



PICKERING
TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

How to find your roots and historic characters of interest.

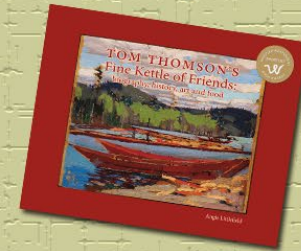
Finding Your Roots

An interactive workshop on basic internet research tools.

Angie Littlefield explains how she “found” and built up persons related to Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven.

Bring your laptop or tablet and come prepared to share your own internet sleuthing tips.

- Pickering Central Library | One The Esplanade
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 | Doors open at 7:00 p.m



“By indirections, we find directions out.” *Hamlet*, Act 2, Scene 1

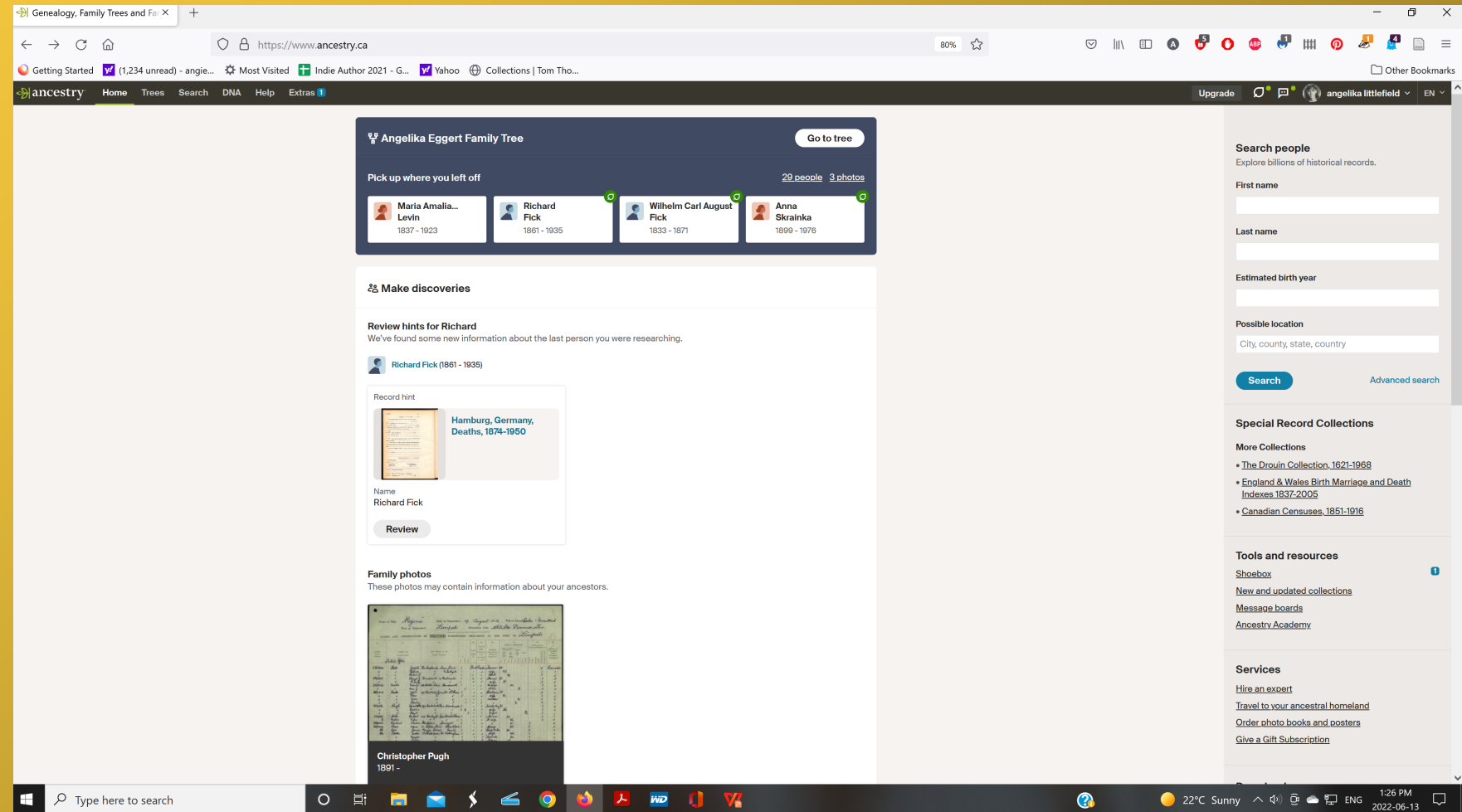
Finding Your Roots:

How to find your roots and historic characters of interest. An interactive workshop on basic internet research tools. Angie Littlefield explains how she “found” and built up persons related to Tom Thomson and the Group of Seven. Come prepared to share your own internet sleuthing tips.

Pickering Township Historical Society Meeting
June 14, 2022

Ancestry.ca or Ancestry.com is free through the Pickering and Toronto Public Libraries for in-library use

- Libraries include international databases
- Start with male names and try many different versions of them
- Birth, death, marriage is the best filter for me
- Suggested records on right often bring up new ideas.



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- Start with male names and try many different versions of them
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The screenshot displays the Ancestry.ca search page. The browser address bar shows <https://www.ancestry.ca/search/>. The page features a search form with the following fields and options:

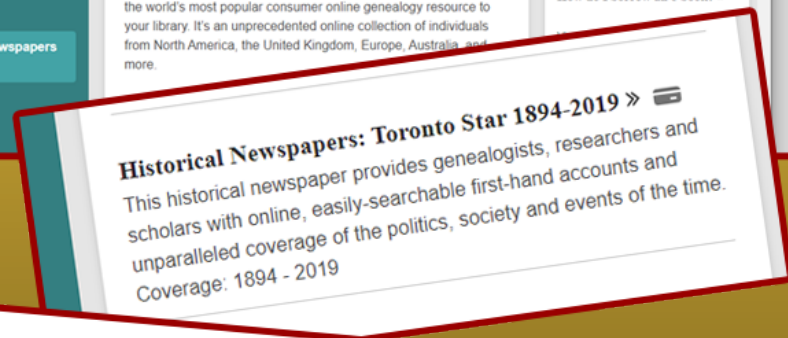
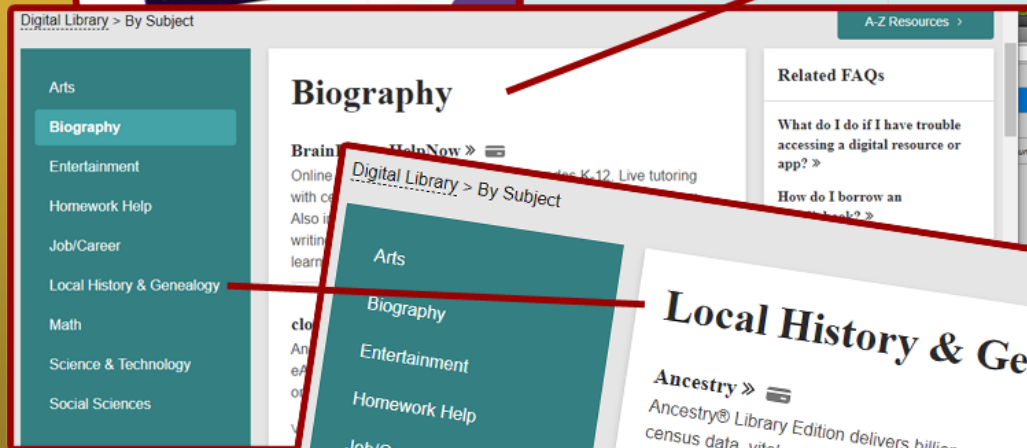
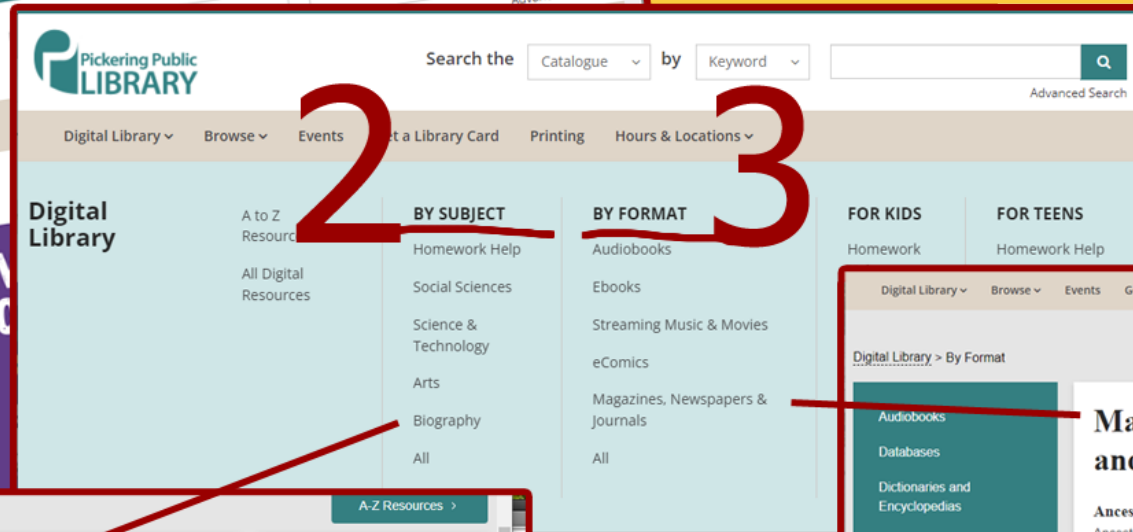
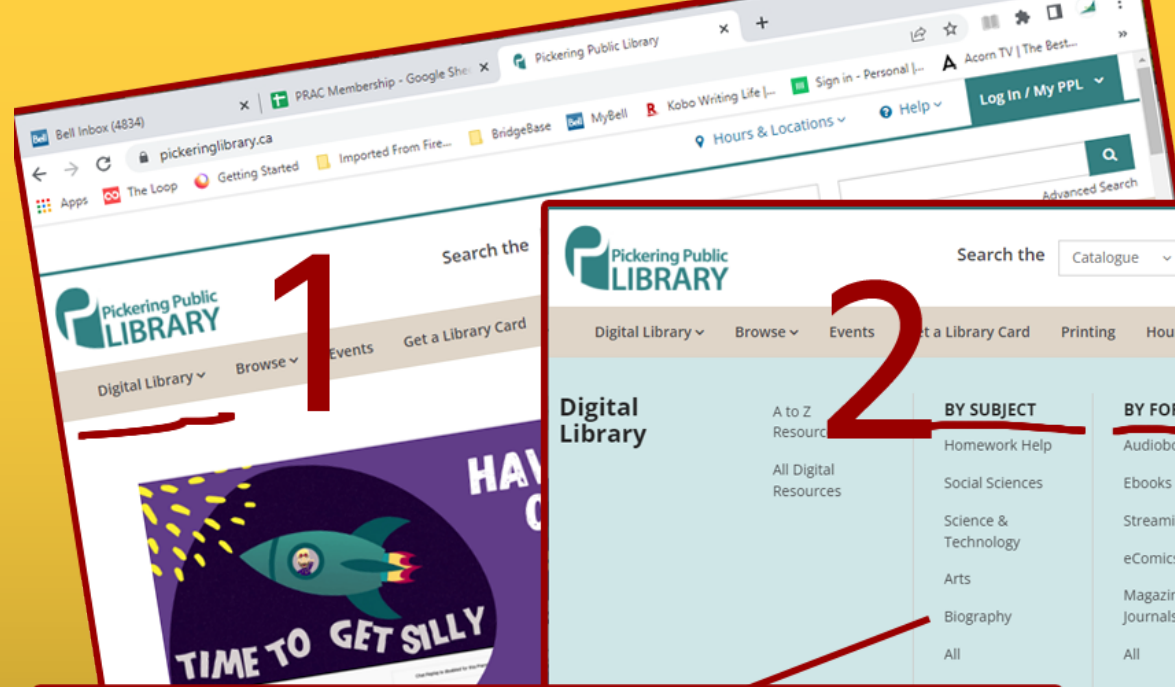
- First & Middle Name(s):** James Edward
- Last Name:** MacDonald
- ☐ Exact... ☒ Exact
- Quick Fill Suggestions:** Angelika Eggert Family Tree (No suggestions found)
- Place your ancestor might have lived:** Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- Birth Year:** 1874
- ☐ Exact to... ☐ Exact +/-...
- Search:** Show fewer options ^ ☐ Match all terms exactly
- Add event:** Birth Marriage Death Lived In Any Event More
- Year:** Birth 1874
- Location:** e.g. Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- ☐ Exact +/-...
- Any Event:** Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- ☐ Exact to...
- Add family member:** Father Mother Sibling Spouse Child
- Keyword:** Occupation, street address, etc.
- Gender:** -- Select --
- Race/Nationality:**
- Collection Focus:** All Collections
- ☒ Historical Records ☒ Family Trees
- ☒ Stories & Publications ☒ Photos & Maps

On the right side, there is a section titled "Explore by collection" with a "View all" button. It lists various collection categories with links:

- Birth, marriage & death**
 - [Birth, baptism & christening](#)
 - [Marriage & divorce](#)
 - [Death, burial, cemetery & obituaries](#)
- Census & voter lists**
 - [1921 Census of Canada](#)
 - [Canada Voters Lists, 1935-1980](#)
 - [Canadian Census Collection](#)
 - [UK Census Collection](#)
 - [U.S. Federal Census Collection](#)
 - [More...](#)
- Immigration & travel**
 - [Passenger lists](#)
 - [Citizenship & naturalization records](#)
 - [Immigration & emigration books](#)
 - [More...](#)
- Military**
 - [Draft, enlistment and service](#)
 - [Casualties](#)
 - [Soldier, veteran & prisoner rolls & lists](#)
 - [More...](#)
- Schools, directories & church histories**
 - [City & area directories](#)
 - [Professional & organizational directories](#)
 - [Church histories & records](#)
 - [More...](#)
- [Tax, criminal, land & wills](#)

A message at the top right states: "Unable to load recent collections. Please click [here](#) to try again."

From PickeringLibrary.ca
1 DIGITAL LIBRARY
2 SUBJECT or
3 FORMAT



<https://pickeringlibrary.ca>

This is a **Public Member Story** from the Elliot Family Tree

- The Family column has live links to other individuals
- Sources take you to original documents
- Tools, top right, allows you to print
- Gallery will have photos, if there are any or images of documents

The screenshot displays the Ancestry website interface for a public member story. The browser address bar shows the URL: <https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/1001237/person/150161776>. The page title is "James E. H. Macdonald - Facts". The Ancestry logo and navigation menu are visible at the top. The user is logged in as "Graeme Elliot". The main header for the story shows a portrait of James E. H. Macdonald, his name, and his birth and death details: BIRTH 12 MAY 1873 • Durham City, Durham, England; DEATH 27 NOVEMBER 1932 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Below the header, there are tabs for "LifeStory", "Facts", and "Gallery". The "Facts" tab is selected, showing a timeline of events: Birth (12 May 1873 • Durham City, Durham, England), Baptism (12 June 1873 • St Cuthbert, Durham City, Durham, England), Birth of brother William H Macdonald (1877-1956) (2 April 1877 • Kendal, Westmorland, England), and Residence (1881 • 78 New Road, Walker, Newcastle, Northumberland, England). To the right of the timeline, there are sections for "Sources" (Ancestry sources: 1881 England Census, 1891 Census of Canada, 1901 Census of Canada, Biography & Genealogy Master Index (BGMI)) and "Family" (Parents: William Henry Macdonald 1852-, Margaret Usher 1852-1929; Siblings: Harriet Prior Lavis 1873-; Spouse and children: Thoreau Macdonald 1901-).

This is a **Public Member Story** from the Elliot Family Tree

Tools, top right, allows you to print

Gallery will have photos, if there are any or images of documents

The **Family** column has live links to other individuals

Sources take you to original documents

James E. H. Macdonald - Facts

https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/1001237/person/150161776 80%

ancestry Home Trees Search DNA Help Extras 1

Elliot Family Tree Tree search Graeme Elliot Search Tools

James E. H. Macdonald
BIRTH 12 MAY 1873 • Durham City, Durham, England
DEATH 27 NOVEMBER 1932 • Toronto, Ontario, Canada

LifeStory **Facts** Gallery

Facts

1873 (AGE) **Birth**
12 May 1873 • Durham City, Durham, England
10 sources

1873 **Baptism**
12 June 1873 • St Cuthbert, Durham City, Durham, England
1 source

1877 **Birth of brother William H Macdonald (1877-1956)**

Sources

Ancestry sources

1881 England Census

1891 Census of Canada

Family

Parents

William Henry Macdonald
1852-

Margaret Usher
1852-1929

Siblings

Spouse and children



- Live links to family members and to sources often lead to new information
- This is the Grice/Lander Public Member Tree, different than the previous one.

James Edward Harvey Macdonald

https://www.ancestry.ca/family-tree/person/tree/11189058/person/-495356025/facts

Note: You may be experiencing some intermittent service with the Ancestry.ca website. We apologize for any inconvenience this might cause and appreciate your patience as we work to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

ancestry Home Trees Search DNA Help Extras 1

Grice/Lander Tree original Tree search hi hillarysmith3

Search Tools

James Edward Harvey Macdonald

BIRTH 12 MAY 1872 • (City), Durham, England
DEATH 26 NOV 1932 • York, Ontario, Canada

LifeStory Facts Gallery

Facts

1872 (AGE)
Birth
12 May 1872 • (City), Durham, England
11 sources

1873 1
Baptism
12 Jun 1873 • St. Cuthbert, Durham, Durham, England
Age: 0 Baptised a Catholic
1 source

1877 4
Birth of brother William Henry MacDonald (1877-1956)
02 Apr 1877 • Kendal, Westmorland, England

1881 9
Residence
1881 • Longbenton, Northumberland, England
78 New Road. Living with parents.
1 source

1882
Birth of sister Margaret Hannah MacDonald (1882-1944)

Sources

Ancestry sources

1881 England Census

1891 Census of Canada

1901 Census of Canada

1901 Census of Canada

1921 Census of Canada

Boston Passenger and

Family

Parents

William Henry MacDonald
1850-1936


Margaret Usher
1852-1929

Siblings

Spouse and children

Harriet Joanna Dionisia Lavis
1871-1962


Thoreau MacDonald
1901-1989



What tips do you have to optimize ancestry.ca?

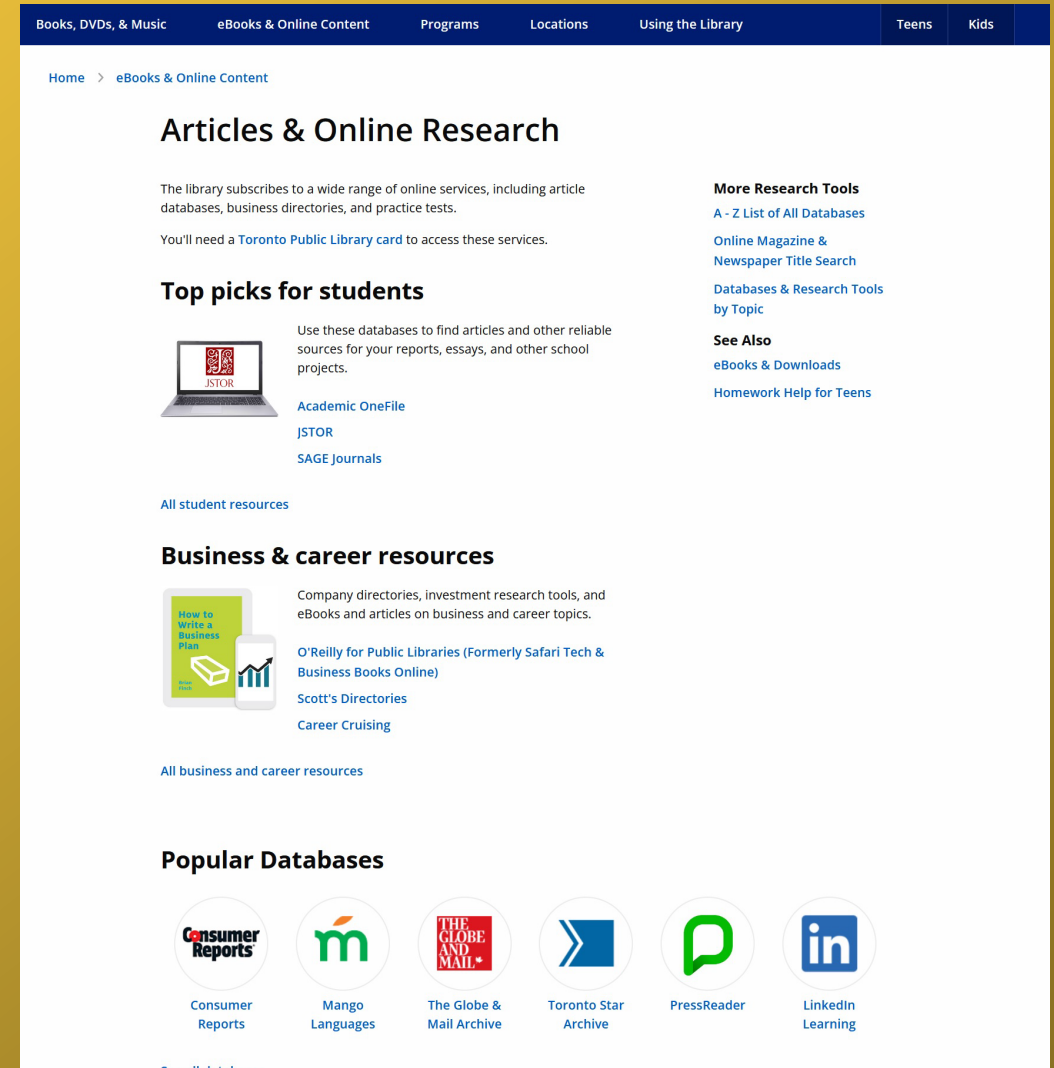
Describe one of your best ancestry.ca finds and how it came about.

What other programs, like ancestry.ca, are you able to recommend and why?



Newspaper and Magazine Archives: Toronto Public Library, newspapers.com and, Pickering Local History Collection Digital Archive (formerly PADA).

- I'm using TO Library. You need to check out to which newspaper archives your library subscribes (likely through ProQuest).
- Top blue banner, click on ebooks and online content and then on Articles & Online Research which takes you to page shown. At the bottom are the *Globe* and the *Star* archives.
- You can get to ProQuest for free via this link:
<https://www.proquest.com/index>



<https://www.newspapers.com>

Newspapers.com is a pay for service, but I managed to obtain **107 clippings in one free week trial**

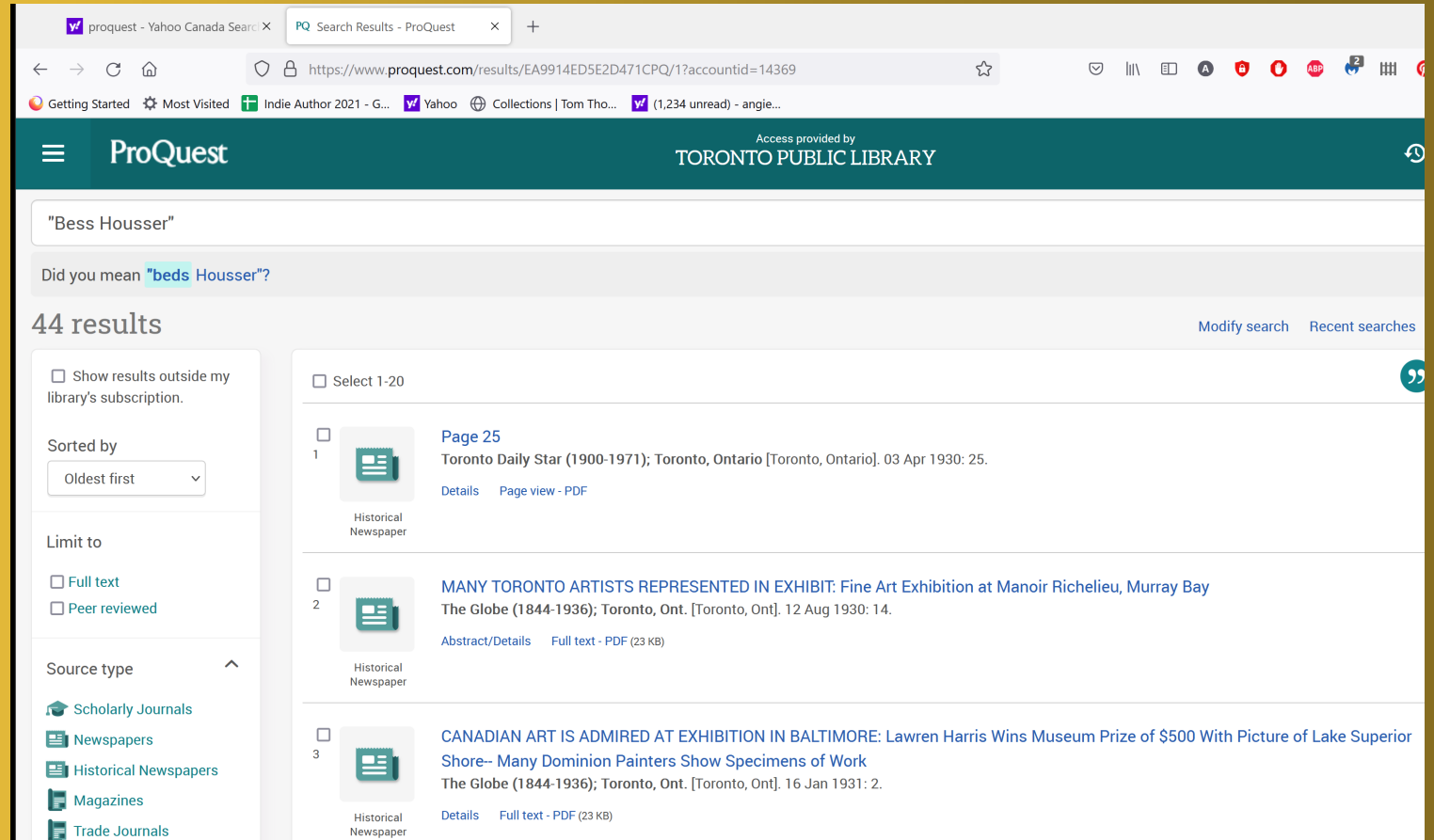
- Be ready with all the names you want to search. Use quotation marks around the names.
- Practice the clipping and saving function. Print if necessary to be safe.
- You can do date limits

[illegible]

- 64

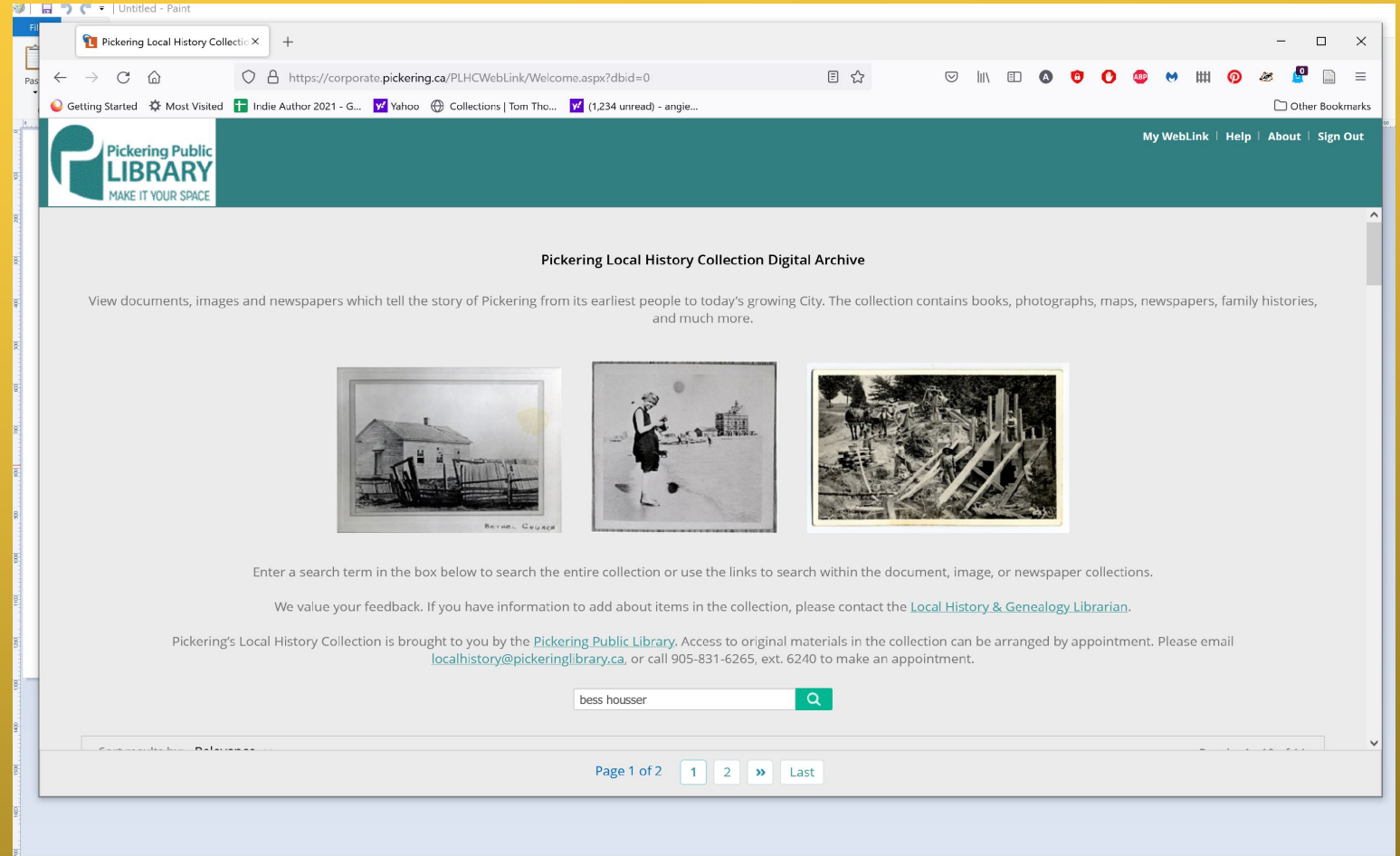
Direct ProQuest Screen, without TO Library (but provided by TO library)

- Use filter “oldest first”
- Newspapers have social notes and obituaries
- You are able to set a date range to cut down on number of items (especially if it is a common name you are searching.)
- PRINT articles and double check to see that date and page number are visible.



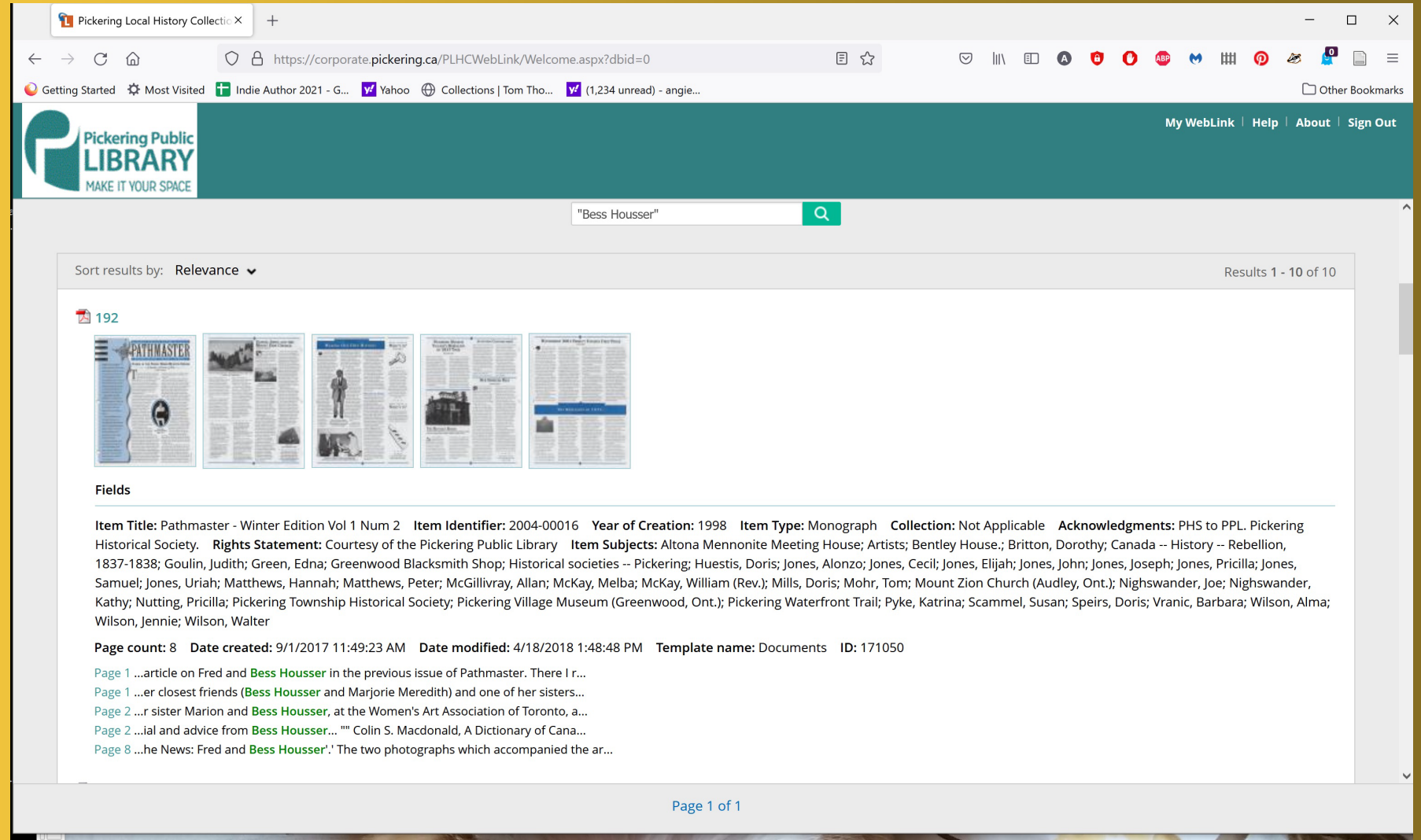
<https://www.proquest.com/index>

Pickering Local History Collection Digital Archive through Pickering Public Library is great for local newspapers and *Pathmaster*



<https://corporate.pickering.ca/PLHCWebLink/Welcome.aspx?cr=1>

A portrait painting of a woman with dark, wavy hair and a white outline, set against a light blue background. The woman has a pale complexion, blue eyes, and red lips. She is wearing a dark, possibly black, garment. The background is a light blue with some faint, darker blue brushstrokes. The overall style is somewhat expressionistic or modernist.



I had trouble finding Mrs. Benjamin P. Watson who bought two Tom Thomson works directly from him in The Shack in the Rosedale Valley.

As she had moved to NYC with her husband, I tracked her down with the NYC Times Machine — search function.

Same source provided the obituary on Feb. 9, 1980.

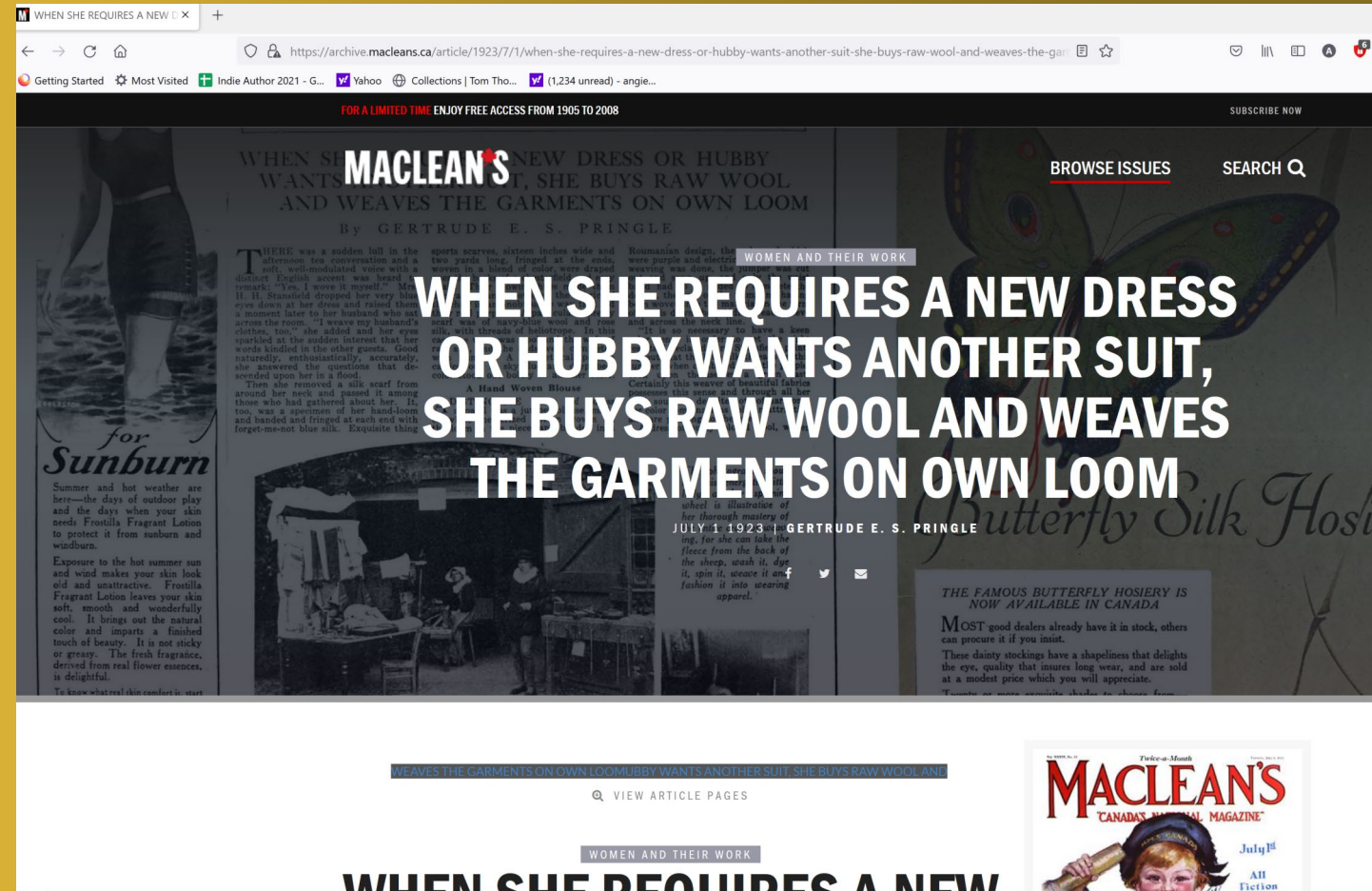
The Times Machine has a year function to search the entire paper for a specific date.

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser>

MacLean's Archive is not as useful to genealogy but it did help me find some people who I could not find otherwise.

- I was trying to find Hephzibah Stansfield, a weaver, feminist and wife of OCA instructor H.H. Stansfield

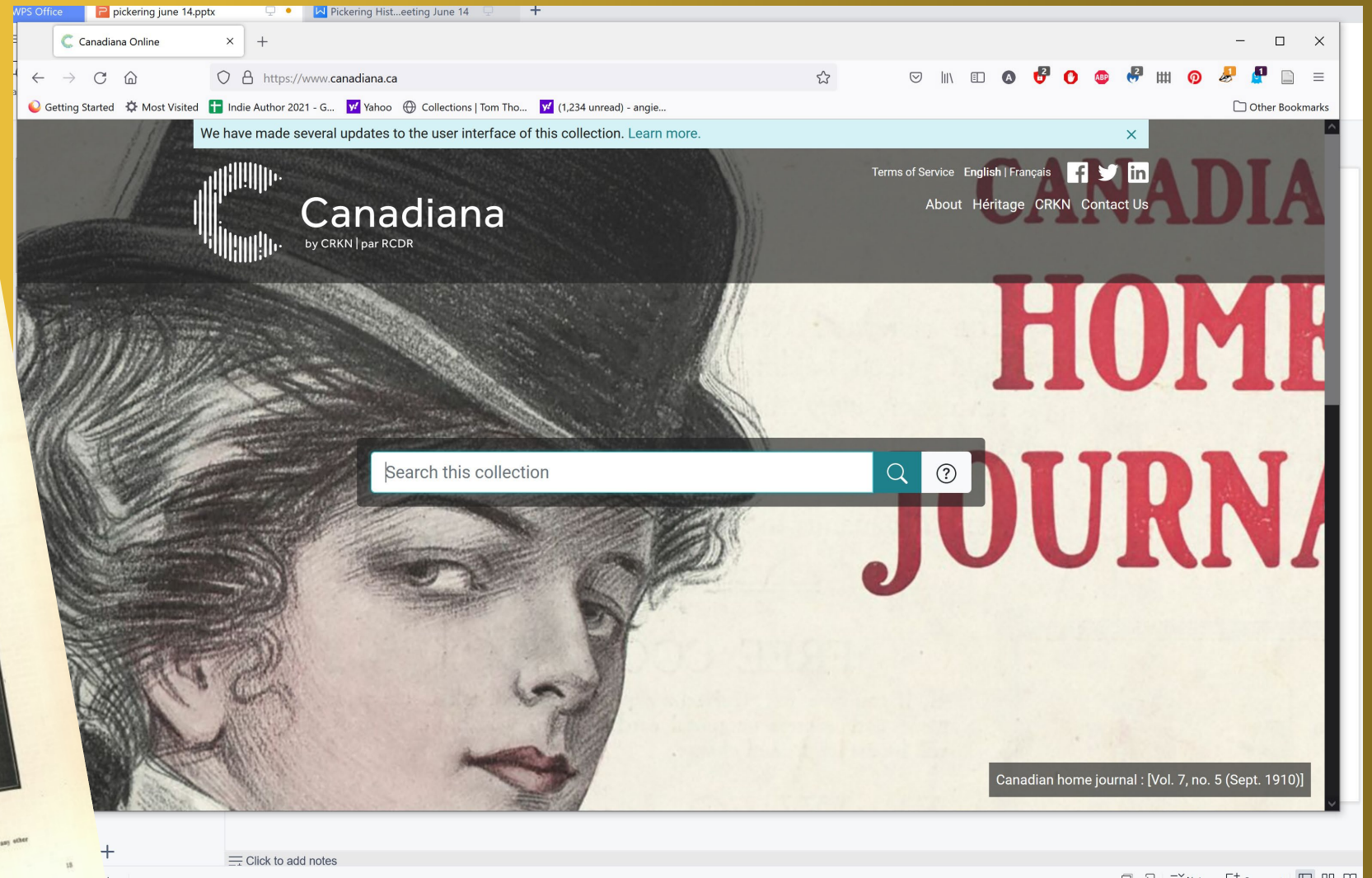
Hephzibah was tied to the Guild Inn's Rosa Clark and to Florence Johnston, wife of Group of Seven artist Franz Johnston.



<https://archive.macleans.ca/>

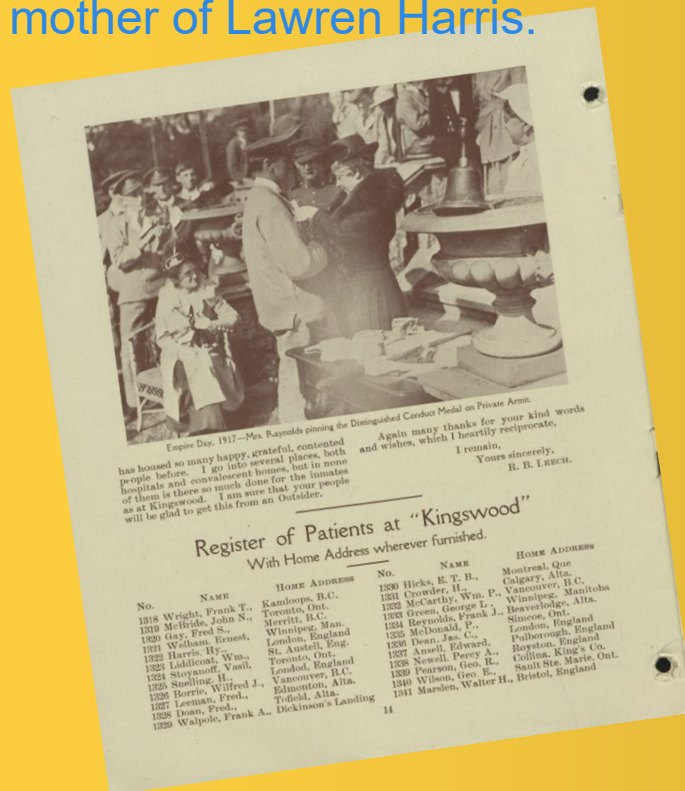
Canadiana Online

is an oddly useful,
free resource.







<https://www.canadiana.ca/>

- There are 19 Massey-Harris Bulletins available on Canadiana. Note that there are lists of residents.
- I became interested through Annie Stewart Harris, the mother of Lawren Harris.








We have made several updates to the user interface of this collection. [Learn more.](#)


 **Canadiana**
by CRKN | par RCDR

Terms of Service [English](#) | [Français](#)   

[About](#) [Héritage](#) [CRKN](#) [Contact Us](#)

p. 1 (cover) 



Massey-Harris Convalescent Home in England For Canadian Soldiers. : Bulletin No. 3

Discussion:

What genealogical tips might you acquire through newspapers?
(Think social events and obituaries)

How might old magazines help your investigations?

Tell us about free access to newspaper archives that you have found?

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Canadiana website. The address bar shows the URL <https://www.canadiana.ca/view/occihm.8.06251>. The page features the Canadiana logo, a search bar with the text "J E H MacDonald", and a "Search" button. Below the search bar, it says "The Canadian magazine" and "Available issues: 338". There are tabs for "List of Issues" and "About". The main content area displays a grid of issue cards for the year 1893, including volumes 1 and 2, with specific issue numbers and dates.

Issue	Year
[Vol. 1, no. 1 (Mar. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 2 (Apr. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 3 (May 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 4 (June 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 5 (July 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 6 (Aug. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 7 (Sept. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 1, no. 8 (Oct. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 2, no. 1 (Nov. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 2, no. 2 (Dec. 1893)]	1893
[Vol. 2, no. 3 (Jan. 1894)]	1893
[Vol. 2, no. 4 (Feb. 1894)]	1893

The Toronto Public Library has a digital archive, like Pickering's Local History Collection Digital Archive

- Street and family names will turn up images. Quebec Avenue turned up useful information about the neighbourhood. Greig turned up the inside image.



Digital Archive

Search: Quebec Avenue

25 results for **Quebec Avenue**

Refine Results

- Show Only Public Domain
- Format
- Date
- Names
- Subject
- Collection
- Language
- City, town or township
- Neighbourhood
- North-south street

Images Sort: Relevance

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic Avenue, west side, west of...
1909 circa

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic Avenue, west side, west of...
1920 circa

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic Avenue, west side, west of...
1909

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic Avenue, west side, west of...
1909 circa

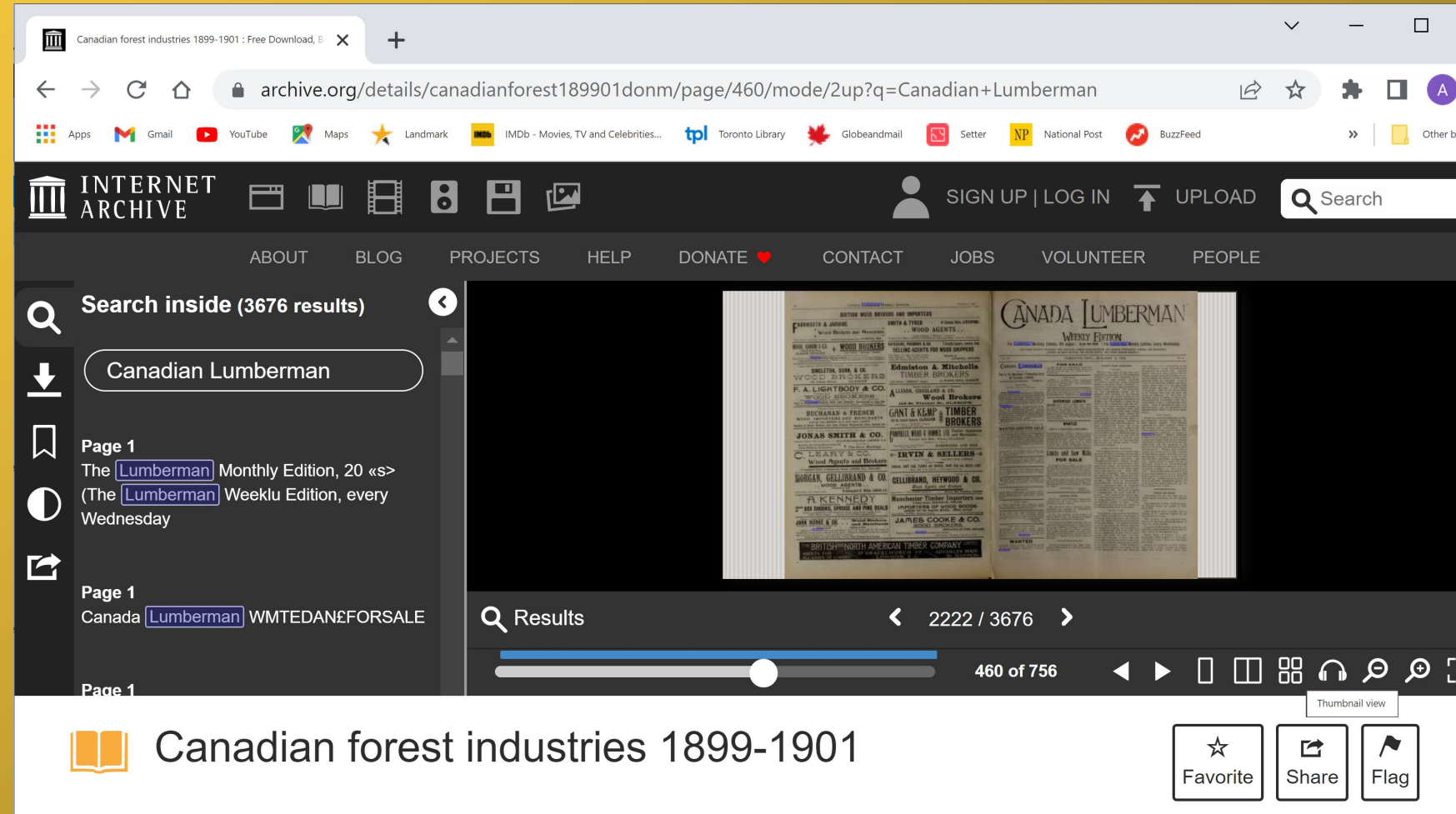
ark Sanitarium, Gothic

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic

High Park Sanitarium, Gothic

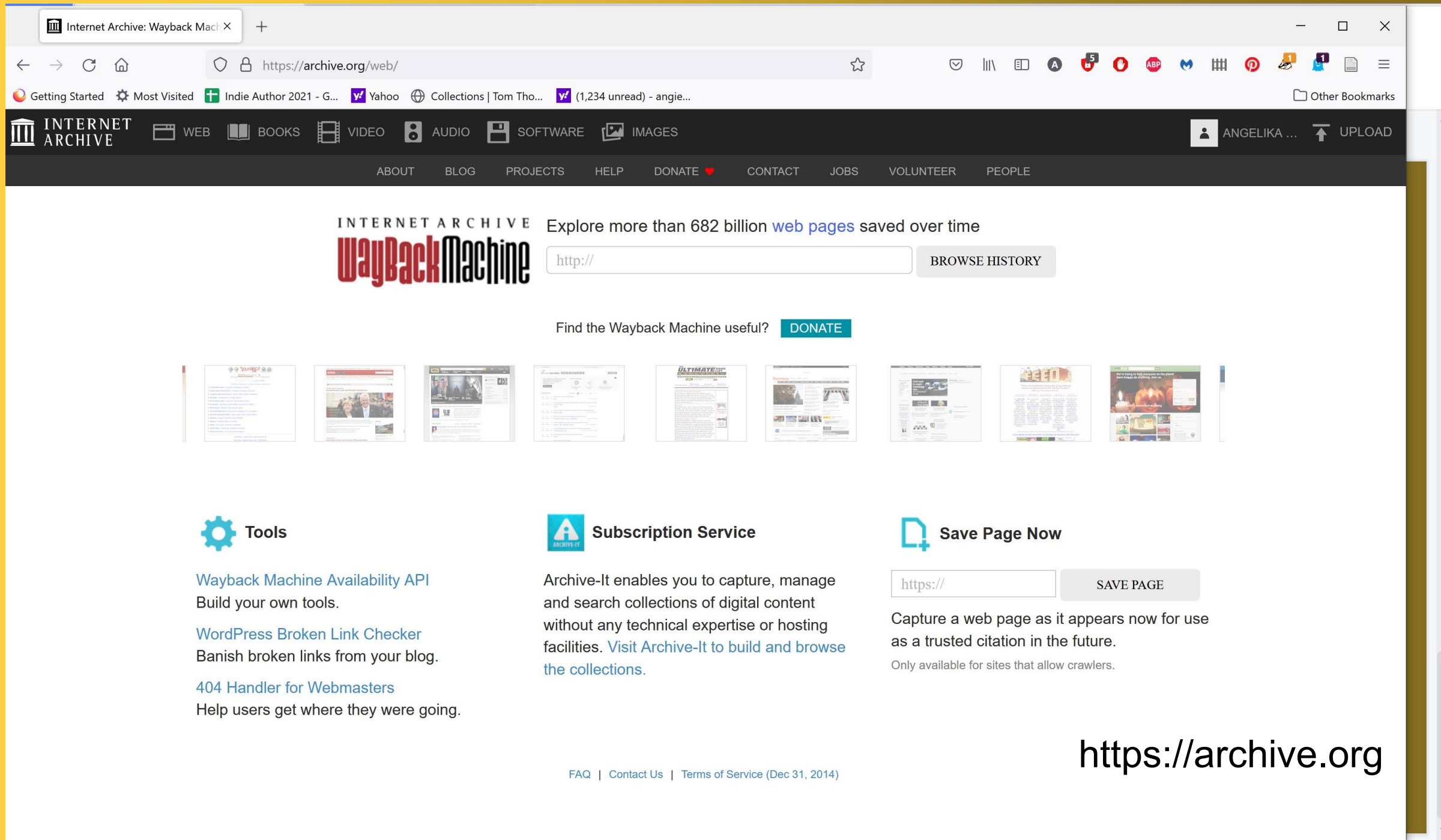
The Internet Archive is incredibly useful:

- Muster rolls of the soldiers of the War of 1812
--150 pages for just North Carolina!
<https://archive.org/details/musterrollsofsol00nort>
- Canadian forest industries 1899-1901, aka *Canada Lumberman*
<https://archive.org/details/canadianforest189901donm/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Canadian+Lumberman>



<https://archive.org/details/canadianforest189901donm/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Canadian+Lumberman>

<https://archive.org/details/musterrollsofsol00nort>



Digital City Directories: search by name or street.

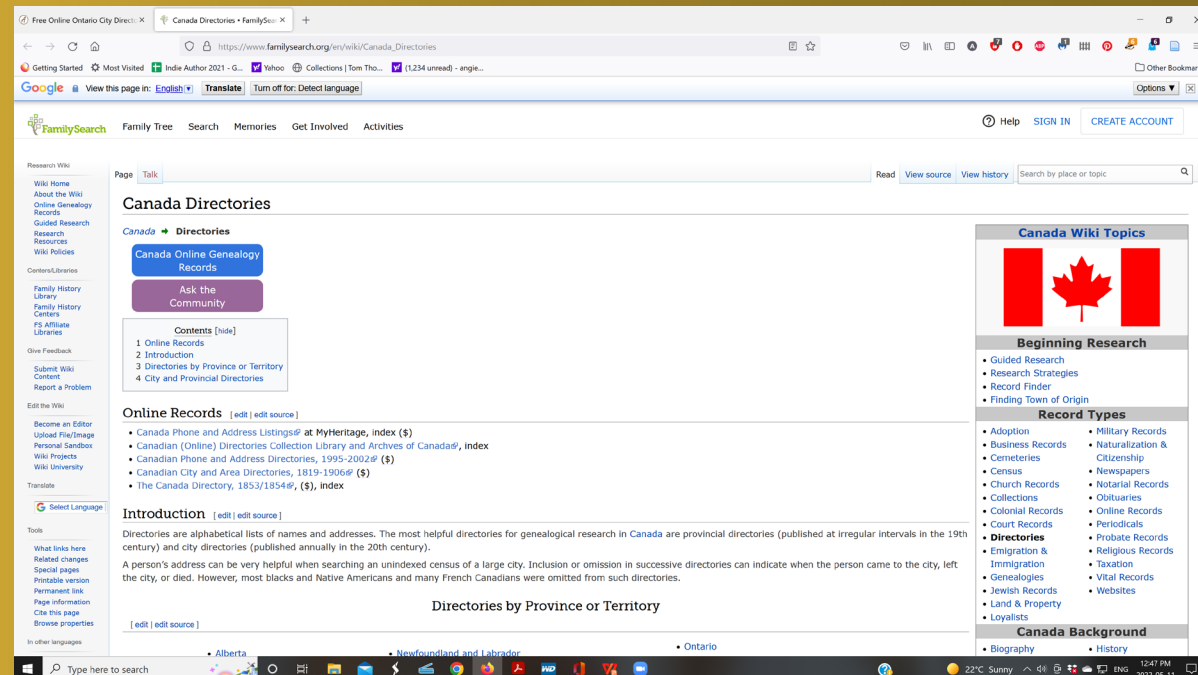
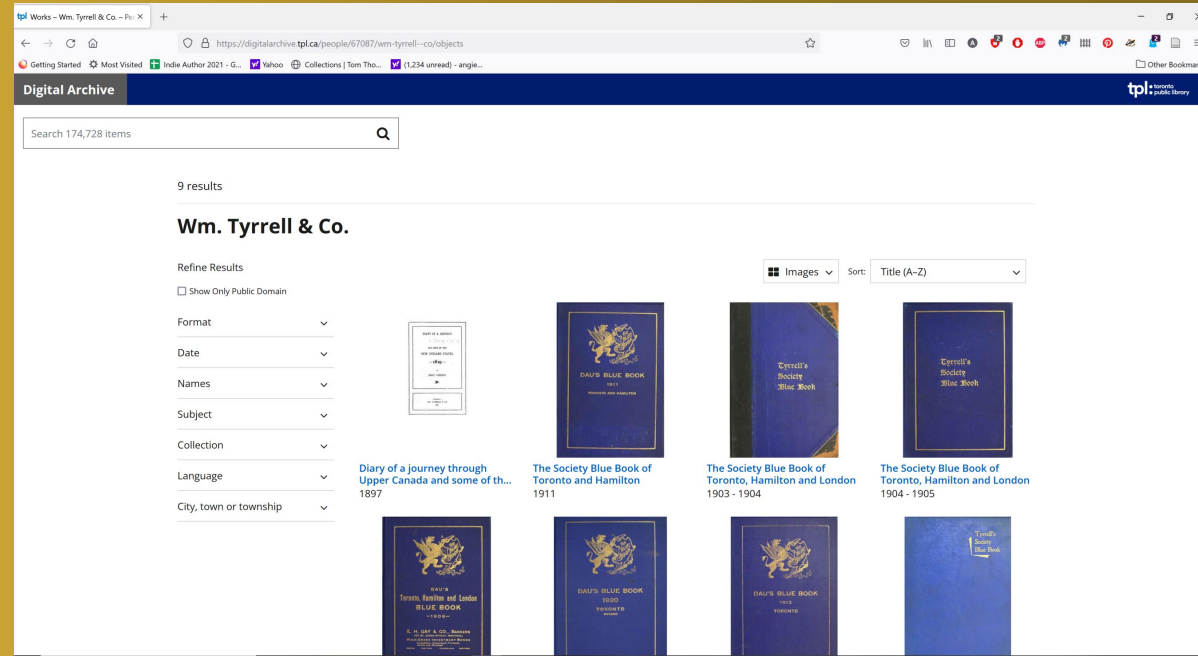
- Image from Toronto Public Library
- PDF and Internet Archive available. The Internet Archive is easier to use.
- Dau's and Might's are Blue Books with society information.
- A few issues also on Canadiana online

The screenshot shows the Toronto Public Library website's 'Digital Toronto City Directories' page. The browser address bar shows the URL 'https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/signin'. The page features a dark blue header with the 'tpl' logo, navigation links like 'Sign Out', 'Your Account', and 'Contact Us', and a search bar. Below the header, a horizontal menu lists various library services. The main content area is titled 'Digital Toronto City Directories' and includes a brief description: 'Toronto Public Library has digitized all of the Toronto city directories in its collections that were published between 1833 and 1969.' A sidebar on the left provides additional links related to books, video, research, and local history. The central part of the page displays a grid of links to digitized directories, organized by year and location (e.g., York, Ontario, East Toronto).

Year/Location	File Name	File Size	Link Type
1797-1823	(York)	PDF 2.12 MB	Internet Archive
1833		PDF 8.37 MB	Internet Archive
1837		PDF 16.4 MB	Internet Archive
1843		PDF 7.27 MB	Internet Archive
1846		PDF 18.3 MB	Internet Archive
1850		PDF 31.0 MB	Internet Archive
1856		PDF 26.0 MB	Internet Archive
1856		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1859		PDF 19.9 MB	Internet Archive
1861		PDF 15.2 MB	Internet Archive
1862		PDF 14.3 MB	Internet Archive
1864		PDF 15.3 MB	Internet Archive
1865		PDF 12.7 MB	Internet Archive
1866		PDF 23.6 MB	Internet Archive
1867		PDF 19.3 MB	Internet Archive
1868		PDF 15.2 MB	Internet Archive
1868		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1870		PDF 19.0 MB	Internet Archive
1870		PDF 13.3 MB	Internet Archive
1871		PDF 18.3 MB	Internet Archive
1871		PDF 5.22 MB	Internet Archive
1872		PDF 17.2 MB	Internet Archive
1873		PDF 16.7 MB	Internet Archive
1873		PDF 14.4 MB	Internet Archive
1874		PDF 22.0 MB	Internet Archive
1891		PDF 76.0 MB	Internet Archive
1892		PDF 113.0 MB	Internet Archive
1893		PDF 64.0 MB	Internet Archive
1894		PDF 71.2 MB	Internet Archive
1895		PDF 76.5 MB	Internet Archive
1896		PDF 74.5 MB	Internet Archive
1897		PDF 69.5 MB	Internet Archive
1898		PDF 66.4 MB	Internet Archive
1898		with Western Ontario	Internet Archive
1899		PDF 165.0 MB	Internet Archive
1900		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1901		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1902		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1903		PDF 139.0 MB	Internet Archive
1903		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1904		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1905		PDF 170.0 MB	Internet Archive
1905		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1906		PDF 160.0 MB	Internet Archive
1906		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1906		Toronto Junction	Internet Archive
1906		PDF 11.3 MB	Internet Archive
1907		PDF 144.0 MB	Internet Archive
1907		East Toronto	Internet Archive
1908		PDF 185.0 MB	Internet Archive
1908		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1908		North Toronto	Internet Archive
1925		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1926		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1927		Long Branch	Internet Archive
1927		2.41 MB	Internet Archive
1927		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1928		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1929		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1930		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1931		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1932		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1933		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1934		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1935		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1935		York County	Internet Archive
1936		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1937		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1938		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1939		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1940		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1941		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1942		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1943		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1944		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1945		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1946		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1947		Internet Archive	Internet Archive
1948		Internet Archive	Internet Archive

Discussion:

- How do you access directories for other cities, such as Oshawa, Windsor or Pickering? I did find Canada Directories. Has anyone used it?
- Provide examples of how addresses helped your search for ancestors.
- How have you dealt with house re-numbering?

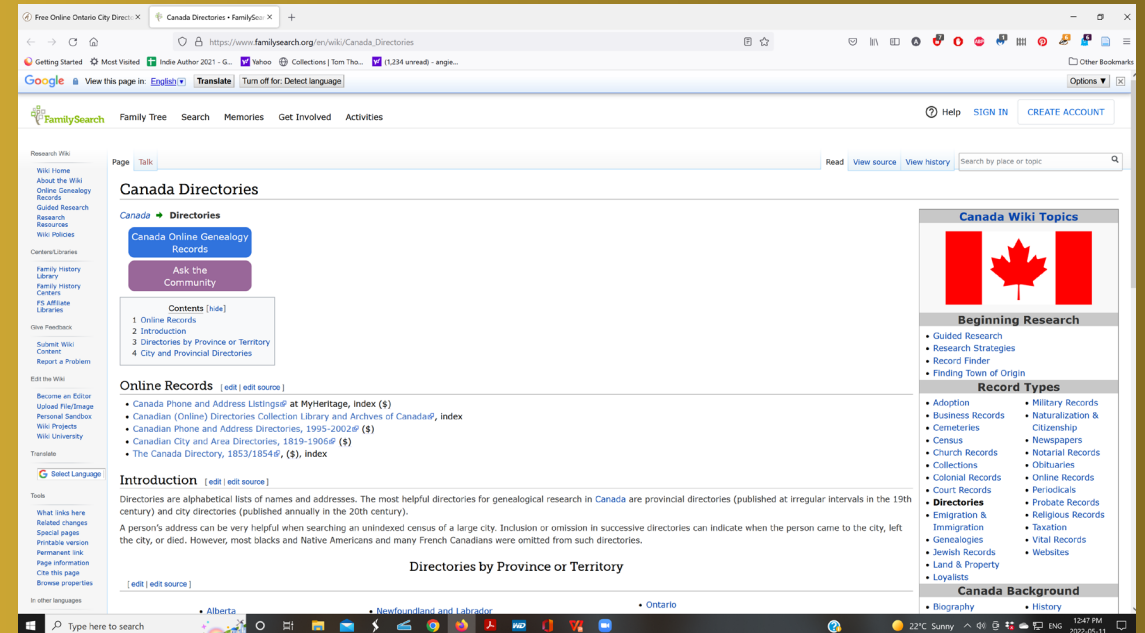
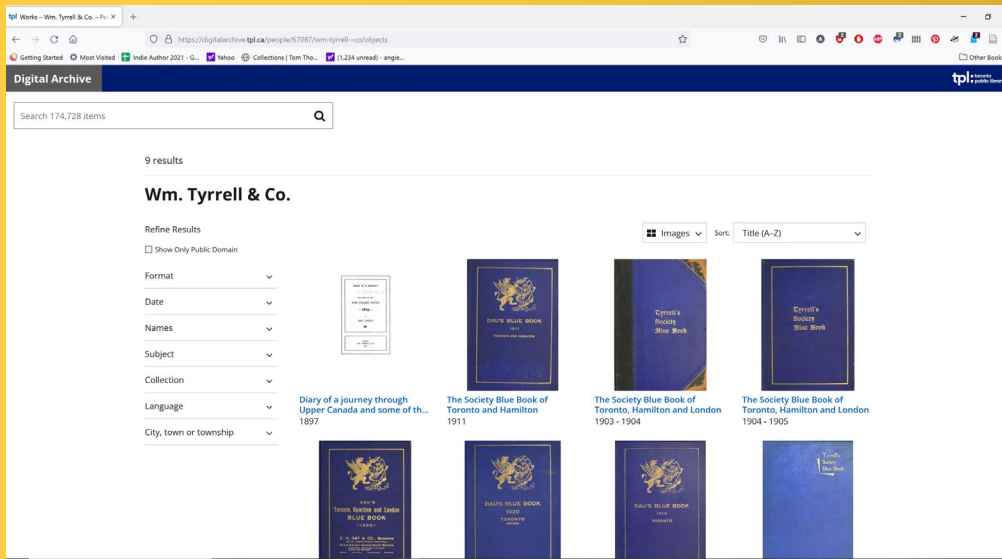


Discussion:

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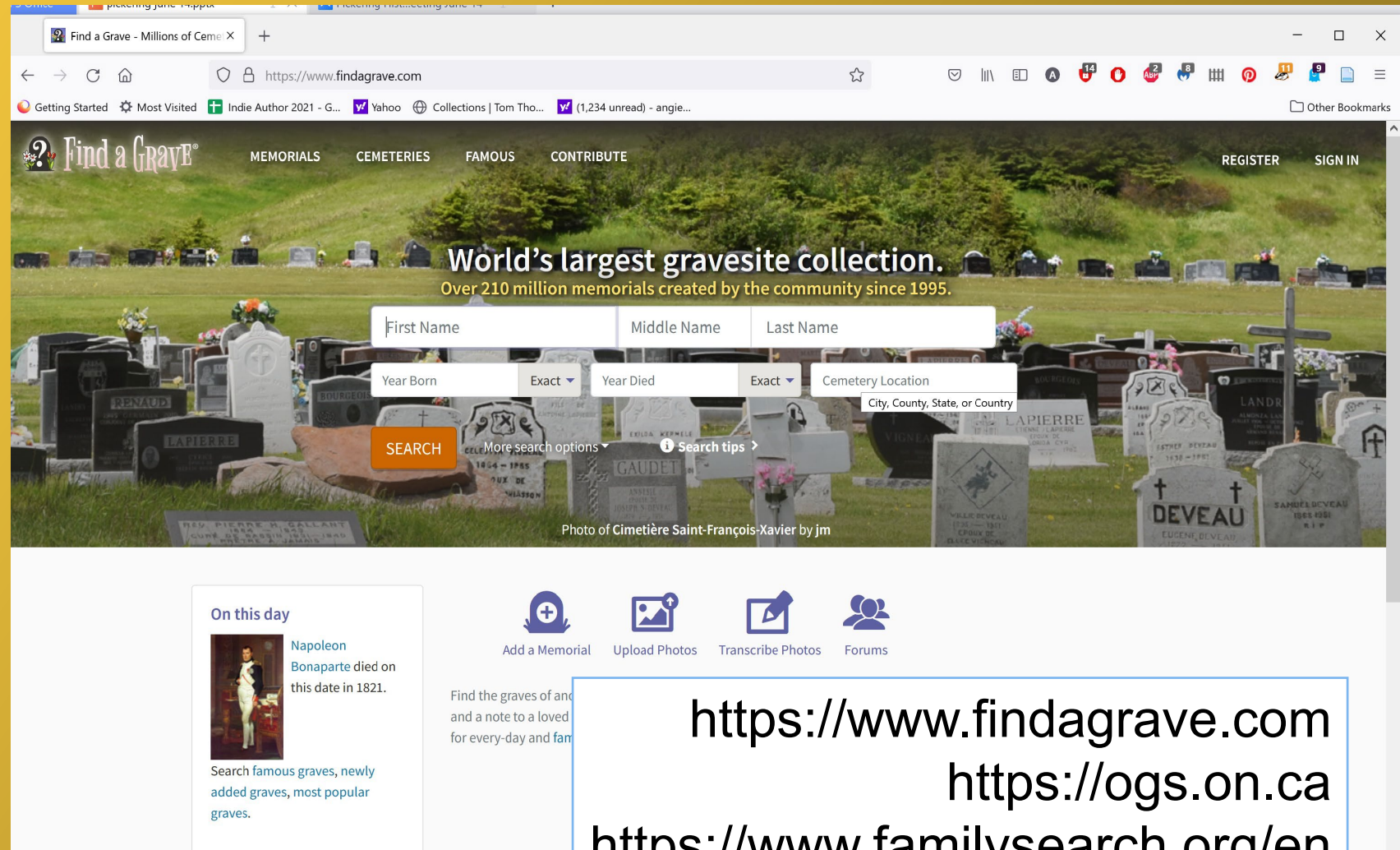
Provide examples of how addresses helped your search for ancestors.

How have you dealt with house re-numbering?



Find a Grave and Cemetery Sites

- **Find a Grave** has an index inside ancestry.ca 1600s to current. Website itself is free.
- The **Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS)** has a cemetery database called OGS Cemeteries
- **Family Search** website has comprehensive cemetery data (Mormon site)



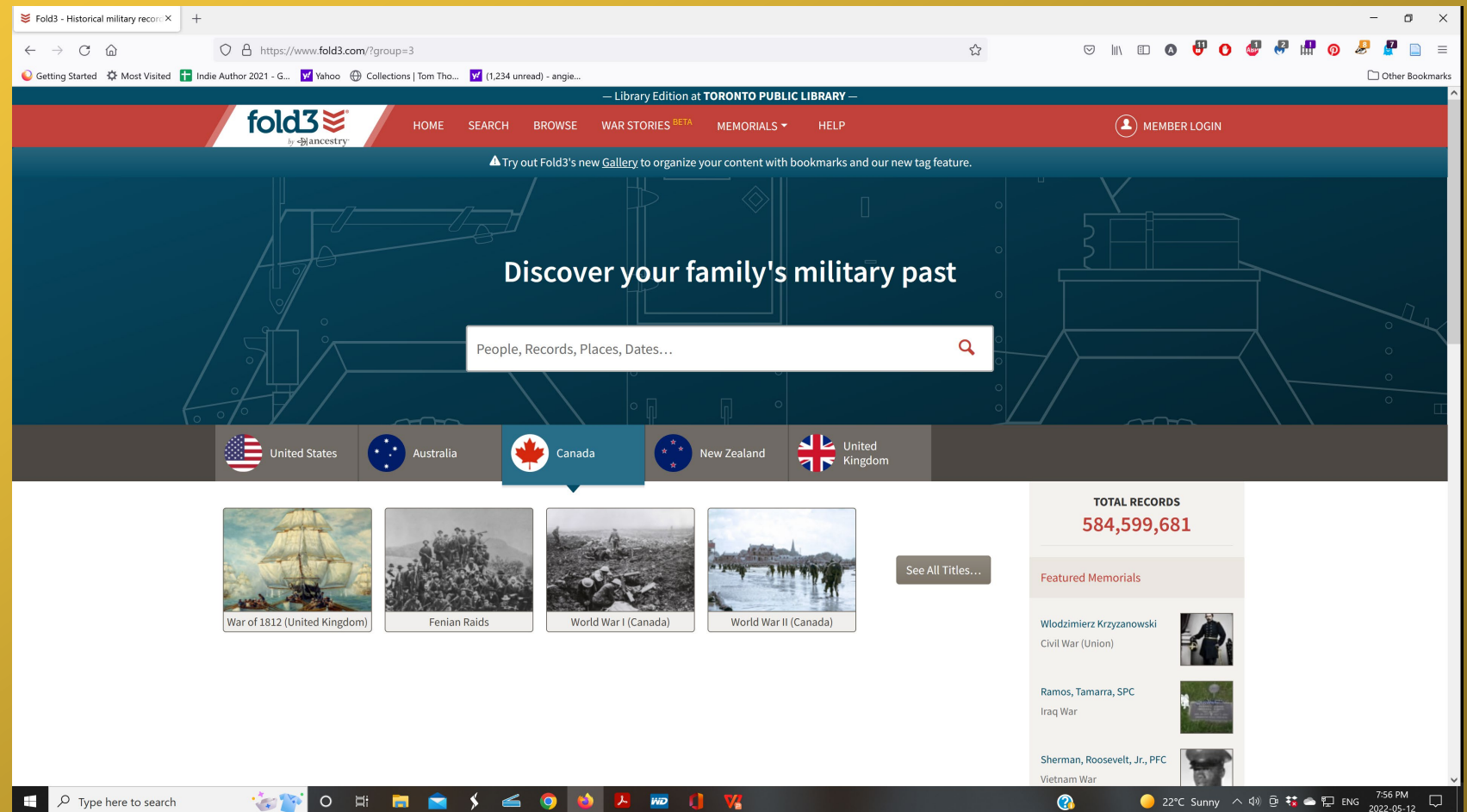
Military Records: lots of sources

Fold3 is Toronto Public Library - card required

Military Heritage - Library and Archives Canada

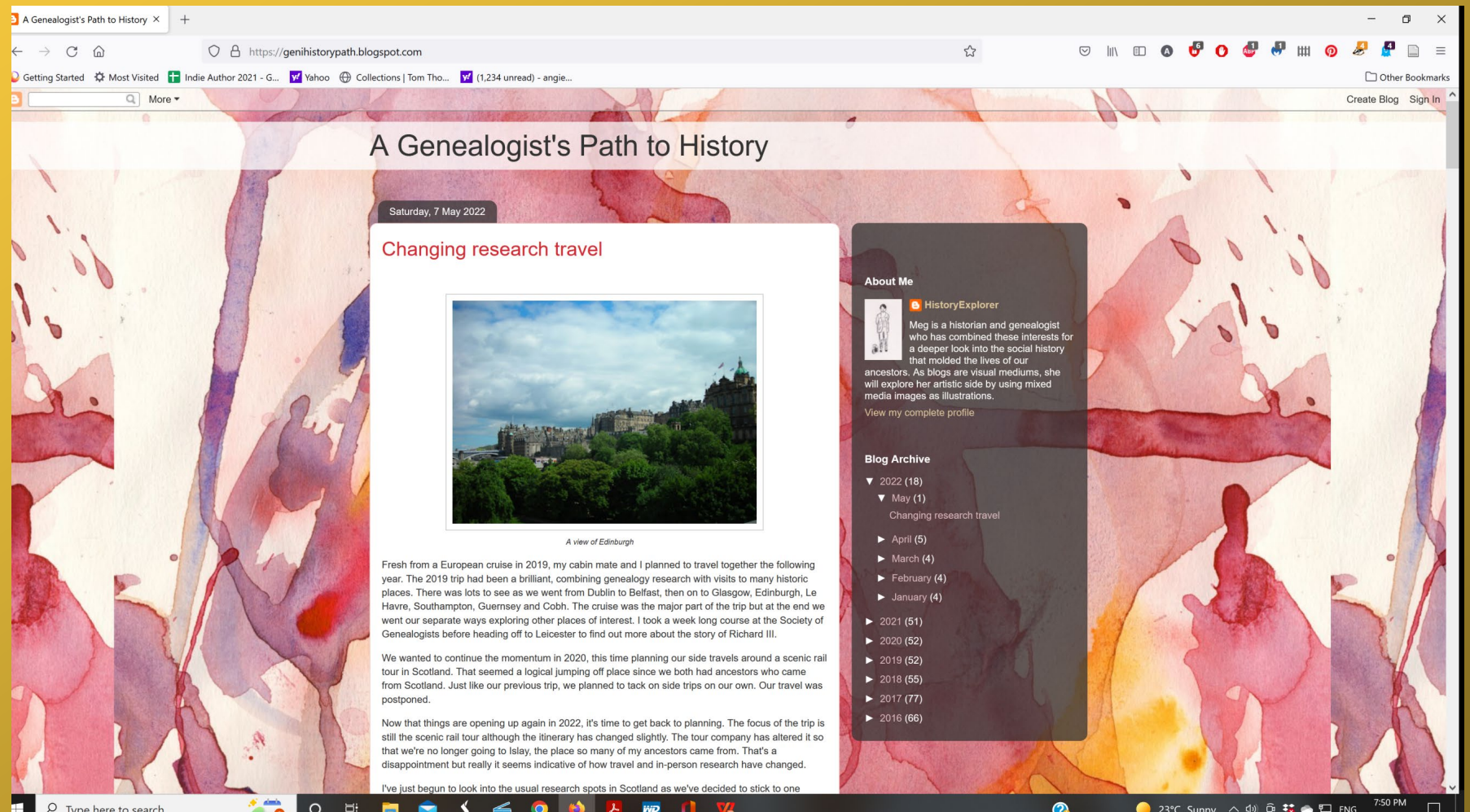
Ancestry.ca via public library

Internet Archive



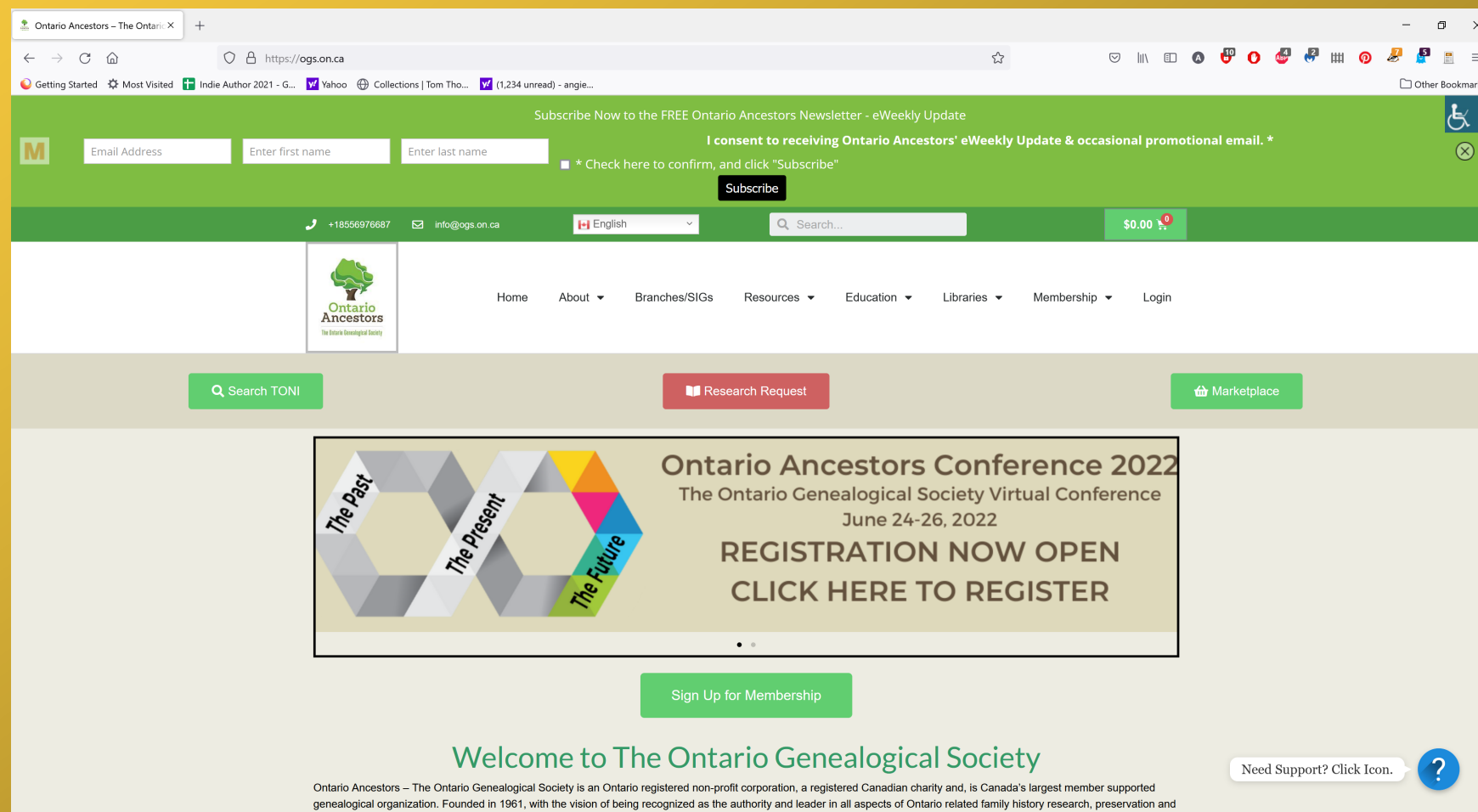
Blogs about genealogy: Meg McLaughlin

- I met Meg through Tom Thomson research. She's a descendant of Tom's cousin, Lottie Tripp Gilchrist.
- Lots of great tips.

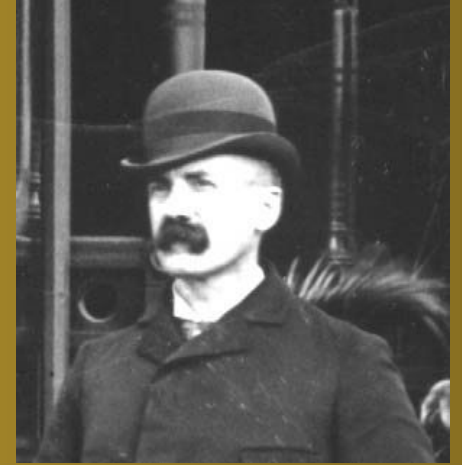


Ontario Genealogical Society - many branches

- There is a Durham Region Branch that lists MANY resources
- Branches with EXT behind them may be reached through the central office at 855-697-6687
- Good source for cemeteries
- Upcoming conference!



<https://ogs.on.ca>



Discussion:

What pointers would you give to the group?

Which were your best leads during your research?

What are some other good sources you've used?

Thanks to **Mary Cook** for taking the time to teach me to use Print Screen for a powerpoint presentation.

angie.littlefield@yahoo.ca

HELPFUL LINKS

<https://pickeringlibrary.ca/>

<https://www.proquest.com/index>

<https://www.newspapers.com/>

<https://corporate.pickering.ca/PLHCWebLink/Welcome.aspx?cr=1>

<https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/browser>

<https://archive.macleans.ca/>

<https://www.canadiana.ca/>

<https://archive.org/details/musterrollsofsol00nort>

<https://archive.org/details/canadianforest189901donm/page/n5/mode/2up?q=Canadian+Lumberman>

<https://www.findagrave.com/>

<https://ogs.on.ca>

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

https://scholar.google.ca/scholar?hl=en&as_sdt=0%2C5&q=J+E+H+MacDonald&oq=

<https://www.google.com/search?tbm=bks&q=%22joan+lavis+macdonald%22> (google books)

<https://paulturner.ca/index.htm> (private family genealogy)

*Tom Thomson's
Fine Kettle of Friends:
biography, history, art and food*

Have your book signed
and dedicated by:
ANGIE LITTLEFIELD



angielittlefield.com



If you missed any part of this presentation,
it will be available on my website
<http://angielittlefield.com>
and <https://pineridgearts.org>

Author/Curator/Educator Angie Littlefield co-produced *Tom Thomson's Fine Kettle of Friends: history, biography, art and food*, with Mary Cook in 2017. It was shortlisted for the Whistler Independent Book Award in 2021. *Walking with Oma: a memoir* will be published in 2024. She is working on mini-biographies of the wives of the Group of Seven. Her recent articles are at <https://www.silversagemag.com/author/angie-littlefield/> and she is a frequent columnist in PineRidge Arts Council's *ArtScene*.