



# Library Guide to Genealogy and Family History



The Richmond Hill Public Library holds the largest genealogy collection in York Region. The collection is housed in the Mary-Lou Griffin Local History Room on the 4th Floor of Central Library. Our collections include books, microfilm, newspapers, periodicals, digital archives and access to a number of online genealogy and history resources. We also house the Ontario Genealogy Society's York Branch Library and are an Affiliate Library with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for FamilySearch.

## GENERAL

***The Family Tree Problem Solver : Tried-and-True Tactics for Tracing Elusive Ancestors***  
 Marsha Hoffman Rising (2019)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1072 RIS 2019  
 Genealogy

***The Family Tree Toolkit : A Comprehensive Guide to Uncovering Your Ancestry and Researching Genealogy***  
 Kenyatta D. Berry (2018)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1 BER  
 Genealogy

***Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com : How to Find Your Family History on the #1 Genealogy Website***  
 Nancy Hendrickson (2018)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.10285 HEN 2018  
 Genealogy

***The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide : How to Find, Record, & Preserve your Ancestors' Graves***  
 Joy Neighbors (2017)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.5 NEI  
 Cemeteries

***Organize Your Genealogy : Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher***  
 Drew Smith (2016)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1 SMI  
 Genealogy

***Guide to Genealogy***  
 Tamara Resler (2018)  
 Juvenile Non-Fiction J 929.1  
 Genealogy

## GENEALOGY RESEARCH METHODS

***Genealogy : Essential Research Methods***  
 Helen Osborn (2012)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1072 OSB  
 Genealogy

## DNA AND GENEALOGY

***The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy***  
 Blaine T. Bettinger (second edition, 2019)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1 BET  
 Genetic genealogy - Handbooks and manuals

***The Adoptee's Guide to DNA Testing : How to Use Genetic Genealogy to Discover Your Long-Lost Family***  
 Tamar Weinberg (2018)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 796.6 Hur  
 Genetic genealogy

***Finding Family : My Search for Roots and the Secrets in my DNA***  
 Richard Hill (2017)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1 HIL  
 Genetic genealogy - United States - Case studies

## TRACING ANCESTORS

***Trace Your German Roots Online : A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites***  
 James M. Beidler (2016)  
 Adult Non-Fiction 929.1072 BEI  
 Genealogy - Computer network resources

### Book an Appointment

Not sure where to start your research or need help? Book an appointment with our Local History/Genealogy Librarian by calling 905.884.9288 ext. 5068 or email [genealogy@rhpl.ca](mailto:genealogy@rhpl.ca).

***The Family Tree Polish, Czech & Slovak Genealogy Guide : How to Trace your Family Tree in Eastern Europe***

Lisa A. Alzo (2016)  
Europe, Eastern - Genealogy

***Tracing your Welsh Ancestors : A Guide for Family Historians***

Beryl Evans (2014)  
Online resource [ebook]  
Wales - Genealogy - Sources

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

Visit our Local History and Genealogy page on the RHPL website ([www.rhpl.ca/services/explore/local-history-and-genealogy](http://www.rhpl.ca/services/explore/local-history-and-genealogy)) to access these resources.

**Genealogy Databases**

- Ancestry Library Edition (in library use only)
- FamilySearch ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) - RHPL is an **Affiliate Library** with the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints**. Using library computers with your free FamilySearch account provides increased access to digitized records, many that you would be unable to access from home.

**Digital Archives**

- Richmond Hill Public Library Digital Collection
- Historic Cemeteries of South York Region
- Richmond Hill Photo Images (from 1860)
- *Early Days in Richmond Hill* by Robert Stamp

**Historic Newspapers**

- [Richmond Hill Historic Newspapers](#) (1857 - 1979)
- [Globe & Mail](#) (1844 - 2016)
- [Toronto Star Pages of the Past](#) (1894 - 2016)

**LOCAL RESOURCES**

***Canadiana Reference Collection***

A collection of over 5,000 volumes searchable in the library catalogue that cover a full range of topics.

***Helen Schwab Collection***

Consists of over one hundred volumes of information on families from the regions of York, Durham, and Peel.

***Family Histories and Family Files***

These collections include over 300 files of materials donated by researchers as well as published family histories searchable in the online catalogue.

***Cemetery Transcriptions***

Cemetery transcriptions by the Ontario Genealogical Society from Aurora, Newmarket, Vaughan, Markham, Whitchurch, King and Richmond Hill.

***Land Record Microfilms***

Abstract Index and Copy Books for the Townships of Vaughan, Markham, King, Whitchurch, the Village of Markham and the Town of Richmond Hill on microfilm.

***Surrogate Court Record Microfilms***

Our collection includes surrogate court records on microfilm from the following counties:

- Brant
- Bruce
- Elgin
- Essex
- Grey
- Halton
- Huron
- Lambton
- Leeds & Grenville
- Lincoln
- Middlesex
- Northumberland
- Ontario
- Oxford
- Peel
- Perth
- Simcoe
- Waterloo
- York

***Local Newspapers***

In addition to the digitized local newspapers listed earlier, the library has copies on microfilm up to the past year. Other community newspapers on microfilm include ones from Aurora, Markham and Newmarket.

***Ontario Ancestors York Branch Library***

The Richmond Hill Central Library houses the collection of the **York Region Branch of Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society.**

The collection includes genealogy newsletters from Canada, the United States, and Great Britain, transcriptions of York Region cemeteries, and published works of genealogical and historical interest. York Branch has also provided a computer with FamilyTreeMaker software installed to allow members of the public to try it out for free.

The York Branch holds its meetings four times per year at the Library. These free meetings feature a guest speaker and are open to everyone to attend.

**Magazines & Newsletters**

- Berczy Settlers Gazette
- Canadian Historical Review
- Families (OGS)
- Family Tree Magazine
- Loyalist Gazette
- Ontario History
- Ontario Mennonite History
- York Region Ancestors

