

Archives of Ontario Pathfinder to: The ONTARIO LAND RECORDS INDEX (OLRI)

The *Ontario Land Records Index* is an index of land transactions between individuals and the Crown as well as land transactions between individuals and the Canada Company or Peter Robinson.

As an index, the OLRI directs researchers to a number of different records of land dealings related to specific *people and places*. Such records provide evidence of who received property rights, from the right to live and work on a particular plot of land to the right of ownership. The information in the index itself reveals stories behind the facts, such as why specific people were chosen to receive those rights.

- Use PATHWAY #1 if you have the *name of a person* and want to identify land transactions related to that person
- Use PATHWAY #2 when you have the *name of a place (township, town, or city)*.

Pathway #1

Steps	Instructions	Note:
1. <u>Go to the personal names microfiche binder</u>	The surnames on the microfiche are in alphabetical order. Choose the fiche page(s) that should contain the surname you seek. When searching the name, try several different spellings to be sure you have covered all potential entries	- If you cannot find the name you seek then try Pathway #2
2. <u>Note down all numbers and letters</u>	Take careful note of all numbers and letters in the line related to the name.	- Each letter and number is <i>code</i> for details related to that particular person's land transactions.
3. <u>Go to page iii in the personal name or township binder to decode the symbols you wrote down</u>	You can decode the symbols to determine details of the land transaction, such as the type of contract or grant received, and why. For instance, some favours were awarded to United Empire Loyalists or to men who served military service. Some leases/sales were for special purposes such as clergy, school or native reserves.	- You can also look at the examples on <i>page ii</i> as a guide.
4. <u>Look at the records themselves for the details</u>	The last column in the line contains the <i>archival reference code</i> you need to find a microfilm copy of the original land records.	
5. <u>Determine your microfilm number from Part 2, page v of the binder</u>	Go back to the binder, <i>Part 2, page v</i> , to determine the page that will list the microfilm number you need. Proceed to the <i>page number</i> associated with your archival reference code in order to <i>match your archival reference code to the correct microfilm reel and number</i> .	
6. <u>Winding to the correct volume on your reel(s)</u>	The microfilm is self-service and, for the most part, in numerical order. Often numerous volumes have been filmed on each reel. Make sure you wind to the correct volume.	- The last entry in the archival reference column is "PG", which refers to the page number that contains the name and transaction you seek.

Pathway #2

Steps	Instructions	Note:
1. <u>Go to the township microfiche binder</u>	The index on the microfiche is organized first by place (township, town, or city) in alphabetical order, followed by concession and then lot in numerical order. Choose the fiche page(s) that should contain the location(s) you seek	- If you cannot find the location you seek then try Pathway #1
2. <u>Note down all numbers and letters</u>	Once you locate the place (township/town/city and correct concession and lot), take careful note of all numbers and letters given on the relevant line.	- Each letter and number is code for information related to land transactions of that particular place.
3. <u>Go to page iii in the personal name or township binder to decode the symbols you wrote down</u>	You can decode the symbols to determine details of the land transaction, such as the type of contract or grant received, and why. For instance, some favours were awarded to United Empire Loyalists or to men who served military service. Some leases/sales were for special purposes such as clergy, school or native reserves.	- You can also look at the examples on <i>page ii</i> as a guide.
4. <u>Look at the records themselves for the details</u>	The last column in the line contains the <i>archival reference code</i> you need to find a microfilm copy of the original land records.	
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