

Canada: Jewish Family History Research Guide

The earliest Jewish community in Canada was established in 1759, when Jews were first officially permitted to reside in the country. The first congregation was founded in 1768 in Montreal. Jewish settlement was mainly confined to Montreal until the 1840's, when Jewish settlers slowly began to spread throughout the country. Jewish immigration increased around the turn of the 20th century, as it did in the United States. Today, Jews make up approximately 1.2% of Canada's population.

Sources at the Center for Jewish History

In addition to general histories of the Jews in Canada, both the American Jewish Historical Society and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research have library and archival resources containing genealogical information about Jews in Canada. Additional resources are available in the Genealogy Institute.

Books and Periodicals

Arnold, Abraham. *The Life and Times of Jewish Pioneers in Western Canada*. (Jewish Historical Society of Western Canada) 1969.

AJHS F 1035 .J5 A7

Canadian Jewish Chronicle, 1916-1935. The national Jewish weekly of Canada. Microfilm.

YIVO Library 1116

Canadian Jewish Year Book 1939/40, edited by Vladimir Grossman. Includes articles and statistics about the Jews of Canada and the world. Lists Jewish organizations, histories of the organizations (including some discussion of individuals), and books published that year.

AJHS F 1035 .J5 C3

Dor L'Dor. Journal of the Jewish Genealogy Society of British Columbia.

Genealogy Institute

Eker, Glen and Deborah Pekilis. *Jewish Residents of the Maritimes in the 1901 Census of Canada*. (1993). Lists name, date of birth, place of birth, year of immigration, occupation and place of residence.

AJHS F 1035 .J5 E532

Gottesman, Eli. *Who's Who in Canadian Jewry* (Jewish Institute of Higher Research, 1965).

AJHS F 1035 .J5 W5

Israelite Daily Press: the 100th Anniversary Souvenir of Jewish Emancipation in Canada and the 50th Anniversary of the Jews in the West (Israelite Daily Press, 1932). English and Hebrew.

AJHS F 1035 .J517

Jewish Residents in the Canadian Census. Montreal & Quebec City (1871-1901); Toronto (1861-1901); Western Canada (1861-1901); Canadian Maritime Provinces (1901); Greater Quebec Province (1871-1901). Alphabetical listings within districts.

YIVO Library microfiche

Montreal Forum. Quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal.

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Prominent Jews of Canada: A History of Canadian Jewry Especially of the Present Time through Reviews and Biographical Sketches, edited by Zvi Cohen (Canadian Jewish Historical Publ. Co., 1933).

AJHS E 1035 .J5 C1

Rosenberg, Louis. *Jewish Mutual Benefit and Friendly Societies in Toronto, 1896-1944*. (Canadian Jewish Congress, 1946). Does not mention individual names, but provides a demographic overview of Jews in Canada and the societies in Toronto.

AJHS F 1059.5 .T68 R5

Shem Tov. Journal of the Toronto Jewish Genealogy Society.

Genealogy Institute

“The Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue,” from John Borthwick, *Historical and Biographical Sketches from Borthwick’s Gazetteer of Montreal* (n.d., 1890’s). Accomplishments of Montreal’s Sephardim.

AJHS F 1054 .M8 B6

Tapper, Lawrence F. *Archival Sources for the Study of Canadian Jewry*. (National Archives of Canada, 1987). English and French.

Genealogy Institute Z 6611 .J48 N38 1987

Tapper, Lawrence F. *Biographical Dictionary of Canadian Jewry, 1909-1914: From the Canadian Jewish Times*. (Avotaynu, 1992).

Genealogy Institute. F 1035 .J5 F76 1992

Archives

United HIAS Service, Main Office, N.Y. Collection includes materials on Jewish Immigrant Aid Society, Canada. Consult the finding aid, which will help locate correspondence and some immigrant lists from specific European countries to Canada for the period of 1944-1962.

YIVO Record Group 245.7

National Jewish Welfare Board, Bureau of War Records. Include data cards on individuals in the service, 1940-1969, ordered alphabetically.

AJHS Collection I-52

General Resources

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: Contact information for the seven local societies across Canada

<http://iajgs.org/members/members.html>

National Archives of Canada: immigration, naturalization, and census records

395 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3

Genealogy Reference: 613-996-7458

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

Vital Statistics Council of Canada. Links to provincial vital statistics offices.

www.vscouncil.ca

Smith, Marian L. “By Way of Canada: U.S. Records of Immigration Across the U.S.-Canadian Border, 1895-1954 (St. Albans Lists) (National Archives and Records Administration, *Prologue Magazine*, Fall 2000, Vol. 32, No. 3).

www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/us-canada-immigration-records-1.html