

A GUIDE TO GENEALOGICAL STUDY AT THE SIMCOE COUNTY ARCHIVES "THE FIRST COUNTY ARCHIVES IN ONTARIO"

CENSUS RECORDS... The six available personal Census records for Simcoe County were recorded in 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901 and 1911. Each is divided by township or municipality, and provides personal details such as name, age, occupation, marital status, birthplace, ethnic origin and religious preference. Some indication of literacy is provided, and, in the case of the 1861 Census, the type of dwelling is described. The 1851 personal Census for Rama and Mara Townships is also available, as well as aggregate totals, and limited nominal information from the 1842 Census of the Home District. Census records are the best place to start. In-house and on-line indexes are available for the 1861, 1871, and 1891 Censuses. On-line indexes are also available for the 1881, 1901 and 1911 census.

VITAL STATISTICS... Pre-1869 Marriage Registers for Simcoe County and the Home District are available on microfilm. Legislation requiring municipal maintenance of Birth, Marriage and Death records was passed in 1869. The Archives maintains a microfilm collection of the Ontario Archives' computer-generated indexes of Birth, Marriage and Death Registrations. The following records have been transferred to the Archivist of Ontario to facilitate genealogical searches:

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| Births | 1869-1914 |
| Marriages | 1869-1929 |
| Deaths | 1869-1939 |

For more recent registrations, contact the Office of the Registrar General for Ontario.

PLEASE NOTE that, pursuant to the Vital Statistics Act, the ARCHIVIST of the County of Simcoe WILL NOT make available Birth, Marriage and Death records in his custody:

Vital Statistics Act R.S.O. 1990, c. V-4

Amended by: 1993, c. 27, Sched.; 1994, c. 27, s. 102; 1997, c. 9, s. 7; 1998, c. 18, Sched. E, ss. 290-303; 1999, c. 12, Sched. F, ss. 43, 44; 2001, c. 9, Sched. D, s. 13.

53. (1) No division registrar, sub-registrar, funeral director or person employed in the service of Her Majesty shall communicate or allow to be communicated to any person not entitled thereto any information obtained under this Act, or allow any such person to inspect or have access to any records containing information obtained under this Act.

DIRECTORIES... Farm, business and nominal directories are available for a number of representative years, dating as early as 1866. Directories will help establish the presence of individuals and businesses, and will often locate them on specific property.

TAX ASSESSMENT ROLLS... The comprehensive County collection, available on microfilm, covers the period 1858-1912. Most townships and municipalities have deposited with the Archives collections of tax rolls which cover significant portions of the 20th century. This record provides the name of the head of each household (and often the names of others entitled to the municipal franchise), the type of occupancy (ownership, tenancy, etc.), age, occupation, religious preference, a description of the property, the school section into which taxes were paid, assessed property values, and certain other details including assessed statute labour days, livestock inventories and the number of family members in particular age groups. While Assessment Rolls provide a variety of information, other records provide more specific information about land ownership.

PATENT BOOK FOR THE COUNTY OF SIMCOE AND MUSKOKA... Land patents offered greater security of legal title than deeds alone provided. Due to survey and patent fees, however, land could change title several times before a patent was issued. The Land Patent Book, although incomplete in some respects (not all lots were patented), is valuable to a genealogist, since it can help to establish land occupancy prior to the earliest available Assessment Roll (1858).

ONTARIO ARCHIVES LAND RECORDS INDEX... Available on microfiche, this index contains data ranging from the 1780's to World War I, from Grants to the United Empire Loyalists, to those given veterans of the South African War. There are 236,747 entries drawn from three Ontario Archives Record Groups: the Crown Land Papers, the Canada Company Papers, and the Peter

Robinson Papers. There are two separate alphabetical listings: by locatee and by township or town. Information typically available from this index includes name, residence, location of land, date of transaction, and type of transaction (Order-in-Council, location, sale, lease, grant, etc.).

CEMETERY STUDIES... Through monumental transcriptions, the headstone information from many cemeteries in Simcoe County has been recorded and indexed by surname. A number of cemetery surveys, compiled by various individuals and the Simcoe County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, are available at the Archives, including Monumental Transcriptions, Central North Simcoe County (Vol.I), Cemetery Inscriptions, Tecumseth & West Gwillimbury Townships, Simcoe County, Ontario, and Cemeteries in Adjala-Tosorontio Township. In a very few instances, burial records, including undertaker's records, may be available.

NEWSPAPERS... The newspaper collection dates from 1847 to current editions, and includes most of the newspapers published in Simcoe County. A wide spectrum of information is available from newspapers. There is an alphabetical subject index for the Barrie Magnet and Northern Advance 1847-1950. In addition, both papers, along with the Barrie Examiner and the Barrie Herald, have been indexed for Birth, Marriage and Death notices and items. The index, which is extended annually, is currently available for the period 1847-1960.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH RECORDS... Generally speaking, recent practice has been to encourage donors to direct church records to appropriate denominational archives in Toronto. Similarly, most Simcoe County school records are under the jurisdiction of the Records Officer of the Simcoe County Board of Education. The Archives does, however, hold significant numbers of school records, including class registers and school section censuses. PLEASE NOTE that attendance registers are closed to public access for a period of 100 years. While church records often consist of sessional minutes and financial records, they may include marriage, burial and baptismal records.

GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF SIMCOE COUNTY FAMILIES... The Simcoe County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has undertaken a program of compiling genealogical records of Simcoe County settlers. The forms are completed by researchers and descendants, and are collected, maintained and indexed by the Simcoe County Archives. Joining the Simcoe County Branch of the OGS is a good way to expand the scope of your genealogical research, as well as to meet people with similar interests. The above are not the only family history resources available at the Simcoe County Archives.

OTHER RECORDS... The permanent collection of the Simcoe County Archives includes maps, photographs, newspapers, municipal records, audio and video magnetic and digital recordings, and a wide spectrum of original manuscript material. Finding aids and inventories are available to facilitate research use. Many of these sources may contain information of interest to family history researchers.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES... The Simcoe County Archives will undertake genealogical searches received by correspondence for a fee of \$30.00, which should accompany the inquiry. The Archives is unable to answer general inquiries that request "everything we have" on a subject family or individual. Try to frame your inquiries in the context of this Guide, requesting specific information from specific sources. We will undertake a search of 3 hours' duration of our standard genealogical resources, and any other indexed sources which we think might be helpful. Please include with your request any information you already have which might assist in the search.

SIMCOE COUNTY ARCHIVES – CELEBRATING 46 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE 1966-2013

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