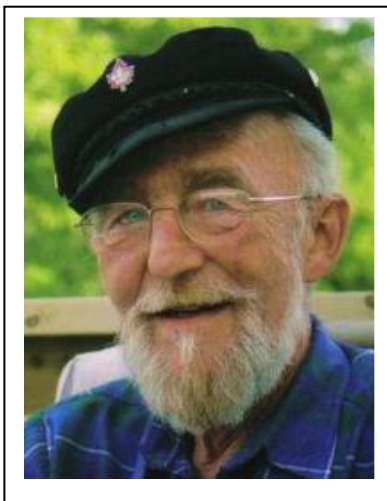


Quebec Parishes



Reader Bryan Hollington wrote recently looking for information on the registers of the parish of St-Hermas, in Quebec and on other Quebec parishes generally.

Many parish registers were transcribed and indexed by local genealogical societies and copies of many of these are in the National Library. You can check out their catalogue at; < www.collectionscanada.ca >. Select < Search Published Materials > and do a 'Subject Browse' using the name of the parish as the 'Keyword'.

I couldn't find St-Hermas, so I did a search for one that I knew they had and I couldn't find that one either. I guess their online catalogue is not yet complete. In any event, material found in a transcription should be verified from the original or a microfilm because of the possibility of errors in the transcription.

Local libraries, historical and genealogical societies will also usually have the transcriptions for churches in their areas.

Most of the parish registers in Quebec were microfilmed by two different organizations. The Drouin Institute did theirs first and therefore have some registers that disappeared by fire or otherwise before the Mormons (LDS) did their microfilming.

The last price I heard for a full set of the Drouin microfilms was \$75,000., and none of my friends has a set but there is one at the Salle Gagnon, the genealogy room, of the Montreal Municipal Library. Even Library and Archives Canada does not have a set.

The Drouin microfilms for St-Hermas, which is in the Mirabel area of the county of Deux Montagnes, are #65 (1837-1878); #66 (1879-1939); #1157b (1853-1856).

You can find the LDS film numbers from their website at: < www.familysearch.org >. In the Library column, select 'Search the Catalogue', then use a "Keyword Search" with the name of the church as the keyword. From the list of search results select the one you want, then click on "View Film Notes" . This will finally give you the catalogue number of the films you want.

Your county Family History Centre (Smiths Falls, Ottawa, or Petawawa) can then order the films for you to view on their premises. The film numbers for St-Hermas are: 1288716 (1837-1845); 1288717 (1845-1877).

LDS Update

Occasional users of the LDS <familysearch> site may be surprised to see my suggestion above to use the "Keyword" search function for the Library search. Although the button has been there for ages, it was inactive. Earlier this year it was finally activated.

The "Keyword" search is likely to find more matches than one limited to name, place, etc. It will find the word in the Title, Author, Subject, and Notes fields in the Library's catalogue. In my search for St-Hermas, I had no luck with the place name search but turned up a long list of resources using the keyword.

You are not restricted to one keyword for a search. You can also use a phrase like 'Lanark Ontario'.

It is still a good idea to try different searches and search terms in order to ensure that you do not miss something useful but this is a great step forward.

Hudson's Bay Company

I was asked at a recent meeting of the Lanark County Genealogical Society about the records of the Hudson's Bay Company. Their archival records have been turned over by agreement to the government of Manitoba, where they are managed as a separate unit in the provincial archives.

This is an extremely rich fonds with fascinating material on the early days of the Canadian West and North. Much of it is available on microfilm through inter-library loan and the staff are prepared to respond to queries by e-mail, fax, letter, etc.

The website for the collection is: www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca . It is an attractive site and includes some on-line finding aids that can help to narrow down your search. It is worth a visit just to find out the range of resources that they have available and that you just might need in the future.