City Directories
Why Directories Are Useful to Genealogists

- Find out where your ancestors were living between censuses
- Figure out an ancestor’s possible dates of arrival and departure
- May be the only way to find an ancestor if they weren’t registered to vote, didn’t own land, and weren’t listed on a particular census
- Find other family members living in the same city
- Information may lead you to other records
History of directory publishing

The earliest extant Canadian directories are those for the city of Quebec, *Directory for the City and Suburbs of Quebec*, number 1 published in 1790 and number II published in 1791. They include an alphabetical list of all males from the city aged sixteen and older. In his introduction to the 1791 directory, the compiler, Hugh MacKay, discussed the purpose of the compilation:

> The peace and security of society is in an eminent degree to be ascribed to a good police; and that police can hardly be carried into effect by the Judicial Power, unless a crowded City is arranged, so as to discriminate at one view its inhabitants and their occupations, to detect the receptacles of idleness and vice. [1]

The ordering and displaying of a society is a recurring idea in the history of directory publication, although generally with commercial rather than moral intent. E. Mallandaine, compiler and publisher of the *First Victoria Directory* in 1860,
Directory for the City and Suburbs of Quebec (Volume 1) was published in 1790.
Province of Canada Directory, 1851

(Library and Archives Canada)

Earliest provincial directory: Province of Canada Directory, 1851, cities and towns in what later became Ontario and Quebec.
Farmers and Business Directories
(Library and Archives Canada)

Farmers and business directories were published for townships in Ontario between 1870 and 1910.
You can do a keyword search for names in some of the directories.
### Canadian Directories Collection

(Library and Archives Canada)

#### Results: Canadian Directories

**Search term(s):**
19 result(s) found for "scadding."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Number</th>
<th>Directory</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<td>The Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Directory 1869</td>
<td></td>
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<td>51355</td>
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<td>56500</td>
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<td>7261</td>
<td>Western Ontario Gazetteer and Directory for 1898-99</td>
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<td>Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1888-9</td>
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<td>1077</td>
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<td>30124</td>
<td>Ontario Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1886-7</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Canadian Directories Collection
(Library and Archives Canada)

Page: 608 : The Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Directory 1869


RUTHERFORD, ANDREW, stoves, tin and hardware, house furnishings goods, &c., 150 King e
RUTHERFORD, E. H., president Consumers Gas Company
Canadian Directories Collection (Library and Archives Canada)

Available editions in PDF format

On this page
- Available in the database and in PDF format
- Only available in PDF format:
  - Hamilton, Ontario
  - Kingston, Ontario
  - London, Ontario
  - Southwestern Ontario Counties

All archival documents and publications are preserved by Library and Archives Canada and appear in their original language.

Available in the database and in PDF format
The following editions are available in our database, but are also downloadable as PDF files.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Directory Title</th>
<th>PDF Link and File Size</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almanach des adresses Cherrier de la Ville de Québec juin 1886</td>
<td>rlc003804.pdf (PDF 48 MB)</td>
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Some of the directories are only available in PDF format.
## Canadian Directories Collection
(Library and Archives Canada)

<table>
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<th>Year(s)</th>
<th>PDF Link and File Size</th>
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<tr>
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<td>1883</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="PDF links" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London city and Middlesex County directory</td>
<td>1884</td>
<td><img src="#" alt="PDF links" /></td>
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</table>

*Download a section of the directory and browse the pages*
McALPINE'S
LONDON CITY
AND
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
DIRECTORY.
1875,
CONTAINING AN
ALPHABETICAL DIRECTORY
OF
Aldous, Avenel, Beaver, Dorchester, Easton, Glastonbury, Harkness, Herford, Kinnear, Lecon, Newbury, Gaspé, Pamphile, Port Bruce, Port Stanley, Pettenweel, Sparta,
Edward, St. Thomas, Wardsville, Westford, Westminster,
WITH A
STREET & BUSINESS DIRECTORY
LONDON CITY.
AND
TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY.
GIVING P.O. ADDRESS, ADJACENT AND LOT OF EVERY MALE IN THE COUNTY,
WITH AN
APPENDIX
CONTAINING ALL CORRESPONDING.

PUBLISHED BY McALPINE, EVERETT & CO.
PRINTED BY THE LOWELL PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.
Information Usually Provided

- Name
- Address
- Occupation
- Employer
- Spouse (Note: Not always listed, especially in early directories)
Street Directory

ABBREVIATIONS.

A.D.E.

A.D.E.

Adelaide, from the river 6th north of Richmond and east

city boundary.

River Back

Foreman & Co.

House, a, Vacant lots

Philip st. ends

Vacant lots

Norton st. intersects

02 Vacant stores

Vacant lots

A lane ends

Vacant lots

South st. ends

Vacant lots

B3 Window Thomas

Private Grounds

Hill st. ends

Vacant lots

118 Hedges John

Vacant lot

1/7 Gold John

Flying Moccasins Michael

Pottery, a, 2

grey st. ends

213 Aylsworth Elneser

Mountaine rd. intersects

Vacant lots

206 Pringwell classical

House, a, Vacant lots

271 Angel Henry

213 Prince Edward

212 Whaling Henry

211 Goadsich Wm.

217 Campbell George

Factories, 1, 8

203 Dennis st. intersecting

239 Prince Peter

234 Prince Peter

234 Queen's acre. intersects

Private ground

234 Prince Peter

234 Prince Peter

234 Queen's acre. intersects

Private ground

234 Prince Peter

234 Prince Peter

234 Queen's acre. intersects

Private ground
Additional Information in Directories
Check to see if your ancestor’s business was advertised
Map of City

Look for a map to see where your ancestor lived
Historical Sketch

London, a city of Ontario, capital of the county of Middlesex, on the River Thames, 121 miles W. of Toronto, 107 miles N.N.E. of Windsor. It has a fine appearance, the streets are lit with gas and are wide and run at right angles to each other. Upon them are many excellent buildings.

It is the centre of the finest agricultural region of Canada, and a sort of diverging centre of three railways, being the junction of a branch of the Great Western to Sarnia from the main line, the northern terminus of the London and Port Stanley railway, and having a branch of the Grand Trunk from Sarnia, connecting it with that line.

London contains 6 branch banks, 2 telegraph agencies, a number of fine hotels, a host of stores, 4 printing offices issuing 3 daily and several weekly newspapers, an exhibition building, a lunatic asylum, orphan asylum, hospital, 9 schools, a convent, 4 colleges (including Huron College, University College, and Huron Ladies College, three good educational establishments) and 19 churches (including Church of England and Roman Catholic Cathedrals). St. Paul’s church (church of England) is one of the few in Canada possessing a peal of bells.

The manufactories of London are represented by extensive iron foundries and machine shops, mills, breweries, chemical works, petroleum refineries, tanneries, boot and shoe, soap and candle, musical instrument, cabinet, carriage, and other factories, &c.

The commercial affairs of the city are regulated by a Board of Trade. The city returns 1 member to the House of Commons and 1 to the Provincial Legislature. During the summer months large numbers of invalids and health seekers visit London to enjoy the benefits of its white sulphur springs (famed for their medicinal qualities). London is a port of entry. Total value of imports for 1872 $1,740,000; exports $1,479,083. Pop. in 1861 8,504; 1871 11,588; 1871, 15,638.
Abbreviations & Addenda

Abbreviations often used to keep entries brief; make sure you know what they mean.

Check for a list of people who were too late to get in the names section.
Business Directory

Check for your ancestor’s name in the business section of the directory.
Early directories often listed people involved in local government, the fire department, etc.
Check for a list of churches that your ancestor might have attended.
Your ancestors might have belonged to some local organizations.
Index to Advertisers

A quick way to see which businesses had advertisements in a directory.
Things to Remember…

- Inclusion in a directory was usually voluntary
- People missed in one directory may be included in the next
- Names were often misspelled so check for variations
- If you have an address check the street section for the name
- Depending on who provided the information it may be incorrect
- Check for a list of abbreviations to make sure that you are interpreting the information correctly
Examples of Digitized City Directories
Toronto City Directories (Toronto Public Library)

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<td>1892</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>(PDF 113.0 MB)</strong></td>
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</table>
The Toronto city directory for 1892

Might Directory Co
eBook, 1892, English

Access PDF Online

Notes

Publisher
Might's Directory Co.

Rights and Licenses
Public Domain
The Toronto City Directory for 1892.

Containing
An Alphabetical List of All Business Firms and Private Citizens; A Classified Business Directory; A Miscellaneous Directory Containing a Large Amount of Valuable Information.

And
A Complete Street Guide

Vol. XVI.


Compiled and Published by
Might’s Directory Co.

18 Wellington Street East, Toronto, Ont.
Do a keyword search for city directory
Browse the directories or narrow down the results from the options in the left column.
Canadian content includes a collection of directories from Peterborough
Choose a year to see what directories are available
Go to a specific section of the directory
British Columbia City Directories
(Vancouver Public Library)
Peel’s Prairie Provinces (University of Alberta)

Directories for cities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
Henderson's Directories: A Directory of Prairie Life

Have you ever wished you had a directory to the past?

The Henderson's Directories contain addresses of citizens and businesses dating as far back as 1905. Historical research for the directories was done by expert staff who gathered information for the various cities and regions by visiting every home and business in person. These agents would secure their name of every person who makes the city his or her home, gathering information about them pertaining to their occupation, business address and residential address.

Alberta
- Edmonton
- Calgary
- Lethbridge
- Medicine Hat and Redcliff
- Alberta

Manitoba
- Winnipeg and Incorporated towns of Manitoba
- Brandon
- Manitoba and Northwest Territories

Saskatchewan
- Saskatoon
- Regina
- Moose Jaw

Choose a city to find out which directories are available.
Click on cover to start browsing this directory; do a keyword search for a name; check to see the other years that are available.
Do a keyword search for city directories
Narrow down to “serials” in left column
Canadiana

Brantford city directory : 1-Jun-1895
Ingersoll [Ont] : Union Publishing Company, [1895?]; 194 pages with full-text search

View | About

Image 1

EVANS PIANO

COMPETITION ANNihilated.
CUSTOMERS DELIGHTED.
ELEGANT DESIGNS.
BEAUTIFUL IN FINISH.
BRILLIANT IN TONE.
SOLID IN CONSTRUCTION.
ENDORSED BY ARTISTS, MUSICIANS AND CRITICS.

GUARANTEED FOR SEVEN YEARS.
THE EVANS PIANO
is the Best First-Class Piano now
made in Canada.
Search for "city directory" using quotations
Narrow down search results by choosing option in left column such as date and place of publication.
Hathi Digital Trust
Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society (FamilySearch)

Sign up for a free account to access Ontario directories digitized in partnership with Ontario Ancestors.
Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society (FamilySearch)

Choose Search and then Books to access the directories.
Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society (FamilySearch)

Do a search for “city directory” to find all of the digitized directories on this website.
Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society (FamilySearch)

Scroll down to the bottom of the FamilySearch Digital Library page and click on Ontario Ancestors to look at the digitized Ontario directories.
Choose Subject in the left column to narrow down your search to a specific location.
Ontario Ancestors: The Ontario Genealogical Society (FamilySearch)
City and county directories have been digitized from 1864 to 1940.
Directory Digitization Project

With the support of our partners and volunteers, we have recently completed the digitization of Kitchener-Waterloo city and Waterloo County directories from 1864 to 1940. Volumes will be added to this page as they are proofed and optimized. Check back often to see what has been recently added to the digital collection.

The scanned directories on this site are provided for private research and study only. The directory files are optimized for use with Adobe Reader. Due to variances with browser plugins and extensions, directories viewed via web browser may take longer to display.

Tip: When viewing the directories, click the [] icon for an interactive table of contents. If viewing in a web browser, Use Ctrl + F to search by keyword.

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<th>Title</th>
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<td>1878</td>
<td>County of Waterloo Gazetteer and Directory</td>
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Historical Directories of England and Wales

About this collection
Trade and local directories for England and Wales from the 1700s to the 1910s.
The collection contains 859 directories, with at least one directory for every English and Welsh county for the 1880s, 1890s and 1910s. Searchable by name, place and occupation this is an essential tool for local, urban and family history. You can find Kelly’s and Pigot’s directories here, as well as those by regional publishers.

Find out more about the directories as a historical source. Tips on how to search and browse the collection are here.

The collection provides access to scanned images and full-text of the trade directories. These are large items, so please be patient if free text searching the whole collection.
Historical Directories of England and Wales

Trade and local directories for England and Wales from the 1760s to the 1910s.

The collection contains 659 directories, with at least one directory for every English and Welsh county for the 1850s, 1860s and 1870s. Searchable by name, place and occupation this is an essential tool for local, urban and family history. You can find Kelly’s and Pigot’s directories here, as well as those by regional publishers.

Find out more about the directories as a historical source. Tips on how to search and browse the collection are here.

The collection provides access to scanned images and full-text of the trade directories. These are large files, so please be patient if you are searching the whole collection.

The same content is now available in ‘Ancestry UK: City and County Directories, 1760 - 1940’. We recommend this means of access to genealogists with an Ancestry subscription or access via their local library. The directories were originally digitised as part of the Historical Directories project, funded by the Big Lottery Fund. The original website can still be accessed via the UK Web Archive.

Start by using the search box above, or browse by county below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bedfordshire</th>
<th>Berkshire</th>
<th>Buckinghamshire</th>
<th>Cambridgeshire</th>
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<td>Durham</td>
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<td>Worcestershire</td>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>Wales</td>
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</table>
Historical Directories of England and Wales

Narrow down results in left column
Search for “city directory” in the Card Catalogue
Ancestry

Search for your ancestors in Canadian directories from 1819 to 1906
## All Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906 results for Walton

### Search Filters
- Walton

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>View Record</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Residence Year</th>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>Jtaumes Walton</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>London, Middlesex, Ontario</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<td>Toronto, Ontario</td>
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<td>View Record</td>
<td>W S Scarborough J Walton</td>
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<td>Ontario</td>
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<td>View Record</td>
<td><strong>John Walton</strong></td>
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<td>View Record</td>
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<td>1898</td>
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<tr>
<td>View Record</td>
<td>W G Walton</td>
<td>1894</td>
<td>Hamilton, Ontario</td>
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</table>
John Walton
in the Canada, City and Area Directories, 1819-1906

Name: John Walton
Residence Year: 1889
Residence Place: Ontario
Publication Title: Ontario Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1888-1889

Source Information
Websites Mentioned

- Library and Archives Canada – Canadian Directories Collection

- Digital Toronto City Directories (Toronto Public Library)
  https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/lh-digital-city-directories.jsp

- Internet Archive
  https://archive.org/

- British Columbia City Directories (Vancouver Public Library)
  https://bccd.vpl.ca/
Websites Mentioned

- Peel’s Prairie Provinces (University of Alberta)
  http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/collections.html

- Canadiana
  https://www.canadiana.ca/

- Hathi Digital Trust
  https://www.hathitrust.org/

- FamilySearch
  https://www.familysearch.org/en/
Websites Mentioned

- Kitchener Public Library – Directory Digitization Project
  https://www.kpl.org/localhistory/directories

- Historical Directories of England and Wales
  http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/digital/collection/p16445coll4

- Ancestry (temporary access from home for BPL cardholders)
City Directories

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