

## Genealogy Research Checklist and Guidelines

### □ Township History books

- The card catalogue index in the Research Room may be useful in searching for names, particularly for books with no indexes.
- Also use the “Term Search” section of Online Collections to browse people’s names and associated resources: <https://brucemuseum.pastperfectonline.com/Vocabulary>

### □ Family Histories

- A shelf list is placed after the “Z” box (and most are searchable in the Library section of Online Collections)

### □ 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 on the shelf after the binders.
- Also visit the Ontario District Women’s Institute website to view and search digitized Tweedsmuir Community Histories - <https://collections.fwio.on.ca/3199056/data?grd=4542>

### □ Censuses up to 1931

- Ancestry.ca and FamilySearch.org, 1851/1861/1881 index/transcript binders, and/or microfilm
- 1901 transcript in blue binders also shows address of residence, in some cases
- 1891, 1911, 1921, 1931 census (through ancestry.ca)
- Agricultural Schedules are available for 1851 (missing Arran, Carrick, Culross, Elderslie), 1861, and 1871 (showing lot/concession, crops, livestock, etc). For 1871, you must first find district, page & line number from Schedule 1.
- Please be aware there are gaps in census records available, as not all census schedules survived. Census Schedule Guidelines (1851-1921) listing missing schedules and other research tips, are available on top of the microfilm cabinet in the Research Room.

### □ Vital Statistics (on microfilm and ancestry)

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

- Births up to 1913 on microfilm (and up to 1916 on Ancestry)
- Marriages up to 1928 on microfilm (and up to 1940 on Ancestry)
- Deaths up to 1938 on microfilm (and up to 1948 on Ancestry)

### □ Obituaries, Birth, Marriage notice clippings and/or Newspapers

- Genealogical Societies’ (BGOGS & BCGS) Surname Collections (binders, microfiche and CD Rom)

- Newspaper Indexes, including indexes for birth, marriage and death notices in the Chesley, Lucknow, Paisley, Port Elgin & Owen Sound newspapers for various time periods.
- This [Guide to Local Microfilm Newspaper Holdings](#) provides a general description of the newspaper issues available to view on microfilm.
- Search Historic Bruce County Newspapers online:  
<https://newspapers.brucemuseum.ca/>

#### □ Estate Files/Wills

- The index for 1859-1969 on top of microfilm cabinet and available through FamilySearch in the Research Room (as BCM&CC is a FamilySearch Affiliate)
- Copies of complete estate files on microfilm from 1859-1930 (often including wills and/or lists of assets and beneficiaries)

#### □ Cemetery Transcriptions

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

#### □ Directories / Atlases

- A selection of historic directories and telephone books are available to consult, beginning as early as 1851. [Click here for a list.](#) Also see the BCM&CC's [Useful Links page.](#)

#### □ Land Abstracts (on microfilm and OnLand)

- Most Bruce County Land Abstract Books (originals and/or microfilm) are available to consult in the Research Room with entries generally up to the mid-1950s. Land Deeds are also generally available up to the mid-1950s. These are useful if a Concession / Lot or legal description is known.
- The Land Abstract books can also be viewed in Ontario's Land Registry Access site [OnLand](#) up to more recent years than what is available at the Bruce County Archives.
- 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 photographs are searchable in [Online Collections](#)

#### □ Archival records

Archives staff will help retrieve archival records stored in our secure storage area. Samples of items available:

- Assessment and Collector's Rolls
- Voters' Lists (Some early lists are available on microfilm - see Yellow duotang folder on short filing cabinet)
- Collection of Private Donations (such as store ledgers, diaries, correspondence, advertisements, business records, clubs/organizations minute books etc.) Some of these are discoverable in [Online Collections.](#)
- John Weichel's Research Collection: [click here for an index of this collection.](#)