

Family Research in the Roman Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada

**This paper is a revision of a presentation made at “Seminar 2005”
(Windsor, ON.) of the Ontario Genealogical Society**

Parish records, which Roman Catholic priests maintain in their parish registers, are a major source of relevant genealogical information. Typically, the names of parties involved, the names of both parents (including the maiden name of the mother), and witnesses are given in christening and marriage records. Sometimes parents' names are listed in notations of confirmation and burials. Cemetery interments appear much less frequently than other events. These generally constitute all the records of genealogical importance for the family researcher in church archives. Researchers should not expect to find cemetery records in parish registers. Rather, transcriptions of cemetery monuments are available from the Ontario Genealogical Society branch for a relevant county or on-line at various websites.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of London, Ontario, established in 1856, consists of the southwestern Ontario counties of Elgin, Essex, Huron, Kent, Lambton, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxford, and Perth. On its boundaries are the Dioceses of Hamilton and St. Catharines in Ontario and the Diocese of Detroit, Michigan, across the international border. Some of the oldest Roman Catholic parishes in Canada are situated in Essex County and Detroit Michigan.

Anyone who has access to “FamilySearch” <https://familysearch.org/> or a Family History Library can review most of the older extant parish registers of the Diocese of London. The Diocese, in an effort to cut down the number of queries that were being received by individual parishes, collaborated with the Genealogical Society of Utah in the early 1980's, allowing the microfilming of all information entered up to and including 1910 in most parish registers. As well, keeping in mind that original sources should always be consulted, some parish records, or parts of them, have been transcribed by different organizations and are available in libraries or on the internet. Some of these go well beyond the 1910 cut-off point of the microfilmed registers. Further assistance is available in the many parish histories that have been published, some available on the Ontario Genealogical Society's website (members' area).
http://www.ogs.on.ca/membersonly/mem_database_london_Diocese.php

For the family researcher, these resources should all be consulted. The staff of the Diocese of London Archives are pleased to attempt to assist researchers who require their help. There is a search fee. Researchers must remember that parish records are not public documents, and the Church must adhere to privacy and protection of personal information legislation of Canada and the Province of Ontario.

HELPFUL LAND AND INTERNET ADDRESSES (AS OF MARCH 2015)

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA

1070 Waterloo Street
London, Ontario N6A 3Y2 Canada
Tel. (519)433-0658

Diocesan Web-site:

<http://www.rcec.london.on.ca/>

ARCHIVES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LONDON

<http://wp.dol.ca/webportal/diocese/content/1/5/Archives/809>

Assistant Archivist: Debra Majer

dmajer@dol.ca

519-433-0658, ext. 242.

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

The Diocesan website has extensive information about cemeteries, etc.

<http://catholiccemeteries.on.ca/about/bishops-message/>

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY BRANCHES WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LONDON (Consult www.ogs.on.ca for contact information)

Elgin County
Essex County
Huron County
Kent County

Lambton County
London & Middlesex
County
Norfolk County

Oxford County
Perth County

References for Diocesan Research

Many Parish histories have been written in the past 100 years. They often contain information that will assist in genealogical research, such as names of early parishioners and priests, photographs, dates and locations of missions, transcriptions of early register entries, location of burial grounds, and, if the parish was established by one ethnic group, outlines of settlement history.

Listed below are published transcriptions of *some* parish registers from the Diocese, as well as general histories of the Dioceses of London, Hamilton, Detroit, and the Niagara area.

Diocese of London

- The City and Diocese of London, Ontario, Canada: an Historical Sketch (1886)
- Gather up the Fragments: A History of the Diocese of London – (2008)

Elgin County

Norfolk County Branch, OGS Publications

- Beachville Roman Catholic Mission, 1850-1853

Essex County

Publications of Société franco-ontarienne d'Histoire et de Généalogie, Ottawa

- Baptêmes: Paroisse l'Annonciation de Pointe-aux-Roches 1867-1946
- Mariages et sépultures SainteThérèse de Windsor, 1928-1985
- Mariages et sépultures Saint-Jérôme de Windsor, 1958-1985
- Mariages et sépultures, pariosse du Très Saint-Rédempteur de Staples, Ontario, 1900-1967
- Mariages et sépultures, Paroisse Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes de Comber, 1948-1987
- Mariages et sépultures, paroisse Sainte-Anne Tecumseh, 1859-1985
- Mariages et sépultures, Paroisse Saint-Joachim, 1882-1982
- Mariages et sépultures: L'Annonciation de Pointe-aux-Roches, Ont. 1867-1983
- Mariages et sépultures: Paroisse St-Simon et St-Jude, Belle-Rivière, 1840-1985
- Mariages: Paroisse St- Jean-Baptiste d'Amherstburg 1802-1985
- Mariages: Paroisse l'Assomption de Windsor, Ontario, 1700-1985
- Mariages: Saint-Francois-Xavier de Tilbury 1855-1985
- Sépultures: Paroisse l'Assomption de Windsor, Ontario 1768-1985
- Sépultures: Saint-Francois-Xavier de Tilbury 1855-1985
- Sépultures: St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amherstburg 1802-1985

Huron County

- The Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West Vol 3: Huron District 1841 – 1870 (Global Genealogy Supply)

Kent County

- St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church Births, Marriages, Burials. 1802-1836, 1836-1851, 1851-1886. Typed transcription. (Tilbury East)(at Kent Br Lib)
- St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church Marriage Register 1806-1995. . (Tilbury East)

**Publications of Société franco-ontarienne d'Histoire et de Généalogie,
Ottawa**

- Mariages et sépultures: Paroisse l'Immaculée-Conception de Paincourt 1851-1988
- Mariages et sépultures: St-Philippe, Grande-Pointe (Ontario) 1886-1992

Kent County Branch, OGS Publication

- Wayne county marriages: People from Kent County, Ontario who were married in Wayne county, Michigan, 1839-1869

Lambton County

- A Young and Holy Priest: The Life of Rev. Michel Moncoq 1827-1956 (St. Clair Missions)

Lambton County Branch, OGS Publications

- Places of Worship Inventory , Sarnia /Sarnia Twp
- St. Clair marriages: People from Lambton County and elsewhere in Ontario who were married in St. Clair county, Michigan, 1839-1898
- The Muga Manuscript (St. Joseph's, Corunna – 1901) reprinted in Lambton Settlers Series, Vol 1

Middlesex County

- A Thousand Arrows: Biographical Memoir of Hon. Henry Edward Dormer (St. Peter's, London 1860's) -
- An index of baptisms, marriages and deaths registered at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Parkhill Ontario and at St. Columba Roman Catholic Church, Bornish, West Williams Twp., Middlesex Co., Ontario, 1871-1990 (Donald Reid)

Norfolk County

Norfolk County Branch, OGS Publications

- Beachville Roman Catholic Mission, 1850-1853
- Dundas Mission Register, 1840-1853
- Our Lady of LaSalette Parish Register, 1856-1932
- St. Mary's R.C. Church, Simcoe Parish Records (1858-1900)

Oxford County

- Beachville Roman Catholic Mission, 1850-1853 (Norfolk OGS)
- Records of Sacred Heart Parish, Ingersoll, Ontario 1850-1875 (Norsim Research)

Oxford County OGS Publications

- Guide to cemeteries and early churches in Oxford County

Surrounding Dioceses

- A history of the Roman Catholic Church in the Niagara peninsula, 1615 – 1815 (1983)
- Seasons of Grace: a history of the Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit (1990)
- Souvenir Album In and Around Detroit: Containing Illustrations of Catholic Churches, Schools and Academies and Institutions (includes Windsor, Ontario area) 1910
- The Catholic Church in Detroit, 1701 – 1888
- The Catholic Church in the Niagara peninsula, 1626 – 1895
- The Catholic Church in Waterloo County (1916) / by Spetz, Theo.
- A History of the Diocese of Hamilton -- 2007

American Research

Catholic Church records completed on the U.S. side of the Detroit River; Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair river (Detroit to Port Huron) may be accessed at Detroit's Burton Library. (see below)

Registers Available on-line

“Ontario, Roman Catholic Church Records, 1760-1923” (FamilySearch)

And on Ancestry.ca/Ancestry.com

“Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747-1967”

Also Review very early Registers in Michigan for early Essex County Residents

“Early U.S. French Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1695-1954”

Roman Catholic Cemeteries of The Diocese of London

Monuments and grave markers in all of the R.C. cemeteries within the Diocese have been transcribed (generally in the 1980's) by the relevant county Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, and in some cases, by local historical groups. These transcriptions are all referenced in the *Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid* (OCFA), and the OGS website http://www.ogs.on.ca/cemetery_index.php which indicates where the published transcriptions may be purchased, as outlined in the following chart.

Roman Catholic Burial Locations within the Diocese of London, Ontario

| County | Location | Cemetery Name | Available from OGS Branch |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Elgin County | St. Thomas City | Holy Angels | Elgin County Br. |
| Elgin County | Aldborough Twp | St. Henry's | Elgin County Br. |
| Elgin County | Aldborough Twp | St. Mary's | Elgin County Br. |
| Elgin County | Dunwich Twp | St. Helen's | Elgin County Br. |
| Elgin County | Malahide Twp | Queen of Peace | Elgin County Br. |
| Essex County | Amherstburg | St. John the Baptist | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Belle River | St. Simon & St. Jude | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | LaSalle | Sacred Heart | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Maidstone Twp | St. Mary's | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | McGregor | St. Clement's | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Pelee Island | Star of the Sea | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | River Canard | St. Joseph's | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Rochester Twp | St. Joachim | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Tecumseh | St. Anne's | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Tilbury North Twp | Annunciation | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Tilbury West Twp | Our Lady of Lourdes | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Windsor | Heavenly Rest | |
| Essex County | Windsor | Assumption | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Windsor | Our Lady of the Lake | Essex County Br. |

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|----------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Essex County | Windsor | St. Alphonsus | Essex County Br. |
| Essex County | Woodslee | St. John's | Essex County Br. |
| Huron County | Ashfield Twp | St. Joseph's | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Colborne Twp | St. Peter's | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Grey Twp | St. Ambrose/ Brussels | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Hay Twp | St. Boniface | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Hay Twp | St. Peter's | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Hullett Twp | St. Joseph's | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | McKillop Twp | St. James' | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Morris Twp | St. Michael's | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | Stephen Twp | Our Lady of Mt. Carmel | Huron County Br. |
| Huron County | W. Wawanosh Twp | St. Augustine | Huron County Br. |
| Kent County | Camden Twp. & Gore | St. Paul's | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Chatham | St. Anthony's | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Dover Twp. | Immaculate Conception | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Dover Twp. | St. Philippe | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Howard Twp. | St. Michael's | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Raleigh Twp. | St. Patrick's | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Tilbury East Twp. | St. Charles | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Tilbury East Twp. | St. Peter's | Kent County Br |
| Kent County | Zone Twp. | St. Ignatius | Kent County Br |
| Lambton County | Brooke Twp. | Alvinston & St. Matthew's | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Brooke Twp. | Mount Carmel | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Corunna | St. Joseph's | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Plympton Twp. | Mt. Calvary | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton | Port Lambton | Sacred Heart | Lambton |

| County | | | County Br. |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lambton County | Sarnia | Our Lady of Mercy | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Sarnia | Resurrection/Grandview Memorial | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Sombra | St. John's | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Warwick | Warwick, R.C. Section | Lambton County Br. |
| Lambton County | Warwick | Watford R.C. | Lambton County Br. |
| Middlesex County | Adelaide Twp. | St. Patrick's | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Biddulph Twp. | St. Patrick's | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Biddulph Twp. | St. Peter's | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Caradoc Twp. | Sacred Heart | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Caradoc Twp. | Strathroy R.C. | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Delaware Twp. | Congregation of Sacred Heart | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | London City | St. Peter's | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | McGillivray Twp. | Sacred Heart | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | Mosa Twp. | North Amer. Martyrs | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Middlesex County | West Williams Twp. | Bornish/St. Columba | London & Middlesex County Branch |
| Norfolk County | Middleton Twp. | St. Ladislaus | Norfolk County Br. |
| Norfolk County | N. Walsingham Twp. | Sacred Heart | Norfolk County Br |
| Norfolk County | Windham Twp. | LaSalette | Norfolk County Br |
| Norfolk County | Windham Twp. | St. Mary's | Norfolk County Br |
| Oxford County | Blenheim Twp. | Princeton | Oxford County Br. |
| Oxford County | Dereham Twp | St. Mary's | Oxford County |

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| | | | Br. |
| Oxford County | Ingersoll | Sacred Heart | Oxford County Br. |
| Oxford County | Norwich | St. Peter's | Oxford County Br. |
| Oxford County | Woodstock | St. Mary's | Oxford County Br. |
| Perth County | Dublin | St. Patrick's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Ellice Twp. | St. Joseph's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Hesson | St. Mary's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Hibbert Twp. | St. Columban | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Kinkora | St. Patrick's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Mitchell | St. Vincent de Paul | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | South Easthope Twp. | St. Anthony's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | St. Mary's | St. Mary's | Perth County Br. |
| Perth County | Stratford | Avondale R.C. | Perth County Br. |