 1871 censuses. This section provides information such as lot and concession number, acreage, livestock, and agricultural products. The agricultural returns for 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1911 were not kept.

Indexes/Transcriptions

Before 1842

1. **Grand River Tract Census, Haldimand Township, Wentworth County, Gore District, 1824, 1827, 1829, 1832** (R971.347 GRA Local History)
2. **Gore District Municipal Records (including the Counties of Brant, Halton, Waterloo, Wellington, and Wentworth)** - contain various census and assessment records for various years (MS 700 Reel 3, 4, 5 – microfilm; Reels 1 & 2 are only available through interlibrary loan).

3. **1825 Census for Lower Canada** (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1825/Pages/1825.aspx)
4. **1831 Census for Lower Canada** (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1831/Pages/1831.aspx)

1842

1. **Brant County 1842 Canada West census Brantford (Indian Reserve)** (R929.371347 BRA Local History) Note: Most of the 1842 census for this area is missing.
2. **1842 Census for Canada East** (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1842-canada-east/Pages/1842-canada-east.aspx)
3. **1842 Census for Canada West** (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1842-canada-west/Pages/1842-canada-west.aspx)

1851

1. Transcriptions with name indexes for Brantford, South Dumfries Township, Brantford Township, Paris, Burford Township, Oakland Township, Tuscarora Township, and Onondaga Township (R929.371347 Local History).
2. Printed index to the Hamilton and Wentworth County census (GenRef 929.371352 IND)
3. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1851/Pages/1851.aspx)
4. Ancestry (with original images)
5. Automated Genealogy Index (automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.jsp)
6. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1861

1. Transcriptions with name indexes for Brantford, South Dumfries Township, Brantford Township, Paris, Burford Township, Oakland Township, Tuscarora Township, and Onondaga Township at R929.371347 in the local history collection.
2. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1861/Pages/1861.aspx)
3. Ancestry (with original images)
4. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1871

1. Print indexes to the heads of households for all of the counties in Ontario in the Genealogical Reference section. Use the codes given next to the name (e.g., district, sub-district) to find out which reel number is needed (reel numbers are listed in the front of the book). Use the microfilm to find out the names, etc. of all family members.
2. Index to heads of household only for Ontario at: Queen's University (db.library.queensu.ca/census/)
3. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1871/Pages/1871.aspx)
3. Ancestry (with original images)
4. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1881

1. Tuscarora Township (Brant County) (R929.371347 NIN Local History)
2. Ancestry (with original images)
3. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)
4. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1881/Pages/1881.aspx)

1891

1. Transcriptions with name indexes for Brantford, Paris, and the townships are available at R929.371347 in the local history collection.
2. Ancestry (with original images).
3. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1891/Pages/1891.aspx)
4. Family Search (Mormon Library) (<https://www.familysearch.org/>) (no images)

1901

1. Complete transcriptions with indexes for Brantford, Brantford Township, South Dumfries Township, Onondaga Township, and Tuscarora Township at R929.371347 local history section.
2. Transcriptions for many of the townships in Wentworth County and wards in Hamilton in the Genealogical Reference section.
3. Automated Genealogy Index (automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.html)
4. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1901/Pages/1901.aspx)
5. Ancestry (with original images).
6. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1906

1. Automated Genealogy Index (census for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) (automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.html)
2. Ancestry (with original images)
3. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1906/Pages/1906.aspx)
4. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1911

1. Automated Genealogy Index (automatedgenealogy.com/census/index.html)
2. Ancestry (with original images)
3. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/1911.aspx)

1916

1. Ancestry (with original images) (census for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta)
2. Library and Archives Canada (digitized images) (www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1916/Pages/1916.aspx)
3. Family Search (Mormon Library) (www.familysearch.org/) (no images)

1921

I. Ancestry (with original images)

United States Census

Ancestry has the federal census from 1790 to 1940 (every 10 years). The 1890 census was mostly destroyed by fire but Ancestry has compiled a “substitute” to help researchers. Click on Census & Voter Lists in the right column on the Search page. Search all of the census records or choose a specific country. Search all of the censuses for that country or choose a specific census from the list. 1850 is the first federal census to list each household member by name. You can view the original image on Ancestry.

Family Search (Mormon Library) has the federal census from 1850 to 1940 and some state censuses for various years. You can view the original images for some of the censuses on Family Search.

United Kingdom Census

Ancestry has the United Kingdom census (England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man) from 184 to 1911. Click on Census & Voter Lists in the right column on the Search page. Search all of the census records or choose a specific country. Search all of the censuses for that country or choose a specific census from the list. The 1841 census is the first one to name everyone in the household. You can view the original image for some of these censuses on Ancestry

Family Search (Mormon Library) has the censuses from 1841 to 1911.

Other Census Websites

Ontario Genweb Census Project (ontariocensus.rootsweb.com/)

Provides links by counties to different years of the census that have been transcribed by volunteers.

Census Diggins: Free Census Records and Genealogy Databases

(www.censusediggins.com/)

Provides links to various United States census rolls as well as many other international genealogical websites.

Census Finder (www.censusfinder.com/)

Over 30,000 links to free census transcriptions, indexes, and images for the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Native Americans, Norway, and Sweden.

Census Online (www.census-online.com/links/index.html)

Over 45,000 links to sites on the Web that have census information for Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom.

FreeCEN (www.freecen.org.uk/)

Search the United Kingdom census for the years 1841 to 1891 on this free database with volunteers transcribing the records.