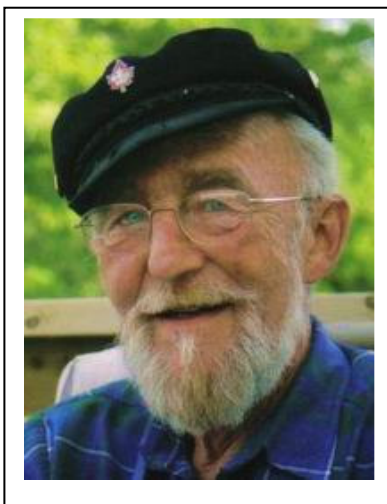


The Family Historian

Patrick Wohler

Column #24



Birth Registrations in Ontario

The Province of Ontario began registering births in July 1869. Prior to that date we are pretty much dependant on church baptismal records. Births from July 1869 to 1906 are in the custody of the Archives of Ontario (AO) and recorded on over 180 reels of microfilm. Each year another year of registrations is transferred from the Registrar General's office to the AO and are effectively out of circulation for one year while they are being microfilmed.

In order to find which reel of microfilm contains the record you seek, you must consult the Index to the Birth Registrations. This Index is available on 18 reels of microfilm [MS 931 Reels 1-18 (RG80-4, Appendix A4)]. It is usually available at Family History Centres in Ontario and may also be in your local genealogical resource centre (archives or library). The registration reels, themselves, are available by inter-library loan from the AO or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City (FHL).

The Birth Indexes for 1869 to 1895 are arranged: 1. First, by surname **initial**; 2. Then, by **year** of the birth; 3. Lastly, **alphabetically** by the full name. The Birth Indexes for 1896-1906 are arranged: 1. First, by **year** of the birth; 2. Then, **alphabetically** by the full name.

The key information that you need are the year of registration (not birth) and the registration number. With that information you can go to a table to identify the number of the microfilm reel that you need. If your registration number has several zeroes in front of it, disregard them and if it begins with a '2' or a '3' disregard them since they are code identifiers. You should find the table wherever you found the index, but if there is a problem, a copy of it is posted on the AO web site (www.archives.gov.on.ca) and gives both the AO number and the FHL number for each reel.

When your reel comes in, if you can't find your registration number in its proper numeric sequence, go to the end of the year for non-sequential registrations.

The Carleton Place Public Library

Nestled in a small room in the Carleton Place Public Library is a local treasure trove of material for genealogical researchers. Librarian, Janet Baril, who is an enthusiastic supporter of local and family history research, is justly pleased with this resource and the library is actively pursuing its continued development. You can request access to the genealogy room at the circulation desk.

Their current holdings include microfilm copies of the *Carleton Place Herald* (1855-1943) and the *Carleton Place Canadian* (from 1991) along with indexes of deaths and marriages from the newspapers. Lanark County Land Transactions (1820-1847), Cemetery Records, Census Returns, Assessment Rolls and Minute Books, Shipping Lists of early settlers, indexes from other area newspapers (*Almonte Gazette*, *Renfrew Mercury*), and a number of Family Histories all add to the usefulness of this resource.

Janet reminded me that when researchers complete a local family history, the library would really appreciate a copy. It is their only way of obtaining one and making it available to others who may be interested in it or parts of it. They will be happy to receive it in any format.

The Genealogy Room is equipped with both microfilm and microfiche readers and the library is well equipped with computers (with internet access) and a photocopier. To add to the experience, the staff is very friendly and helpful.

The library is located at 101 Beckwith Street and has ample parking and handicapped access. It is open Mon.-Thurs. 2:30-9:00p.m.; Fri. 9:30-11:30 and 2:30-9:00; Sat. 10:00-5:00.

Family History Hits the Big Time

In what was probably a first, a Family History workshop and Field Trip (to Ellis Island) were on the agenda for the Republican Convention in New York City last year. Brian Anderson, Commissioner of the city's Department of Records and an avid genealogist, created the presentation. His two main pieces of advice are: 1. Work backwards one step at a time from known pieces of information and 2. Have fun doing it. Do you think we could convince Paul Martin to try it?