



Library Guide to Writing Your 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.

WRITING

How to Write Your Personal or Family History

Katie Funk Wiebe (2017)

Adult Non-Fiction 929.1072 WIE

[Genealogy - Authorship - Handbooks, manuals, etc.](#)

Writing Family Histories and Memoirs

Kirk Polking (1995)

Adult Non-Fiction CR 808.06692 POLKI OGS

[Genealogy - Authorship](#)

Writing a Non-boring Family History

Hazel Edwards (2011)

Adult Non-Fiction eBook

[Genealogy - Authorship](#)

GENEALOGY RESEARCH METHODS

The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide : How to Find, Record, & Preserve your Ancestors' Graves

Joy Neighbors (2017)

Adult Non-Fiction 929.5 NEI

[Cemeteries](#)

Journeys Home : Inspiring Stories, Plus Tips and Strategies to Find Your Family History

Andrew McCarthy (2015)

Adult Non-Fiction 929 MCCA

[Celebrities - Genealogy](#)

Genealogy : Essential Research Methods

Helen Osborn (2012)

Adult Non-Fiction 929.1072 OSB

[Genealogy](#)

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.

DIGITIZED NEWSPAPERS

There are a number of free and subscription-based digital newspaper archives available online.

FREE

Richmond Hill Historic Newspapers

history.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/3096112/data?grd=4397

Ontario Community Newspapers

new.ourontario.ca

Early Canadiana Online

www.canadiana.ca

Ontario Genealogy Historical Newspaper Archives

www.ontariogenealogy.com/ontarionewspaper.html

Google Newspaper Archive

news.google.com/newspapers

Online Newspaper Archives - Wikipedia

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives

FREE WITH RHPL LIBRARY CARD

Pages of the Past: Toronto Star Archive (1894 - 2016)

www.rhpl.ca/digital-resources-genealogy-and-local-history

Globe & Mail Archive (1844 - 2016)

www.rhpl.ca/digital-resources-genealogy-and-local-history

PAID

Newspapers.com

www.newspapers.com

British Newspaper Archive

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

LOCAL RESOURCES

The following local resources can be found in the Mary-Lou Griffin Local History Room at Central Library.

Canadiana Reference Collection

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

Family Histories and Family Files

These collections include over 300 files of materials donated by researchers as well as over 100 published family histories searchable in the [library catalogue](#).

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.

Ontario Surrogate Court Record Microfilms

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

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

ONLINE RESOURCES

Writing Your Family History

Ten Steps to Writing and Publishing Your Family History
New England Historic Genealogical Society
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uUpoVyZZrXs

How to Write a Compelling Story About Your Ancestor
Brigham Young University Family History Library
www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3TI_CqPfdk

Writing and Publishing Your Family History
New England Historic Genealogical Society
www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/writing-publishing

The Family History Writing Studio
Lynn Palermo, The Armchair Genealogist
www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com

Historical Maps

The Changing Shape of Ontario: Early Districts and Counties (1788-1899)
Archives of Ontario
www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/maps/ontario-districts.aspx

Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection
University of Texas Libraries
legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/index.html

Canadian History

Early Canadiana Online — www.canadiana.ca

150 Years of Immigration in Canada
Statistics Canada, June 2016
www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-630-x/11-630-x2016006-eng.htm

100 Years of Immigration in Canada
Statistics Canada, Fall 2000
www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-008-x/2000002/article/5164-eng.pdf

This is Public Health: A Canadian History
Canadian Public Health Association, 2010
cpaha.ca/sites/default/files/assets/history/book/history-book-print_all_e.pdf

Historical Resources

Library and Archives Canada — www.bac-lac.gc.ca

Archives of Ontario — www.archives.gov.on.ca

Toronto Public Library — www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy

The Internet Archive — www.archive.org

Library of Congress (United States) — www.loc.gov

National Archives (United Kingdom) — www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

SOFTWARE

- Adobe InDesign
- Evernote
- LibreOffice
- Microsoft OneNote
- Microsoft Publisher
- Microsoft Word
- Google Docs
- Scrivener
- Zotero (citations)
- WordPress (blogging)