

Genealogy: Links to the Past



Genealogy is the study of the descent of families and persons from an ancestor or ancestors. It is undertaken by people interested in their personal and family origins.

Family History involves the biographical research into a person's ancestors in order to produce a narrative history. It gives a personal, in-depth look into the life and times of an individual or family and shows the historical circumstances and geographical situations in which they lived.

Why do people become involved in genealogy?

- ❧ Interested in where they come from
- ❧ Health issues (tracking incidences of particular diseases)
- ❧ Inheritance, legal matters
- ❧ Trying to prove they are related to a particular person

Before you get started.....

There is a wealth of information available on the internet for beginners. Many of the large genealogy websites provide advice, tutorials and record forms for those just starting out.

Once you are ready to begin:

☞ Start with the most recent generation

- ☞ Gather known information about each member of your family (e.g. names, dates and places of births, deaths, marriages, etc.)*
- ☞ Talk to your parents, grandparents, etc. to fill in gaps in your information*
- ☞ Record the information on a pedigree chart as you go. This will keep your information in order.*

Useful sources of information:

- ❧ Birth, death and marriage certificates
- ❧ Family Bibles
- ❧ Obituaries
- ❧ Birth, marriage and death announcements
- ❧ Passports
- ❧ Letters, diaries
- ❧ Photographs



Where do I go next?

Check with area public and academic libraries, historical and genealogical societies as well as those resources in geographical locations where your research is concentrated.

Genealogical Resources at McMaster University

- ❧ Newspapers
- ❧ Canadian census (1825 – 1911)
- ❧ City directories for Hamilton and suburbs
- ❧ Maps of Hamilton and area, historical atlases
- ❧ Records of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara
- ❧ Canadian Baptist Archives
- ❧ Indexes to ship passenger lists



For a more in-depth guide to McMaster resources go to:

<http://library.mcmaster.ca/guides/genealogy.htm>

Genealogical Resources at the Hamilton Public Library

- ❧ Indexes to birth, marriage and death records
- ❧ Local cemetery transcriptions
- ❧ Ontario census
- ❧ City directories for Hamilton and suburbs
- ❧ Indexes to local funeral home records
- ❧ Family histories
- ❧ Maps of Hamilton and area, historical atlases
- ❧ Newspapers
- ❧ Telephone books
- ❧ Indexes to ship passenger lists



For a more in-depth guide to resources go to:

www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/LibraryServices/Genealogy

Local Historical and Genealogical Societies

- ❧ Canadian Baptist Historical Society
- ❧ Ancaster Township Historical Society
- ❧ Dundas Valley Historical Society
- ❧ Glanbrook Heritage Society
- ❧ Hamilton Branch – Ontario Genealogical Society
- ❧ Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society
- ❧ Stoney Creek Historical Society
- ❧ Waterdown-East Flamborough Heritage Society

Family History Library/Centers

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS/Mormons) have the largest genealogical library in the world.

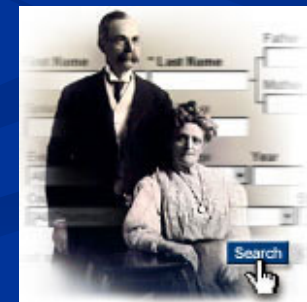
- ∞ Genealogical records from over 140 countries
- ∞ Majority of information deals with persons who lived before 1920
- ∞ The *International Genealogical Index* database contains over 600 million individual names



.... *Family History Library/Centers*

The LDS maintain the *FamilySearch* website www.familysearch.org which provides:

- ☞ Access to the *Family History Library Catalogue*
- ☞ Step-by-step research guidance
- ☞ Links to other useful websites



....*Family History Library/Centers*

Searches can also be conducted through local Family History Centers. Each centre has a basic collection of materials for beginning research as well as copies of the *Family History Library Catalog*, *Ancestor File* and the *International Genealogical Index*.

Other records kept include district and county marriage records, vital statistics records and various municipal and township records.

Staff are available to assist with searches and will arrange for the microfilm containing the information you need to be shipped in.



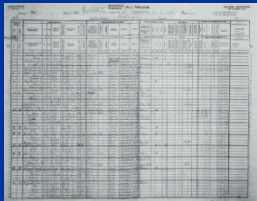
Other Sources of Information

☞ Archives of Ontario

- Ontario census records
- Vital statistics, court records and land registrations

☞ Library and Archives Canada

- Census records
- Military records
- Citizenship records
- Published family and community histories
- Genealogical and Historical Society periodicals



Useful Websites

❧ Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet

<http://www.cyndislist.com>

❧ FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Service

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

❧ RootsWeb

<http://www.rootsweb.com/>

❧ CanadaGenWeb Project

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~canwqw/>