



# 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](mailto: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](http://history.rhpl.richmondhill.on.ca/3096112/data?grd=4397)

#### ***Ontario Community Newspapers***

[new.ourontario.ca](http://new.ourontario.ca)

#### ***Early Canadiana Online***

[www.canadiana.ca](http://www.canadiana.ca)

#### ***Ontario Genealogy Historical Newspaper Archives***

[www.ontariogenealogy.com/ontarionewspaper.html](http://www.ontariogenealogy.com/ontarionewspaper.html)

#### ***Google Newspaper Archive***

[news.google.com/newspapers](http://news.google.com/newspapers)

#### ***Online Newspaper Archives - Wikipedia***

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List\\_of\\_online\\_newspaper\\_archives](http://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](http://www.rhpl.ca/digital-resources-genealogy-and-local-history)

#### ***Globe & Mail Archive (1844 - 2016)***

[www.rhpl.ca/digital-resources-genealogy-and-local-history](http://www.rhpl.ca/digital-resources-genealogy-and-local-history)

### PAID

#### ***Newspapers.com***

[www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com)

#### ***British Newspaper Archive***

[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.americanancestors.org/education/learning-resources/read/writing-publishing)

*The Family History Writing Studio*  
Lynn Palermo, The Armchair Genealogist  
[www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com](http://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](http://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](http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/index.html)

### **Canadian History**

*Early Canadiana Online* — [www.canadiana.ca](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)

Archives of Ontario — [www.archives.gov.on.ca](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca)

Toronto Public Library — [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy)

The Internet Archive — [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)

Library of Congress (United States) — [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

National Archives (United Kingdom) — [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

## SOFTWARE

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