

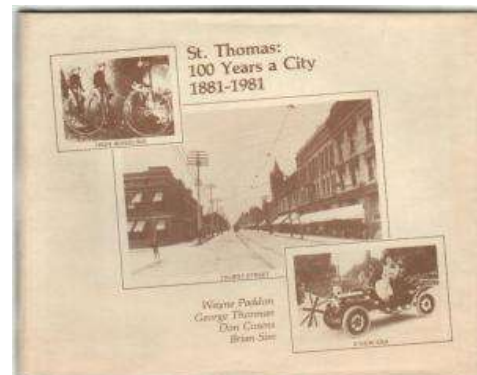
# Local History User Guide



# HISTORY OF THE GEORGE THORMAN ROOM

The local history room at the St. Thomas Public Library was dedicated on October 19, 1989 to George Thorman, a local historian, teacher, and author. George Thorman wrote and co-authored a number of books on local history including *St. Thomas: 100 Years a City, 1881 - 1991*, an important book for anyone studying the history of St. Thomas. Mr. Thorman passed away in 1997.

The George Thorman Room holdings include books and pamphlets about the history of the area, newspapers, city directories, and a number of other materials. With all these resources, the George Thorman Room should be your first stop when it comes to researching local history and your ancestors.



# Researching Local History at the St. Thomas Public Library



## Using the Indexes

Several **surname card indexes** are located in the George Thorman Room and are a good place to begin a search for an individual or family. References to such crucial information as births, marriages, and deaths can be found here. These references will direct you to the book shelves (pink shelves), the filing cabinets (Local History Clipping Files; Blue shelves), or the microfilm collection.

**Subject Indexes** are also available and includes such headings as “Accidents,” “Businesses,” “Churches” and “Railroads.”

Numerous **online indexes** are available on the Elgin OGS website ([www.elginogs.ca](http://www.elginogs.ca)).

## Microfilm Collection

The microfilm collection includes St. Thomas newspapers from 1832 to the present. Also available are the city directories.

Patrons are encouraged to reserve a microfilm reader/printer in advance.

*Note:* Indexing of St. Thomas newspapers in the **surname card index** is incomplete after 1919. Elgin OGS has indexed the newspapers up to 1961 on their website ([www.elginogs.ca](http://www.elginogs.ca)). Other indexes on the OGS site include census

records, land records, vital statistics, funeral home records, and will and probate records.

### Organization of materials in the George Thorman Room

The collection is organized by subject via the Dewey decimal system. Large, oversized items, such as historical atlases and the Book of Remembrance are shelved separately.

The filing cabinets are comprised of two parts. The lower drawer (Blue Shelf) contains envelopes organized by a Dewey decimal number. They contain pamphlets and photocopies. The remainder of the cabinets, house the Local History Clipping Files, a collection of scrapbooks containing newspaper clippings and other materials organized alphabetically by subject.



### The secure cupboard

These items are found in the secure cupboard. Please see the Information staff for access:

- Pictorial History of St. Thomas
- Scrapbooks
- Materials on Alma College
- Audio Visual Materials

### The Railroad Collection

This unique collection of materials relating to the railway era has a global scope. It covers the years approximately from the 1850s to the 1980s. There are histories of the era, individual rail lines, original railroad manuals, and many items dedicated to the railway history of St. Thomas. Any railway buff would find something of interest in this collection.



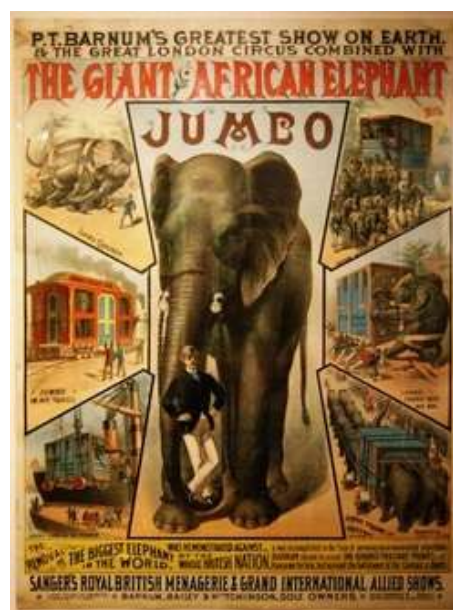
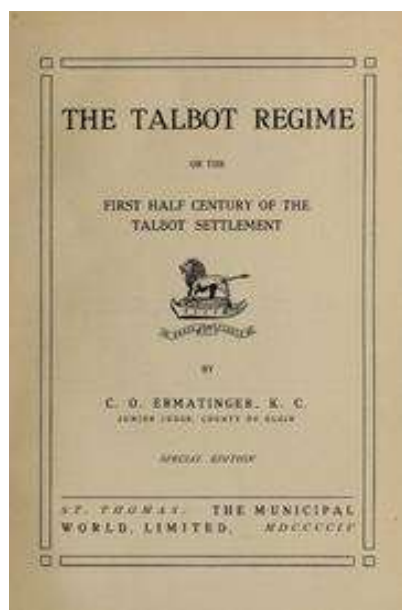
## Other resources

An Internet workstation is available in the George Thorman Room. Several genealogical sites have been bookmarked and can be quickly accessed by clicking “Favorites” on the top of the screen. AncestryLibrary is a subscription database. It is available on this computer and on each of the internet workstations on the main floor.



Some of the publications housed in the George Thorman Room are also available in the circulating stacks on the main floor.

If you have any questions, please ask at the Information Desk on the main floor and a staff member will be pleased to assist you.



# Getting Started: The History of St. Thomas

## Informative Books

- 971.302 TAL Ermatinger, Charles Oakes Zacchus, *Life of Colonel Talbot and the Talbot Settlement*, 1972, c1859.
- 971.3 ERM Ermatinger, Charles Oakes Zacchus, *The Talbot regime: or, the first half century of the Talbot settlement*, 1999, c1904.
- 971.3340924 TAL Hamil, Fredrick Coyne, *Lake Erie Baron; the story of Colonel Thomas Talbot*, 1955.
- 971.335 M619 Miller, Warren, *Vignettes of early St. Thomas; an anthology of the life and times of its first century*, 1967.
- 971.334 PAD Paddon, Wayne, *Glimpses into St. Thomas railway history*, [n.d.]
- 971.334 PAD Paddon, Wayne, *The story of the Talbot settlement, 1803 - 1840: a frontier history of southwestern Ontario*, c1975.
- 971.335 SAI Paddon, Wayne, George Thorman, Don Cosens, and Brian Sim, *St. Thomas: 100 years a city: 1881 -1981*, c1981.
- 385.0657133 PAD Paddon, Wayne, *St. Thomas: the Railway City: the story of the Canada Southern Railway: the story of the great trains that came to St. Thomas in late 1800's*, c2008.
- 971.335 SAI *St. Thomas and its men of affairs*, 1976, 1914, 1951.
- 971.335 SAI St. Thomas Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee; written by Diana Player, *St. Thomas: down the street to yesterday*, c2000.
- 971.335 SAN Sanders, Mary, *St. Thomas is proud of: centennial biographical sketches*, 1981.
- 971.334 SIM Sims, Hugh, *Sims' history of Elgin County*, volume 3, 1984.



## A Guide to Using

Ancestry is the world's renowned and most comprehensive genealogy website. Members of the St. Thomas Public Library can access many of the services Ancestry has to offer via our **Ancestry Library Edition** subscription. You can forward the information that you find to your email via the *Discovery* portal.

*Ancestry Library Edition* is a user-friendly website: visit [www.ancestrylibrary.com](http://www.ancestrylibrary.com). All the records can be accessed through subdivisions: Census, Births, Marriages and Deaths, Military etc. Within these subdivisions, you can search in specific record collections, or conduct a general search for your ancestor. If you are not sure which type of record you want, you can conduct a general search of the entire website. You also have the option to perform “exact” searches or “soundex” searches. Exact searches will return only records of individuals with the name you have typed in which are spelled exactly the same. Soundex searches will allow you to view records that are similar in spelling, but less exact. Both searches are useful for different types of research.

**NOT ONLY DOES ANCESTRY LIBRARY EDITION ALLOW YOU TO VIEW THE INFORMATION; YOU CAN ACTUALLY SEE THE RECORDS.**

Seeing images of the actual records where the information has been retrieved from is one of the great benefits of *Ancestry Library Edition*. Transcriptions from older documents can be inaccurate and vague. Viewing the originals allows you to judge for yourself, for example, how a name is spelled or the date of the event. The information from records on *Ancestry* often provides you with more information than the transcription does, so it is important to look at these images. *Ancestry Library* images are viewable on an enhanced image viewer which allows you to zoom in and out, print and save the image, and to scroll through the adjacent pages of the record.





## Content in Ancestry Library

*Ancestry Library* has a number of databases which are of great assistance to the Canadian genealogist. These include:

- Complete Canadian Censuses from 1825 to 1921
- Ontario Birth Records from 1858-1913
- Ontario Marriage Records from 1826-1936
- Ontario Death Records from 1869-1946
- Canadian Military Collection
- Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935

In addition to the many Canadian databases available, *Ancestry Library* provides the resources to research your international ancestors as well.

Databases include:

- U.S. Census Collection, 1790-1940
- U.K. Census Collection, 1841-1911
- U.K. Parish Registers
- U.K. Birth, Marriage and Death Records (BMD) or Vital Statistics

In addition, there are dozens of other databases focused on census records, BMD (birth, marriage, and death) records, immigration records, military records and town directories. New databases and updates are constantly being added. All of this is available to you via the computers at the St. Thomas Public Library free of charge.

## OTHER ANCESTRY DATABASES

Two features of the regular Ancestry website are the Ancestry Message Board and the Ancestry World Tree. Users at the library are able to access and search both of these databases. However, users are not able to post messages on the board or upload their family trees. You will require an individual Ancestry subscription to perform either of these tasks.

## TIPS AND TRICKS FOR USING ANCESTRY LIBRARY

### *Truncation and Wildcard Characters*

There are characters you can use to assist with your search. For instance, using the asterisk (\*) when searching for someone named Will or William by typing Will\* yields results for both names. A '?' can be used to replace a single character. For instance, typing in 'eli?abeth' will find matches for both

Elizabeth and Elisabeth. Exact phrases can be searched by putting quotation marks (“”) around the phrase.

### ***Be General***

In many instances, it is best to conduct a general search rather than an exact one. When you search generally, you may discover your relatives in an unexpected database. It also produces results in the case that your information is faulty. You may be limiting yourself to a certain year without realizing that the year is incorrect. It is remarkable the information that you can discover by being using a general search.

### ***Searching in Specific Databases***

General searches are useful when you are unsure about what you are looking for. However, if you need a certain fact, search within a specific database. For instance, if the aim of your search is to find the birth record of your grandmother in Ontario, census returns are unnecessary in your search results. A search within the specific database, Ontario Births 1869-1911 will be much more focused and relevant to your research.

## **A GUIDE TO USING THE CITY DIRECTORIES**

### **WHAT ARE THE CITY DIRECTORIES AND HOW CAN THEY HELP YOU?**

One of the pleasures of family history is to recreate the life of your ancestor. They were not merely individuals with birth and death dates, but people who had homes, jobs, families, and pastimes. City directories can personify an individual by providing you with the address, and sometimes occupation of your ancestor.

City directories were the pre-cursor to the telephone book. The first directory appeared in Canada in 1790. They had numerous uses. They allowed members of the community to know where others lived if they needed to contact them. City directories were particularly useful for businesses, as readers could find the service that they needed and the person who provided it. The quantity of advertisements is testament to the power of the directory as marketing tool.

Most of the St. Thomas directories were published by Henry Vernon of Hamilton. They began in the 1860s and continue up to present day. Directories became increasingly obsolete with the publication of the telephone book. Few publishers of city directories remain today; Vernon's is one of them.



**Explore the city that your Grandparents knew.**

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHERE YOUR ANCESTORS LIVED AND WORKED?  
DISCOVERING THIS INFORMATION IS SIMPLE.**

Census records, vital statistics, and cemetery records are the first sources a genealogist researches. But there are many other resources that may not be considered. City directories are one such source. The George Thorman Room holds a collection of city directories for St. Thomas throughout the years of the community's existence.

Family historians often like to visit the home towns where their ancestors lived to see the houses and neighborhoods where they resided. Without an address, this is an impossible task. City directories provide you with the past addresses of your relatives, making the task of finding their former residences simple.

The directory provides a list of streets with each house number and the name of family living there or the business that operated there. The next index is an alphabetical listing of all the residents of the community and their addresses. Finally, the directory contains a list of businesses and services and the name of the individuals providing them. While the genealogist will find the listing of individuals by name far easier to navigate, residents of St. Thomas may wish to see who was living at their address in the past.

## What city directories does the library have in its collection?

The George Thorman Room at the library contains St. Thomas City Directories for the following years:

**Microfilm**

**Book Form**

1879

1865-1866

1884-1886

1890-1899

1901-1985

1981-2010

Kept in the secure cupboard.

There is also a copy of the *1851 Ontario Directory and Armstrong's 1872 Directory for Elgin County*. Vernon city directories for the years, 1916, 1917, 1919, and 1922 are available on-line at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/can/on/elgin>

## What formats are the directories in?

The earlier St. Thomas directories are all available for viewing on microfilm. The more recent directories are in book form. Please consult the information staff about accessing these copies.

## Can I make a copy of a page from the city directories?

Yes. Copies are available to be made for 35 cents a page from the microfilm and 25 cents a page from the books.

# A GUIDE to the SURNAME INDEX

## WHAT IS THE SURNAME INDEX AND HOW CAN IT HELP YOU?

The surname index is a card file of family names which have been found in various sources. It allows you to search a variety of collections at one time which on their own may not have indexes. The George Thorman Room has three cabinets filled with cards indexed alphabetically by surname. Some cards have a copy of the newspaper article attached for easy access and some have the entire record transcribed. You will sometimes need to use the citation from the index card to find the information; however, the cards are clearly labeled with the source and where within the source you can find your record.

The surname index is most useful in discovering information about events and ancestors you may not have thought existed. An obituary in a newspaper or a birth record is easy to find if you have the dates. But what about the many times your ancestors appear in a source and the reference is not attached to a vital date? This is where the surname index is most valuable. Here, you can discover if your relative is mentioned in a newspaper or in one of our local history books. These references can reveal things about your ancestor you may have never known.



## **FINDING YOUR RELATIVES DOESN'T HAVE TO BE OVERWHELMING.**

The Surname Index (card file) should be the first stop for anyone conducting research in the George Thorman Room. Among the most commonly used pieces of equipment here are the microfilm readers, which can be used to access information in newspapers and of other sources. If the idea of searching through reels of microfilm to find just one name is daunting, use the surname

index cards to find your ancestors and which issue of the newspaper or other resource they appear in.

Volunteers have devoted their time to transcribing collections of newspapers, books, and records and indexing the names they discover. That means, each time a person appears in the source, a transcriber records the name, a description of the record, and the record's location on a card. By looking through the alphabetized card index, you can easily find out where your relative appears. Many users have the vital dates and are able to find newspaper articles and databases easily which record births, marriages, and deaths. But they miss other occasions on which those individuals have appeared in newspapers or books. You might be surprised at what your ancestors were up to, and what deeds put them into the public eye!

### What sources are covered by the surname index?

The surname index includes names collected from newspaper articles, books of birth, marriage, and death records, and books in our collection pertaining to St. Thomas and Elgin County. Particularly with newspapers, the index is incomplete. However, it still remains the place where one should go first if looking for one's ancestors in our microfilm newspaper collection.

### Do you have indexes for subjects or events instead of surnames?

Yes. We have a subject index which provides access to information by specific events, topics, and themes. This can be especially helpful for non-genealogical research, but may be useful for family history purposes as well.



# A Guide to Using the Cemetery Indexes

## What are Cemetery indexes and how can they help you?

Cemeteries are a great source of information for genealogists, and often one of the primary destinations for the family historian. But with numerous cemeteries in any given region, and hundreds, even thousands of tombstones in each one, finding that one gravesite can be daunting.

However, many local historians and genealogists have transcribed the



headstones for the cemeteries in their area. This was conducted in Elgin County in the 1980s by the Ontario Genealogical Society. As a result, more recent deaths may not appear in the indexes; however, this information is often readily available in newspapers or from living family members.

The indexes include the location of the headstone (providing a number that corresponds to a section and row), a physical description of the stone, the names of those buried there, the dates, and any inscription which on the stone. In instances where a person has been buried without a marker, the records at the cemetery can provide the date and location of interment.

**Cemetery records make finding your ancestors' final resting place easy. Cemetery records enable you to discover important information about the relatives that you are researching.**

When looking for exact dates, cemetery records are a definitive source. These will often provide birth and death dates that are not found in the census records and are more exact than internet family histories.

Many people wish to visit the cemetery where their relatives are buried. Before traveling to a cemetery, one should check the indexes. These will provide you with the information on the headstone and the location of the stone within the cemetery. This will prevent you from “looking for a needle in a haystack.”

Cemetery indexes are available on the Elgin OGS website. Each surname listing provides the lot number of its corresponding headstone. Complete information

about your ancestor's headstone is listed. Some indexes for larger cemeteries, such as the St. Thomas Cemetery, are divided to correspond to the sections of the cemetery. Many cemeteries have a website. If you know the cemetery that you need to search, the website will provide you with the same information as the OGS website and often a map of the cemetery is available.

Knowing the section and number of the headstone will assist you in locating the plot when you visit the cemetery. If you are unable to visit the cemetery, the records will provide you with all the relevant information about a headstone, making a visit unnecessary.

### How do I access the indexes in the George Thorman Room?

The cemetery indexes are available on-line at Elgin OGS website at [www.elginogs.ca](http://www.elginogs.ca). The cemeteries are arranged alphabetically within each township and in St. Thomas. Once you have located the cemetery that you wish to search use the find in page browser command (Ctrl F) to highlight instances in the document where the surname occurs. Each entry contains a description and a transcription of the marker. This information is valuable in confirming the dates of birth and death and kinship. The location of the cemetery is also listed.

### What if I don't know what cemetery my relatives are buried in? How will I be able to use the indexes?

Using the indexes does require you to have some idea of where your relatives are buried. However, if you don't, you can browse each cemetery on the Elgin OGS website at [www.elginogs.ca](http://www.elginogs.ca) until you locate your ancestors. There you can learn in which cemetery in Elgin County your relatives can be found in.

At this point, cremation records are not available on-line for Canada. Typically, the obituary will state if cremation has taken place. Other countries such as the U. K. have on-line cremation records.



# A Guide to Using Vital Statistics

## What are Vital Statistics and how can they help you?

For many genealogists, the starting point in their research is the collation of birth, marriage, and death dates (BMD). Vital statistics are the most reliable source for these facts and they often provide details beyond mere dates. In 1869, the provincial government mandated that births, marriages, and deaths must be registered. Prior to this, vital statistics are more difficult to discover as they remain scattered in the records of separate churches, cemeteries, and other locations.

To ensure privacy, the government requires records be sealed until a certain date. As years pass, records are unsealed and access to this information is available to the public.



## **VITAL RECORDS ARE CRUCIAL FOR ANYONE RESEARCHING THEIR FAMILY TREE**

Of all the resources at the disposal of the genealogist, vital statistics are probably the most useful. They provide the important dates you are looking for and other important details that differ depending on whether you're researching births, marriages or deaths.

Vital statistics for Ontario are available through the Ontario Archives. These records are on microfilm and can be ordered into the St. Thomas Public Library for use. Currently the Archives has birth registrations from 1869 - 1917, marriage registrations from 1780 - 1932, and death registrations from 1869 - 1942.

**The most efficient way obtain this information is to use the Ancestry Library website at St. Thomas Public Library!**

## What kind of information is found in birth, marriage and death records?

The information available on these records varies by year. Typically, later records have more information than earlier ones. Generally, this information is found in the records:

- **Births:** Name, Birth Date, Names of Parents, Occupation of Father, Name of Informant, Registration Date, Name of Registrar
- **Marriages:** Names, Ages, Residences, Religions, Places of Birth and Parents of the Bride and Groom, Occupation of the Groom, Date and Place of Marriage, Names and Residences of Witnesses, Name of the Individual who Married the couple and whether the marriage was by license or banns
- **Deaths:** Name, Date of Death, Age, Occupation, Place of Death, Physician in attendance, Cause of Death, Religion, (later records add birth date and the names of parents)

## A Guide to Researching the History of Your Home

When one purchases an older home, there is curiosity about its history. When was it built? Who has lived here and what were their lives like? What is the architectural style? The following guide will help you to research some of these aspects.



## Possible Sources of Information

1. Examine the **style** of your home. Books on architecture available at the library will describe the styles and illustrate the details of certain periods. These will enable you to determine the approximate age of your home.
2. Talk to the previous **owners** and / or long term **neighbors**.
3. Check the library for miscellaneous **articles** and **photographs**. Photographs of individual buildings or streetscapes record changes over time. The library has *St. Thomas and its Men of Affairs* (1914); a book which includes photos of homes in the old core (west-end) of the city.
4. Visit the **Land Registry Office (Land Registry Office, 1010 Talbot St., and Unit 36, 519-631-3015. Fee required)**. This is your best site for “one-stop” research. Documents concerning the ownership of land such as deeds and mortgages can be found here and are filed under the property address.
5. View **Building Permits**. These records are held by each township or municipality and contain information about permits granted for the construction of a building or additions and alterations. Building permits for the City of St. Thomas can be found at City Hall (**City Hall, Environmental Services, 545 Talbot St., St. Thomas, N5P 2T4, 519-631-1680. Requests may be left with the staff**).
6. Consult the **City Directories**. City Directories are published annually or bi-annually and provide listings of streets and their corresponding residents. The **St. Thomas City Directories** are available on microfilm and in book format in the George Thorman Room at the St. Thomas Public Library.
7. Check **Maps and Atlases**. Early Tremaine maps and historical atlases often indicate lot or farm holders. These can be found in the George Thorman Room at the St. Thomas Public Library.
8. **Fire Insurance Maps** were used by the insurance companies to determine rates. They provide detailed information about every building within the surveyed areas and are used to discern changes and additions to structures. Environmentalists use them to determine the previous usage of a site. **Fire Insurance Maps** were not issued

regularly. The **St. Thomas Fire Insurance Maps** for 1882-1889, 1890-1903, 1906-1913, 1922-1929 and 1943 can be viewed on microfilm at the Elgin Archives (**Elgin Archives, 450 Sunset Drive, 450 Sunset Drive, St. Thomas, N5R 5V1.**)

9. **Census Records** are available on the internet and through Ancestry Library edition. The earliest census taken in this area was in 1842. The next enumeration was in 1851 and was conducted every ten years after.
10. **Church Records** include births, marriages, and death records. A limited selection is housed in the George Thorman Room.
11. The **St. Thomas Municipal Heritage Committee (City Hall, 545 Talbot St., St. Thomas, N5P 3V7, 519-631-1680)** may have done research on your home if it qualifies for heritage designation. They have appraised many homes in the Courthouse and Old English Church area of the city.



# ELGIN OGS WEBSITE

Elgin OGS volunteers since 1982 have spent thousands of hours researching and transcribing many Elgin County sources.

These indexes and abstracts are **free online at their website:**

<https://elgin.ogs.on.ca/>

[Assessment Rolls](#) - Some Township Assessment Rolls

[Cemetery Transcriptions](#) - The Elgin OGS has transcribed the inscriptions of **most of the current gravestones in Elgin County** and makes the transcriptions available free online. Photos of many Elgin gravestones are posted at the Elgin OGS Flickr site. Many Elgin County cemeteries have been completely photographed at the [Canada GenWeb Cemetery Project](#).

[Census Indexes](#) - The Elgin County 1842 Township censuses indexes are online free. **NEW** - *now linking to free FamilySearch actual Elgin County census images.*

[Funeral Home Records](#) - Several of the Elgin County Funeral Homes have records that have been indexed.

[Land Records](#) - Upper Canada Land Petition links to the Elgin petition images. The Elgin County Township papers have been indexed for ancestor names.

[Military](#) - 1828 Militia men, War of 1812 veterans, Civil War veterans, World War 1 veterans, and Cenotaphs of Elgin County. **NEW** - *adding 1838 Elgin militia men.*

[Newspaper Indexes](#) - Many Elgin County Newspapers issues have been indexed and are available here free online.

[Online Publications](#) - Miscellaneous collection of indexes to other sources.

[Places of Worship](#) - an inventory of church records available.

[Vital Records](#) - the Elgin County Marriage abstracts of names from 1853 - 1873, plus some church records. - **NEW** - *adding Upper Canada Marriage Bond image links to Elgin settlers.*

[Wills and Probates](#) - Includes links to the Elgin Archives extracts of Probate indexes

[Elgin County, Ontario in the FamilySearch \(Family History Library\) Catalog](#)

The Elgin OGS Web Site is a large undertaking. The branch is committed to making all its indexes available free online to aid in your efforts to locate copies of primary sources to document your research.

### Donated Online Publications

Elgin County, Ontario, Canada

#### BIOGRAPHY

[Biographical Sketches of Some of the Residents of Elgin County](#) - available online at Archive.org

[Emigrants Letters from Elgin County to Scotland 1831 - 1851](#) - submitted by Colin Cruickshank of Alton, Hampshire, England.

[Oldtimers, a poem of Port Bruce in about 1896 by Violet Reid Reavie](#) - Transcribed and Edited by [Bruce C. Johnson Jr.](#)

[St. Thomas man sitting on his Tractor - Archives Canada Portrait](#)

#### BUSINESS RECORDS and COMMERCE

["All Aboard"](#) - The Importance of Railroads for the Growth of the Campbell-Stone Movement in the Mid 19th Century: by Claude Cox.

[Bayham Richmond and Port Burwell Road Company 1854](#) by Robert G. Moore, member of the Elgin Branch OGS. (About 117 Bayham and other Elgin Co. settlers given in the stock book)

[Ingersoll & Port Burwell Road Company 1849](#) by Robert G. Moore (About 200 Bayham Twp. and area names)

[Tryconnell Wharf and Harbor Co. 1853 & Dunwich Pier Co. 1861](#) by Robert G. Moore (about 90 Dunwich Twp. and area names)

[Union Road Company - Stockholder book](#) - Indexed by Robert G. Moore, member Elgin Branch OGS. This included signatures of stockholders. Contact OGS for copies of the signatures.

### DESCRIPTION and TRAVEL

["The Scotch" by John Kenneth Galbraith of Dunwich](#) - Some genealogical notes and extractions from the book - Bruce C. Johnson Jr.

### DIARIES

[Nicholas Carter Brown Diary entries](#) - Some Extractions of births, marriages, deaths and burials recorded in NCB Diary. He was a resident of Malahide and trustee of Dunboyne Cemetery. Compiled by Bruce C. Johnson Jr. and James McCallum.

### DIRECTORIES

[Aldrich Aylmer Directory 1888](#) - online at Google Books

[Port Bruce Street Names](#) - by *Bruce C. Johnson Jr.*

*[The Surname Index to Armstrong's 1872 Directory of Elgin County is in paper form at the Elgin OGS Library collection at the Belmont Library in Central Elgin as of 2017- DJ Browne June 1995]*

### GENEALOGIES

[A List of Published Genealogies of Elgin County Pioneer Families](#) - Many of these are available online from the Family History Library.

[English Paupers Migrate to North America by Jack Morter](#) -- Sources for the origins of James C. WATTS and James BRACKENBURY of North Walsham, Norfolk, England.

[From Almondsbury to Aylmer: The Pearce Letters](#) - A book on the Pearce Family of Jaffa area by David Porter - Index of names

[Malahide Families: Genealogies of Pioneer Families Living on Concession 1 through 4.](#)

[Stories of South Dorchester](#)

[The Family of John Johnson and Mary McLachlin of Malahide and their Mormon brother Edward Johnson.](#)

## **HISTORY**

[Alma College St. Thomas, Ontario 1877 - 1977.](#) Indexed by Donna Di Lello

[Court Houses of a Century](#) - Index of Names of Online History of the Elgin County Court Houses - Bruce C. Johnson Jr.

[Elgin Notes in the Upper Canada Rebellion](#) - by Bruce C. Johnson Jr. -  
References to persons from Elgin County active in the 1837/1838 Upper Canada Rebellion.

[Emigrants on the "Mars" to Aldborough Township](#) (Immigrants in Aldborough from England )- A link to the "Mars" research by Alan Campbell and John Wright

[Garrett Oakes, Tales of a Pioneer](#) - Elgin County Library - Edited by George Thorman and Frank Clarke.

[History of the Port Bruce Harbor Company](#) by Captain Thomas Thompson, compiled by [Bruce C. Johnson Jr.](#)

[History of Malahide Masonic Lodge #140 - Aylmer](#)

[Index to Tweedsmuir History of Lyons, Ontario](#)

[Malahide United Church History](#) - 100th Anniversary 1910 - 2010 - by James L. McCallum

[Old Port Bruce - Letters written by Levi Young](#) with an introduction by his daughter Edna Young Johnson with addendum by Ian Johnson.

[Port Bruce Harbor Company and Aylmer Plank or Graveled Road Company 1853 and 1854](#) by Robert G. Moore. (About 134 Malahide and other Elgin Co. settlers given in the stock books)



[Royal Salute at Port Bruce - 1761](#) - by Bruce C. Johnson Jr.

[Sims' 3 Volume History of Elgin County, Ontario-Index](#) - Compiled by [Jim McCallum](#). - Note: This is a very large file. Approx. 2.6 MB.

[Spring Floods at Port Bruce](#) - By Ian Johnson - A history of freshets and spring floods at Port Bruce, Elgin, Ontario, Canada.

[St. Paul's United Church History 1874-1974](#) (Aylmer) (index); by Jean Hunt.  
Indexed by Donna DiLello

[St. Thomas: 100 Years a City 1881-1981](#), by Wayne Paddon, George Thorman, Don Cosens and Brian Sim; indexed by Donna Di Lello.

[Talbot Regime](#) - Read the biography of Elgin County's Col. Thomas Talbot by C. O. Ermatinger - free online.

[The History of Aylmer to 1900](#), by Kirk Barons, Indexed by Donna Di Lello.

[Tweedsmuir Histories online](#) - Clachan Community History - Elgin County Archives.

### [LAND and PROPERTY - Indexes](#)

Index to the GENERAL REGISTER - Elgin County Land Registry Office: [1866 - 1873](#) [1873 - 1879](#) [1879 - 1889](#).

[Index to Tremaine's 1864 Map of Elgin County, Canada West](#) - Compiled by Robert Moore.

[Southwold Township Cattle Marks 1817-1857](#)

### [MAPS](#)

[1924 Cummins Rural Maps](#) - A sample map of North and South Dorchester submitted by Fred Prong.

[Elgin County 1864 Tremaine Atlas](#) - Online at the Ontario Historical Society.

### NAMES, PERSONAL - Indexes

[Elgin County names on the ontariogenealogy.com Insane Asylum Databases](#) - Link to Michael Stephenson Insane Asylum Databases.

### NEWSPAPERS - History

[Thomas Hammond Articles](#) - index and description.

### SCHOOLS - DIRECTORIES, HISTORY

[Dunwich School Attendance 1904](#) by Robert G. Moore.

[Index to "A Brief History of Secondary Education in St. Thomas"](#), by George Thorman; indexed by Donna Di Lello.

[Talbotville School](#) - by Morley Thomas.

### TAXATION

[Assessment Rolls](#) - 3 Township Assessment rolls 1841 to 1873.

### VITAL RECORDS

Index to the Records of the Elgin County House of Industry (work house): [1876-1897](#) [1897-1947](#)

### WILLS and PROBATES

[Wills & Probates in Land Registry Office Records](#)

### YEARBOOKS

[Alma College Yearbook - 1955 AlmaFilian](#) - PDF document of the 1955 Yearbook for Alma College, St. Thomas, Ontario.

[Garton Scrapbook](#) - Scrapbook of Mary M. (DOAN) GARTON 1891 - 1919.

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