

PATHFINDER to LAND PATENTS At the Archives of Ontario

Documents called *letters patent* transferred land ownership from the Crown to private individuals. *Land patent books* are the original book copies of letters patent. The original letters patent would be with the recipients.

LAND PATENT BOOKS, RG 53-1

1793-1867:

Patent books for the period 1793 to 1867 are available on microfilm in the Main Reading Room at the Archives of Ontario. If you know the district and year pertaining to a patent, you can determine the microfilm number you need by consulting the online finding aid described below:

- Go to the Archives Descriptive Database description for RG 53-1. For the list of microfilms, choose the online finding aid.
- The table of microfilm reel numbers is organized by location and dates. Note the microfilm reel number that contains the volume of the land patent record(s) you wish to see.
- Pick up the microfilm in the self-service microfilm area of the Main Reading Room.
- If you do not know the district and year, you must obtain a reference to a particular land patent by consulting one of the patent indexes described below.

1867-1984:

If you wish to see a patent issued after June 1867, you must obtain a reference to a particular land patent by consulting one of the patent indexes. This pathfinder shows you how to use the three following indexes:

- Index to patents by name, RG 53-56
- Index to patents by district, RG 53-2
- Index to patents by township, RG 53-55

HOW to USE the INDEX to LAND PATENTS by NAME, RG 53-56

This index provides the name of the patentee, date of the patent, lot and concession, township, type of transaction, liber (book) and folio (page numbers) where the patent was located in the original patent books.

The indexes were created in two formats:

- bound volumes from 1826 to 1953
- index cards from 1954 to 1967.

1826-1912

Reference copies for volumes dated 1826 to 1912 are available on self-service microfilm in the Main Reading Room and through the Microfilm Interloan Program. Please determine the reel you need by using the online list available through the Archives Descriptive Database.

- Go to the Archives Descriptive Database description for RG 53-56. For the list of microfilms, choose the online finding aid.
- The table of microfilm reel numbers is organized by surname and year. Note the microfilm reel number associated with the patent you wish to see.
- Pick up the microfilm in the self-service microfilm area of the Main Reading Room or order it through the Interloan Program.

1912 to 1953

For access to indexes in volumes 12 to 16, years 1912 to 1953, contact a reference archivist.

1954 to 1967

For access to index cards for years 1954 to 1967, contact a reference archivist. The cards are organized by year.

HOW to USE the INDEX to LAND PATENTS by DISTRICT, RG 53-2

This index provides the name of the patentee, date of the patent, number of acres, lot, concession, township, and district.

1793-1825

The index is available on microfilm in the Main Reading Room or through Interloan. Please determine the reel you need by using the online list available through the Archives Descriptive Database.

- Start with the Archives Descriptive Database description for RG 53-56 then go to the list for RG 53-2.
- The microfilmed index is arranged by districts in the following order: Home; Niagara; Newcastle; Gore; Western; London; London Town, Park & Water lots; Eastern; Johnstown; Bathurst; Ottawa; and Midland.
- *In the Main Reading Room*, go to the self-serve microfilm area and choose microfilm *MS 1, reel 6*.
- *From your home*, order the microfilm you need through Interloan.

HOW to USE the INDEX to LAND PATENTS by TOWNSHIP, RG 53-55.

1793-1852

This index provides the name of the patentee, the lot and concession, date of patent, number of acres, the liber (book) and folio (page) for the location of each patent in the original patent books. The index is available on microfilm in the Main Reading Room or through Interloan. Please determine the reel you need by using the online list available through the Archives Descriptive Database. The link is below:

- Start with the Archives Descriptive Database description for RG 53-56 then go to the list for RG 53-55.
- Within each township, the records are arranged in chronological order by patent date. If you know the township of the patent, note the microfilm number that contains the volume holding the land patent you need.
- *If you are in the Main Reading Room*, pick up the microfilm in the self-service microfilm area. The index by township is on microfilm *MS 1, reels 1 to 5*.
- *If you are doing the search from home*, order the microfilm through Interloan.

HELPFUL DETAILS

If you are looking for a patent outside the above dates

- Contact the Ministry of Natural Resources in Peterborough:
 - Fax to Crown Land Registry, 705-755-2181
 - Phone 705-755-2193
 - There is a minimum charge of \$32.50 plus postage for a copy of a patent
- You cannot obtain certified copies at the Archives of Ontario. For certified copies, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources, 300 Water Street, Peterborough, ON, K9J 8M5.

RELATED RECORD SERIES NOT COVERED in THIS PATHFINDER

There are several other series relating to land patents, which are described in Inventory RG 53 or the online Archives Descriptive Database. They are:

- RG 53-3, cancelled land patents
- RG 53-52, land patents, free grants
- RG 53-53, land patents, school land sales
- RG 53-54, militia grants
- RG 53-4, surrenders of land
- RG 53-5, Crown sales – public works
- RG 53-6, Indian and ordinance lands
- RG 53-7, high school lands
- RG 53-8, exemplification register
- RG 53-45, deeds of right to flooded lands