



Genealogy Research Checklist and Guidelines

- **Township History books and Bruce County Historical Society Yearbooks**
 - Card catalogue index is available for some of the books without indices.

- **Family Histories**
 - Shelf list is placed after “Z: box (and most are searchable in the Library section of collections.brucemuseum.ca)

- **Women’s Institute Tweedsmuir Community Histories**
 - In 1940, the Federated Women’s Institute of Ontario began the initiative for branches to compile “Village History Books”. These are intensely local, scrapbook style history books, compiled by Women’s institute branches.
 - A list of the branches and the township / areas they represent is available.

- **Censuses from 1851 to 1921**
 - Available on Ancestry.ca and microfilm
 - 1851/1861/1871/1901 index/transcript binders
 - Agricultural Schedules are available for 1861 and 1871 (showing lot/concession, types of crops etc. - available on microfilm). For 1871, must first find page & line number from Schedule 1.
 - 1901 Census includes “Schedule 2 - Buildings, Lands, Churches & Schools”, which includes “Place of Habitation”.

- **Vital Statistics (on microfilm and Ancestry Library Edition)**

Available years are restricted by the *Vital Statistics Act* and other privacy legislation. Records currently available are:

 - Births up to 1914
 - Marriages up to 1929 on microfilm; up to 1936 on Ancestry Library Edition
 - Deaths up to 1939; up to 1945 on Ancestry Library Edition

- **Obituaries, Birth, Marriage notice clippings and/or Newspapers**
 - Bruce Grey Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society & Bruce County Genealogical Society Surname Collections organize birth, marriage and death clippings by surname (binders, microfiche and CD ROM)
 - Newspaper Indexes for birth, marriage and death notices, including indexes for Chesley, Lucknow, Paisley, Port Elgin & Owen Sound newspapers.
 - Newspaper issues for most Bruce County communities are on microfilm.

- **Estate Files/Wills**
 - Index for 1859-1969 on top of microfilm cabinet
 - Copies of complete estate files on microfilm from 1859-1930

- **Cemetery Transcriptions**
 - Transcriptions of grave markers at Bruce County cemeteries.
 - For Southampton Cemetery, see also John Weichel's Book "Forgotten Lives",

- **Directories / Atlases**
 - Various years from 1867 to 1910 are available in the Research Room
 - See Directories Finding Aid for additional years (on shelf and "Search Our Archives" page of brucemuseum.ca).

- **Land Abstracts (on microfilm), Deeds and Mortgages**
 - Land abstract books are available for much of the County up to the 1950s.
 - Legal descriptions for properties may be searched using Bruce County Interactive Maps, using the "Query", "Properties by", "Civic Address" links.

- **Photographs**
 - Digital copies of many images are searchable at collections.brucemuseum.ca

- **Archival records**
 - Assessment and Collector's Rolls
 - Voters' Lists (Some early lists are on microfilm - see yellow duotang folder on short filing cabinet)
 - Collection of Private Donations (such as diaries, correspondence, advertisements, business records, clubs/organizations minute books etc.)
 - Visit collections.brucemuseum.ca to explore descriptions of some of these items.