

Doing Historical Research in the Eastern Townships

presented by Jody Robinson,
Archivist, Eastern Townships Research Centre
For Héritage Sutton
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Researching the History of the Eastern Townships

- **Online Resources for E.T. Research, including:**
 - Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
 - Library and Archives Canada
 - On-line search databases
 - Other societies with online resources
 - Other online avenues and research
- **Research in the Eastern Townships**
 - Historical societies and archives in the Eastern Townships
 - Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec – Estrie Centre
 - Published sources

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec

- <http://www.banq.qc.ca>
- A few digital online collections: postcards, maps, Quebec Almanacs (1780-1841), notarial records
- Can search their library collection online: this may be useful for finding older publications that are difficult to find in the area, which can then be borrowed through inter-library loans

Library and Archives Canada

- <http://www.collectionscanada.ca>
- This site allows you to search all of the archives and library holdings of Library and Archives Canada
- Includes material related to the Eastern Townships
- Some of their archives have been digitized so that they can be viewed online
- The website includes many other helpful tools, tips, online exhibitions and articles

Inter-Library Loans

- If you find a book or microfilm at Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec or Library and Archives Canada that you would like to borrow, this can be done through an inter-library loan
 - in both cases, the item needs to be borrowed through your local library, where you should go to request the book (it is always best to have the title, author and call number with you when making your request)
 - For more information on borrowing from the BAnQ: http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/services/peb_bibliotheques/peb_pour_bibliotheques.jsp
 - For more information on borrowing from LAC/BAC: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ill/index-e.html>

La Réseau de Diffusion des Archives du Québec

- <http://www.rdaq.qc.ca>
- An online database to search archival collections preserved throughout Quebec
- A voluntary database, meaning that not all archives centres have their archives listed
- Eastern Townships archives included: BAnQ-Estrie, BAnQ-Montréal (covering the Montérégie portion of the E.T.), Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke, Eastern Townships Research Centre, Séminaire de Sherbrooke, Archidiocèse de Sherbrooke, Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke, Université de Sherbrooke

Archives Canada: Canadian Archival Information Network

- <http://www.archivescanada.ca>
- Similar to www.rdaq.qc.ca but for archives that are preserved across Canada
- Database includes all of the archives centres with listings on the Quebec site as well as those from other provinces

BAnQ Accredited Archives in the Eastern Townships

➤ Archives Centres with information online:

- Eastern Townships Research Centre (in Lennoxville): <http://www.etcrc.ca> (database for descriptions of their collections, database for digitized photographs, JETS database)
- Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska (in Granby): <http://www.shhy.org/accueil.php> (online descriptions of their collections, organized by theme)
- Société des archives historiques de la région de l'Amiante (in Thetford Mines): <http://www.sahra.qc.ca/> (online descriptions of their collections, digitized photographs)

➤ Other archives centres:

- Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke: <http://www.ville.sherbrooke.qc.ca/shs/accueil/Pages/map.html>

Other online resources

➤ Digitized books and journals online

- Example: Men of Today in the Eastern Townships, 1917
- <http://www.archive.org/details/menoftodayineast00morruoft>
- Example: Canadian Illustrated News
- <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cin/001065-100.01-e.php>
 - (this online database only contains the images from this journal but, often, articles accompanied the images and you can use this tool to then look up relevant articles in the actual journal)
- Example: Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online
- <http://www.biographi.ca/index-e.html>

Other online sources (cont'd)

- Canadian census returns:
 - 1851, 1901 and 1911 censuses:
<http://www.automatedgenealogy.com>
 - 1881 census: <http://www.familysearch.org>
 - 1891 census:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html>
- Online cemetery indexes: <http://www.interment.net>
- Online index of vitals announcements in E.T. newspapers before 1900:
<http://andersononline.net/~ardron/index.htm>
- Ship Passenger Lists
 - <http://www.theshipslist.com>

Research in the Eastern Townships- Historical Societies

- Missisquoi Historical Society
www.museemissisquoi.ca
- Brome County Historical Society
- Société d'histoire de Cowansville
- Société d'histoire de la Haute-Yamaska
www.shhy.org
- Association du patrimoine de Potton
- Société d'histoire de Magog www.histoiremagog.com
- Lennoxville-Ascot Historical & Museum Society
- Société d'histoire de Sherbrooke
www.histoiresherbrooke.com
- Patrimoine - Ascott - Heritage
- Eastern Townships Research Centre www.etcrc.ca

Research in the Eastern Townships- Historical Societies (cont'd)

- Georgeville Historical Society
- Stanstead Historical Society www.colbycurtis.ca
- Société d'histoire de Coaticook
- Société historique d'Asbestos
- Compton County Historical Museum Society
www.mus.eatoncorner.com
- Richmond County Historical Society www.rchs-nc.net
- Société d'histoire et de généalogie du Val-Saint-François
- Société des archives historiques de la région de l'Amiante
- Corporation du patrimoine du canton de Leeds

**It is always good to call before visiting any of these organizations; many do not have regular hours and you could have to make an appointment. Also, they may be able to help you over the phone, which could save you a trip.

BAnQ – Estrie Centre

- Located at 225, rue Frontenac, bureau 400 in Sherbrooke (situated on the 4th floor of the Musée de la nature et des sciences de Sherbrooke)
- Notary archives (land records, wills, etc.)
- Judicial records (police day books, court records)
- Maps
- Other public and private archives

Useful Published Sources

- Eastern Townships town and farmers' directories
 - Include descriptions of towns, cities and townships along with residents and their professions or – in the case of farmers – the lot and range where they were located
- Maps and atlases
 - Maps including names of proprietors can be very useful (ex. Putnam & Gray map, 1863; Walling map, 1864; Belden atlas, 1881)
- Newspapers and indexes
 - Newspapers can be an invaluable source of information
 - The ETRC has a good collection of historical E.T. newspapers on microfilm in their consultation room but they can also be obtained through Library and Archives Canada (LAC list of microfilmed newspapers:
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/8/18/r18-215-e.html>)

Useful Published Sources (cont'd)

- Regional history books
 - This does not only include recently published works but also books written in the 19th and early 20th centuries
 - Ex. *A topographical description of the province of Lower Canada*, by Joseph Bouchette (1815 & 1832)
 - Ex. *Forests and clearings : the history of Stanstead County*, by B.F. Hubbard (1863)
- Lower Canada Land Petitions
 - The Lower Canada Land Petitions contain petitions for grants or leases of land and other administrative records between 1764 and 1841
 - Some are available online through Library and Archives Canada in PDF format
 - The ETRC has all of the microfilm reels covering the region of the Eastern Townships