



Our Canada Notre Canada Our Stories Nos Histoires

Canada 150 1867-2017

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Internet Websites for Family History Research

The Internet is a wonderful source of information. Use your search engines (e.g., Google.com) to find specific sites for your own research. Plan extra time to visit sites not related to your research but that are really just worth the visit! Otherwise, you'll never get your own work done.

On the following pages are links to various sources of information. Spend a bit of time getting familiar with the different types of information available through the Internet. Keep in mind that some sites are more accurate in their information than others. Depending on what you are researching, make sure that what information you take from a site comes from reliable sources. For example, something you find on a national or provincial archive may be more reliable than something found on a single person's website.

NOTE: If any of the links do not work, Google the title to see what the current website might be, if it still exists. Websites change regularly so the links may not always work.

Search Engines

To help with your searches it is good to know something about **Boolean searches**. Professional librarians and researchers use this method. By using three words (AND, NOT and OR), in capital letters, you can make your search more specific.

When you put AND between two words, the search engine finds documents that contain both words. Type in *New AND York AND Yankees AND baseball* and you will get documents specific to that baseball team.

Type in NOT and it tells the search engine not to search for the word following NOT. This technique helps narrow your search so that if you type in *blue AND jay NOT baseball* your search will not include baseball sites or documents but only information on the bird.

If you type in OR you broaden your search to include either word. For example, *family AND history* OR *genealogy* would give you enough 'hits' to keep you busy for decades!

More useful is the following example: *Qualicum AND Beach* OR *Parksville* to find out about both neighboring towns where your ancestors lived.

To search for an exact string of words, put quotes around them. For example, "Queen Elizabeth II" will find you websites with specific information on the queen. Without the quotation marks, the search engine will highlight any sites that include any of the words: Queen, Elizabeth, II. One of the most extensive and quick search engines has become [Google](#).

At the site you can also search under separate buttons for world maps, images (photos, illustrations) and well as *Google Earth* which allows you to see satellite images from the last few years to locate things such as homes where relatives were born or lived, places of family interest (churches, schools, buildings) and more. They also have Groups that hold discussion specific to your interest (search for them).

They are busy on a project to digitalize all published books in the world.

Other search engines include:

[Wolfram/Alfa](#) which is a more scientific website that includes incredible search capabilities such as "What was the weather like on June 8, 1960 in Quebec City?"

[Yahoo](#) is another well known search engine that provides slightly different results from Google. They are competitors, which is good for us who are looking for obscure information.

Some meta search engines (they search more than one database at a time) include:

[Dogpile](#)
[Lycos](#)
[Metacrawler](#)

Links to Genealogy, Family History and Historical Research

Genealogy, Family History Organizations, & Research Sites

The following are commercial and non-profit websites that offer information, services and/or products. We do not know all of these sites personally and do not endorse any websites. This list is just a service to help you find what you may be looking for.

Some of these sites require you to register (for free or for a cost). Choose your sites carefully so that you do not spend too much of your money. Start with only a few sites until you know what each has to offer.

Indigenous People's Research Websites

Aboriginal Peoples Guide to Government Records

Assembly of First Nations *is a national voice for First Nations peoples across Canada.*

List of Aboriginal Groups *at the Canadian Museum of History gives a detailed breakdown of aboriginal cultural groups by region with links to artifacts housed at the museum.*

Mi'kmaq Resource Centre *at the Cape Breton University includes extensive history, transcriptions of oral histories and treaties.*

Native Religions of Newfoundland & Labrador *looks at Beothuk history and religion as well as Metis, Mi'kmaq, Inuit and Innu religions.*

Acadian Story and Deportation (1755)

AfriGeneas (African Ancestored Genealogy)

Allen County Public Library has extensive international genealogical resources.

Ancestry.ca is part of a family of sites: www.ancestry.com, www.rootsweb.com, www.myfamily.com, www.genealogy.com, www.ancestrymagazine.com. It also has extensive online research links to specific types of searchers, courses and resources.

*Architecture Styles can be found at **Looking at Buildings**.*

Assembly of First Nations

This comprehensive bilingual site provides links to a vast range of information on First Nations people.

Association of Professional Genealogists

Professionals who can help you with your research.

Atlantic Canada Portal

Promotes the study of Atlantic Canada

The Atlas of Canada Historic and current maps.

Behind the Name gives information on last names are often revised throughout the generations.

Black Heritage in the Third Millennium Canada

This online resource allows students to research Black history from a Canadian perspective.

Black Loyalists

Between 1783 and 1785, more than 3,000 Black persons came to Nova Scotia as a direct result of the American Revolution.

Black Sheep Ancestors lists criminal, prison, court and execution records for Canadian, UK, and USA citizens.

BLOGS: Genealogy Blogs Finder

International blogs finder for your specific needs.

BRITISH ORPHANS Over 100,000 British orphans were sent to Canada between 1870 and the 1940s including those sent through adoptions organized by a man named Barnardo.. Check out two sites:

Barnardo's

British Home Children

Canada's History Society is the premier Canadian history site for adults and children alike. Publishers of several outstanding magazines.

Canadian Encyclopedia

Excellent encyclopedia now available for free and includes selected articles from Maclean's Magazine and the complete Encyclopedia of Music in Canada.

Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants

Website to help Canadians retrace their roots to the pilgrim landings in Eastern U.S.

Canadian Virtual War Memorial

Lists names, death dates and final resting places of more than 110,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who died in WWI and WWII

Canadiana -- Early -- Online

Searchable database of primary source documents available through the Canadian Institute of Historical Microproductions (CIHM) which includes 1.9 million pages in 13,505 volumes.

CBC Archives are a rich source of Canadian film and radio programs.

Centre for the Study of Historical Consciousness

This site includes academic articles on matters relating to historical understanding and the teaching of history in addition to a comprehensive bibliography on these topics.

City Directories Indexed Canadian City Directories of the 19th century (1819-1899) listing over 5.2 million people and their addresses, occupations, etc. on nearly 20,000 directory pages.

Cyndi's List *is one of the first and best mega websites including a lot of Canadian information.*

Dictionary of Canadian Biography *is hosted by Library and Archives Canada. It permits searching across 14 current volumes of the Dictionary.*

Diseases and Medical Terms from the 19th century

A website by Ian Beach of Bunbury, Western Australia who has collected, compiled and revised terms from the 19th century. May need adaptation for local terms in Canada.

Encyclopedia of Genealogy *is an online, open source project by Dick Eastman.*

Family Chronicle: The Magazine for Families Researching Their Roots

One of the leading magazines in this field. It has 3 sister magazines all published in Canada.

Family History Centres *Extensive site with 600 million names and 7,000 links to other sites. This free gift is available to all but stems from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints goal of having its 11 million adherents identify their own ancestors and ultimately bind the human family for eternity.*

FINDING PEOPLE STILL ALIVE

To find people still living check out these website directories:

411

InfoBel *(global listings)*

Lycos People *includes reverse telephone number search.*

Pipl *will search public records, publications, store profiles and more.*

Reverse Lookup *including cell phone lookup and cell phone directories.*

White Pages

Wink *Wink searches other sites including Facebook, blogs and more.*

Yahoo People

Footnote *is an American site with lots of interesting facts and photos of American life. Good for those with American ancestors who want to add some interesting facts to their research.*

Forensic Genealogy *Shadow in photos can lead to details of the day and time a photo was taken.*

The Genealogical Research Library *is one of Canada's largest national online database and designed to locate ancestors anywhere in Canada between 1600 to 1900.*

Genealogy in Time™

A free online genealogy magazine containing news, articles and links.

Genealogy Online

Extensive site with links to software programs, universities and libraries, family trees (over 200,000 for the 1880 U.S. Census) and more.

Genealogy Toolbox

Family historian's collection of commercial, ethnic, geographic, historical and library resources.

Global Genealogy: Everything for the Family Historian

An online bookstore for genealogists.

Google Earth requires you to download their software but well worth the experience of seeing your old neighbourhood, school, workplace, grandparents' homes through satellite photos.

Google Images Mega site with links to millions of photos around the world. Some photos have free copyright while others you must pay to use.

Google Maps

Google Videos

GRAVE SITES

To find a grave anywhere in the world, start by checking out:

Find a Grave

With over 26 million records (many with photos of gravestones), this is a good place to start. If you have some free time, you could even become a volunteer and help record other gravesites.

For military graves of soldiers in the Commonwealth:

Commonwealth War Graves Commission and **The War Graves Photographic Project**. For specific **World War Cemeteries**.

HANDWRITING ANALYSIS

Handwriting analysis may be necessary when reading a distant relative's letters or diary.

Here are 4 useful websites

Sabrina J Murray

Cyndi's List

Kip Sperry

An Online Course

Historica-Dominion Institute *is a rich resource for family and Canadian historians, teachers, students and policy makers.*

Historical Maps of Toronto *gives access to many maps of old Toronto.*

Historical Times

To find out more about the times in which your relatives lived.

Hudson's Bay Company Archives

Extensive records of early fur traders and settlers in western Canada from 1670 -1870.

Irish Genealogy About 38,000 Irish immigrants arrived in southern Ontario between May and Oct 1847 -- dramatically increasing the small populations of cities like Toronto. About 1,000,000 Irish people died during the Potato Famine in the late 1840s of starvation and disease (1/8 population).

Jewish Roots: Before Napoleon instituted the civil census in many parts of Europe, Jews did not have last names. They were identified by who their father was. So David ben Abraham is (David son of Abraham). For the census, last names were needed so Jews often took the name of a local landmark (town, valley) or a made up name after something valuable like a jewel (Rosenkrantz) or silver (Silverstein).

Jewish Genealogical Society (Toronto Branch)

*There is no national Jewish Genealogical Society, although there is an **international one** that lists all local Canadian Branches.*

Jewish Genealogy

An affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Legacies Inc. *provides several books for free online including How to Record Your Life and Family Stories (also on this website -- [Click here](#))*

Library and Archives Canada

*Canada's national library and archives with a wealth of information for genealogists and family historians. Used by professional historians for their Canadian history research as well. It includes the **Canadian Genealogy Centre***

Linkpendium *is a web site by the founders of Rootsweb (now merged with Ancestry) with American and international resource links.*

Lost Cousins *is a UK site that helps current genealogists connect who are researching the same ancestors.*

Money Values

To find out how much something was worth in England in your ancestor's day. Also the **Bank of Canada's** history of Canadian money.

Muslim Genealogy *can be started at any general website and then expand from there. This website is a general site that looks at Muslim surnames to begin your search.*

National Film Board of Canada

Hundreds of documentaries on Canada and its history and peoples.

National Genealogical Society (American)

NEWSPAPERS

Aside from checking for online resources at specific newspapers in your area, you can also try:

World Vital Records

which has more than 60 Canadian newspapers from across Canada except for Newfoundland and Labrador, NWT and Nunavut.

Obituaries Help

This website helps you access newspaper obituaries and discover your genealogy online. You can discover old newspaper obituary archives and download free genealogy forms and printable family tree charts.

Occupations To find out about old occupations (back to medieval times) and what they were.

[One Library](#) by Rick Crume provides links to many useful sites.

[Oxford Reference Library](#) is a subscriber of the internationally well-known reference library. There is a 30-day free trial period.

Peerage Sites for those of you with links to British aristocracy.

[Burkes Peerage](#)

[The Peerage](#)

PHOTO ARCHIVES

[Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive](#) is a searchable database of thousands of photos from the 19th and 20th centuries.

[Victorian and Edwardian Photographs](#) has Roger Vaughan's extensive personal collection of old photographs including help in dating your own photos.

[Photo Databases](#)

For further sources check this article of 37 databases.

PODCASTS AND INTERVIEWS

The following sites have online podcasts or interviews for those of you who prefer to learn by watching and listening.

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

[Podcasts](#)

[Videos](#)

[Genealogy Gems](#) radio and television shows.

[Genealogy Guys](#)

George G Morgan and Drew Smith

[Roots Television](#) interviews.

[ResearchBuzz](#) is a large resource by Tara Calishaim where she reviews websites (including genealogical ones).

[Rootsweb: Finding Our Roots Together](#)

One of several 'mega' websites for genealogists with links to many other sources of information.

[Stories of My Life Foundation](#)

A California-based non-profit that strives to collect and save individual stories for ever.

[Survivors of the Shoah -- Visual History Foundation](#)

Steven Spielberg's project to collect 50,000 video interviews with survivors of the holocaust.

[UK National Archives](#)

Internet Documents Online is freely searched but documents costs money to download (not much).

[UK: Vision of UK](#) UK between 1801 -2001 includes maps, statistics, historical descriptions.

[Upper Canada Genealogical Research: Ontario Roots](#)

USA People Search has a long list of links to other websites to help you find your ancestors in the U.S.

Veteran Affairs Canada

Canada Remembers Project

1-877-604-8469 (Learning Materials)

War Brides Extensive site looking at the lives of Canadian war brides.

World War I history is provided by The Great War Society at.

Workhouse history may be part of your research.

World Genealogy Web is a wide resource linked to key national and local information.

Yahoo Genealogy

YouTube is a site with millions of video clips that may include something for your specific research including 'how to' videos.

Research Libraries and Archives

Use your browser (e.g., [Google](#)) to find the specific archive or library you are interested in. For example, type in *Manitoba Archives* or *City of St. John's* to find the current internet address. Or if you want a religion's archives type in *United Church Archives* or *Ontario Jewish Archives*.

Your local public library will also have a wealth of family history and genealogical information (both in the library and online). For example, the [Toronto Public Library](#) has extensive internet genealogical sources. Look for *Genealogy* to find its specific sections of books and Internet links that include family history, genealogy search tools, heraldry, coat of arms and pedigrees of royal houses. There are subsections on:

Aboriginal Peoples, Acadian, Adoption, Archives, Asia, Atlantic Canada, Births-Marriages-Deaths, Blacks, Canada, Cemetery Records, Census Records, Directories, Europe, French Canadian & Acadian, Great Britain, Heraldry, Home Children (Canadian Immigrants), Immigration Records and Ships' Passenger Logs, Ireland, Jews, Land Records, Magazines and Journals, Maps and Gazetteers, Military Records, Newspaper Records (digitized databases of The Toronto Star, Globe and Mail from 1844), Ontario, Organizations and Associations, Quebec, Toronto, United Empire Loyalists, United States, Western Canada.

[Library and Archives Canada](#) is our national repository of all published materials in Canada. Their commitment to providing genealogical resources online is extraordinary. The library and archives are also used by professional historians for their Canadian history research. It includes the [Archives Canadian Genealogy Centre](#)

[Active History](#) is a website that connects the work of historians with the wider public and the importance of the past to current events.

[British Library](#) Britain's national library.

[British National Collection of Aerial Photography](#) - NCAP - is one of the largest and most significant collections of aerial photography in the world. It is an invaluable resource for historical research across a wide range of disciplines.

[CBC Digital Archives](#) at Canada's national public radio and television broadcaster.

[Library of Congress](#) This national library houses all books every published in the U.S. and is a wealth of information on all areas of research. They also have a feature where you can ask a librarian questions online.

[Mass Observation Project \(UK\)](#) began in 1937 and had thousands of volunteers recording daily life in the UK, including the war years. An invaluable and rich source housed at the University of Sussex.

[McCord Museum, Montreal](#) has extensive exhibitions of 19th century photos including the William Notman collection. Well worth a visit.

National Archives in the UK

Internet Documents Online is freely searched but documents costs money to download (not much).

National (US) Archives and Records Administration

American national archives with a wealth of material for those researching American family history.

The Virtual Museum of Canada has thousands of resources, exhibits and documents of interest to Canadian historians and students alike.

LibWeb is an Internet search tool to locate libraries in over 146 countries.

To search for family histories written by your relatives:

Internet Archives (both American and Canadian)

Ancestry

Google Books

World Vital Records

Confederation and Links to 1967 Centennial Celebrations

Confederation

[Library and Archives Canada Site](#)

The site describes the path to Canadian Confederation, noting the influence of the American Civil War. It contains links to relevant historical documents, key terms, notable public figures, a bibliography, and maps outlining the changing shape of Canada from the seventeenth century to the present.

1967 Video Clips

Anyone alive during 1967 will remember Bobby Gimbel's famous *CA-NA-DA* song which millions of children sang far too many times for their parents' desire. Here is a clip of that song:

[CA-NA-DA](#)

In 1966, the first film taken of Canada from coast to coast from the air was produced. It is well worth a look for those who want to remember or be introduced to the Canada of 1966; just before our Centennial celebrations.

The film is called [Helicopter Canada](#) by Eugene Boyko, 1966.

Federal Government Site

The federal government has its own website for the 150th anniversary.

<http://www.canada150.gc.ca>

Storytelling Websites

BBC Domesday Project: In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious idea called the **Domesday Project** to record a snapshot of everyday life across the UK for future generations. A million volunteers took part. The project has been recently added to the internet and is searchable.

Dutch Online Biography Service: Biografie.nl is a Dutch website that helps people write their biographies by answering 100 questions plus the ability to add photos. This site is just one of hundreds, if not thousands, around the world to help collect people's stories. The difference with *Canada 150* is that ours is a gift to a whole country on its 150th birthday rather than just a gift to one's family.

History Pin is a website in the United Kingdom that wants people from around the world to add a photo or short story about something interesting in their lives. This site is working with Google to collect and search these stories so you can compare a photo of your neighbourhood in 2011 and compare it to one from 1952 posted by someone else. This site can help add interesting details to your own life story for *Canada 150*.

Journeys of Discovery is part of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme Stories of the World which presents exciting new museum exhibitions across the UK, curated by young people. Hundreds of young people across the North East of England are using digital media to work with communities from all over the world. Their aim: to catch attention, challenge people and cause debate, by exploring the stories behind collections of objects brought back to our museums from around the world. They are working on creating compelling exhibitions for 2012.

The **Story Circle Network** is dedicated to helping women share the stories of their lives and to raising public awareness of the importance of women's personal histories.

StoryCorps is an independent nonprofit whose mission is to provide Americans of all backgrounds and beliefs with the opportunity to record, share, and preserve the stories of our lives. Since 2003, StoryCorps has collected and archived more than 30,000 interviews from more than 60,000 participants. Each conversation is recorded and then preserved at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

Professional Help

There are many professionals you can find on the Internet through their associations. You can also check at the local library, community centre or school for people who could help you locally with your writing, editing, publishing and printing. Here are a few such associations:

Association of Personal Historians Inc

The Biographer's Craft A newsletter filled with news items, writing tips, recently published biographies and much more. Excellent free resource.

Centre for Digital Story Telling in Toronto and Berkeley, California

Creative Memories is a franchise operation of local experts to help you with your scrapbooks, family histories and photo albums including publishing software.

Tom Douglas, author and military historian

Editors Association of Canada database of editors that could help you find a local editor.

Heritage Memoirs

Home Film Preservation Guide is on a website created to provide simple guidelines for preserving motion picture film materials outside of specialized archives, with a focus on storage at home.

House History Research is run by Dana King and helps you research your home in the Greater Toronto Area.

International Association of Story Keepers

Library and Archives Canada has extensive resources for the family historian and genealogist.

Moorshead Magazines (publishers of 4 family history & genealogy magazines)

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies Canadian based, international centre for online genealogical studies.

Professional Writers' Association of Canada (PWAC) includes a directory of professional writers who can help you with your writing.

Treasury of Family Heritage

Harry van Bommel, writer and founder of the *Canada 150 Project*.

The Writers Union of Canada includes directory of published authors who can help you with your writing and a list of Canadian publishers who might look at your manuscript.

Writing a Family Memoir online distance course from Simon Fraser University.