

Ontario Land Records

Presented by Marion Peterson, 7 February 2011

Ontario's land was divided into districts, counties, townships, concessions and lots. In order to find land records, you need to know township, concession number and lot number.

Patent: a "Letters Patent" which transfers full ownership of a property or part of a property from the government or Crown to an individual or private corporation or company (Stratford-Devai & Burkholder, 47)

Ontario land records are divided into three categories: Patent Records, Pre-patent Records and Land Registry Office Records.

Where to Find Patent Records:

- Ontario Land Records Index - microfiche at CPL
- Patents from before 1850 – AO
- Patents after 1850 – Ministry of Natural Resources

Where to Find Pre-Patent Records:

- Index to the Upper Canada Land Books – AFHS, CPL
- Upper Canada Land Petitions - microfilm at AO, LAC or FHL
- Township Papers – microfilm AO
- Heir & Devisee First Commission records – LAC
- Heir & Devisee Second Commission records - AO

Where to Find Land Registry Office Records:

- Local registry office - microfilm
- 19th century copybooks (as late as 1955) - microfilm at AO & FHL
- Original copybooks and other records sometimes disbursed to local archives

Some useful resources:

Merriman, B. D. (2008). *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the records*. Toronto, ON: Ontario Genealogy Society. (AFHS, CPL)

Stratford-Devai, F., & Burkholder, R. (2003). *Ontario land registry offices records: A guide*. Milton, ON: Global Heritage Press. (AFHS, CPL)

Ontario Genealogical Society. (1994). *A guide to Ontario land registry records*. Toronto, ON: Author. (AFHS, CPL)

Handouts from Ontario SIG meetings – in blue binders at AFHS Library

http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/guides/rg_215_grant-to-patent.aspx

https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ontario_Land_Records_User's_Guide

CPL = Calgary Public Library

AO = Archives of Ontario

LAC = Library and Archives Canada

FHL = Family History Library