

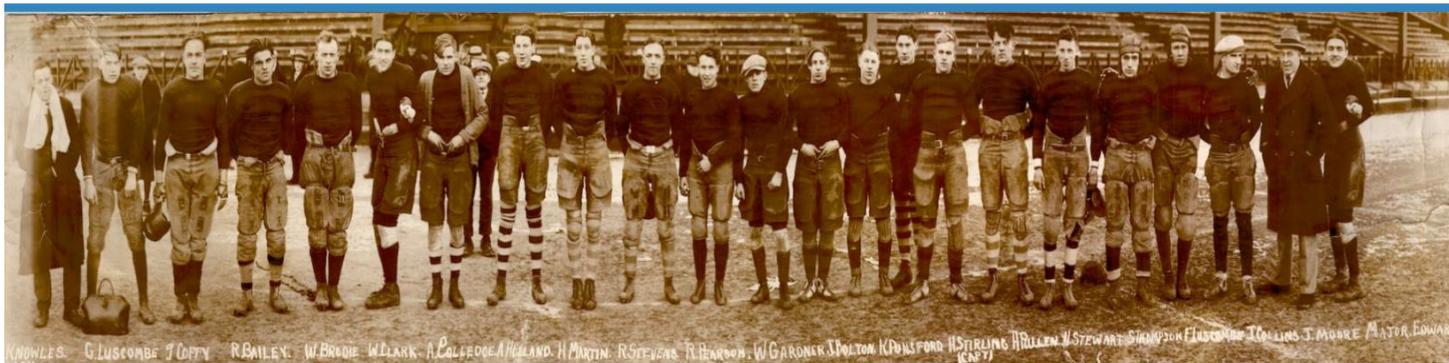
Searching the Heritage Collections Elgin-St. Thomas database

With over 250,000 records in our online database, here are
-10 tips to help you conduct a more effective search! &
-10 common database searches!



Heritage Collections Elgin-St. Thomas

Search Help Selections 0



KNOWLES G. LUSCORBE T. LOFTY R. BAILEY W. BRODIE W. LARK A. COLLEGE A. HILLAND H. MARTIN R. STEVENS R. HARRISON W. GARNER J. BOLTON K. DUNFORD H. STERLING H. ALLEN W. STEWART S. SIMPSON F. LINDSAY J. COLLIS J. MURRE M. JETER EDWARDS (CAPT)

Search Our Collections



Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse >

Quick Start

Select one of these links to begin exploring our collections, or search with keywords above.

Upgrades to our online database

In the last couple of years, our online database has undergone a number of improvements

Last year (2021): inclusion of the Elgin County Museum records as well as the records of:

- Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives
- Backus-Page House Museum
- Edison Museum of Vienna
- Elgin County Railway Museum
- Forge and Anvil Museum
- Gay Lea Dairy Museum
- North America Railway Hall of Fame
- Port Burwell Marine Museum
- St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre
- *in 2022, the Oneida Language and Cultural Centre was added

- 2021:
- Enhanced and intuitive search functions
 - Better ability to comment on records
 - Ability to index and search PDF documents
 - Zooming capability on fire insurance plans
 - Improved streaming of video and audio files
- 2022:
- Flipbook-style viewer for PDFs
 - Newspaper finding aid

Elgin County Archives

*Tips on Conducting an Effective Search of our online
database*

heritagecollections.elgin.ca

July 2022

1. Use quotation marks

Use quotations around key words, if you are looking for a specific name. This helps to narrow down your search and avoid irrelevant search results. For example, if you are looking for information on Lloyd Jarvis, enter the search term “Lloyd Jarvis”. That will weed out records that just happen to contain both “Lloyd” and “Jarvis” in the description.

A search of Lloyd Jarvis returns 441 records, and “Lloyd Jarvis” returns 56. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

lloyd jarvis

Print PDF

Sorted by Relevance List View Expand All

Narrow Results By 441 records – page 1 of 23

- Museum / Archive
- Fonds / Collection
- Material Type
- Subject
- Name
- Decade
- Archival Hierarchy
- Online Media Type

Advanced Search Help



Lloyd Jarvis - Rodney Agricultural Society

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE: Elgin County Archives
PART OF: Harley Lashbrook Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL: Item
GMD: graphic material
DATE RANGE: February 6, 1986
ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016-09
STORAGE LOCATION: W9 B7 387

MORE DETAIL Image

Select Share Feedback Discuss More like this Permalink



Optimist Brad Reive Presenting Cheque to Lloyd Jarvis

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE: Elgin County Archives
PART OF: Harley Lashbrook Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL: Item

"lloyd jarvis"

Print PDF

Sorted by Relevance List View Expand All

Narrow Results By 56 records – page 1 of 3

- Museum / Archive
- Fonds / Collection
- Material Type
- Subject
- Name
- Decade
- Archival Hierarchy
- Online Media Type

Advanced Search Help



Lloyd Jarvis - Rodney Agricultural Society

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE: Elgin County Archives
PART OF: Harley Lashbrook Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL: Item
GMD: graphic material
DATE RANGE: February 6, 1986
ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016-09
STORAGE LOCATION: W9 B7 387

MORE DETAIL Image

Select Share Feedback Discuss More like this Permalink

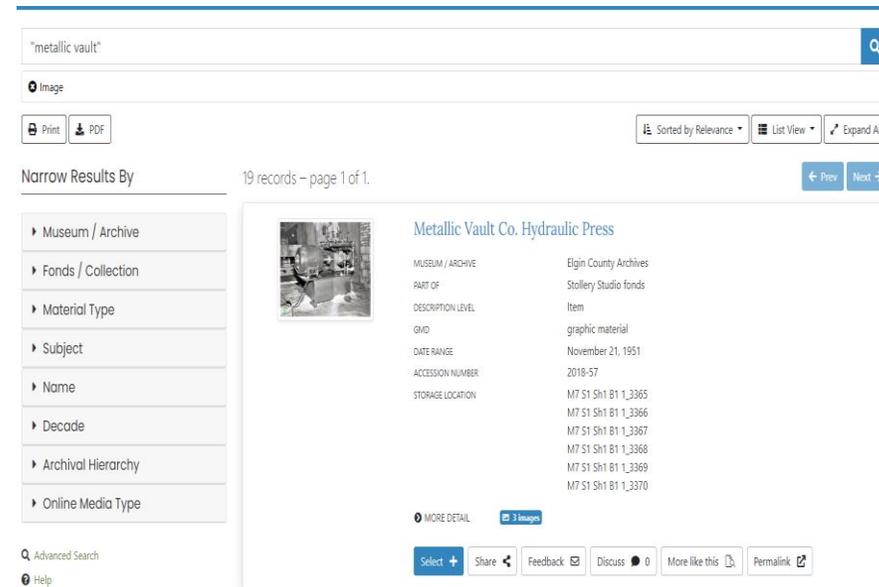
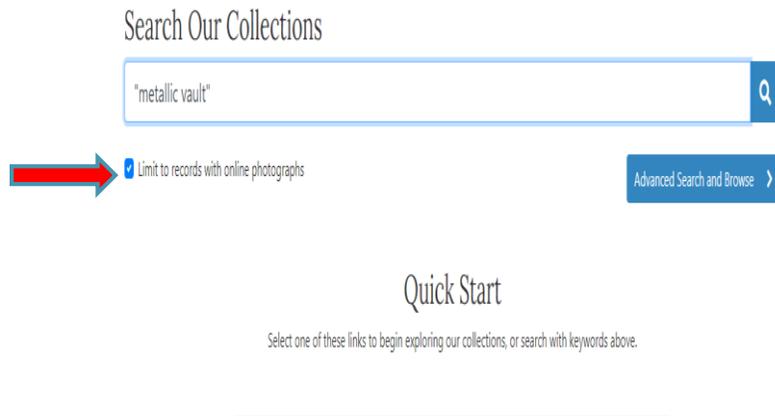


Optimist Brad Reive Presenting Cheque to Lloyd Jarvis

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE: Elgin County Archives
PART OF: Harley Lashbrook Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL: Item

2. Check the box “Limit to records with online photographs”

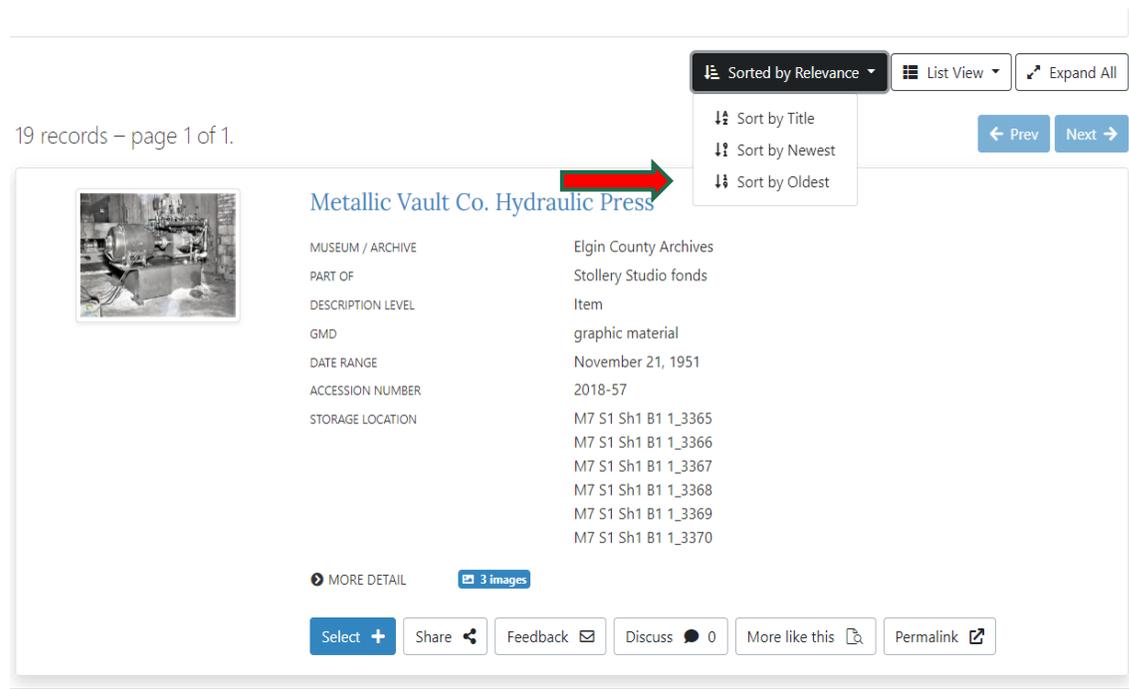
Many researchers consult our online database specifically to look for pictures. Clicking on the checkbox directly below the keyword search box before you do your search, will only return results with images that are visible online! If I was looking for images of the St. Thomas Metallic Vault Company, this would be a good way to search (it returns 19 records, all of which include images of the company): ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**



3. Sorting the results by date

When someone conducts a search of our database, they are often looking for a record from a certain timeframe. There are two ways to organize/sort results by date:

-after the keyword has been searched and the results appear on the screen, you can go to the top right-hand corner and select from the drop down “Sort by oldest” (or “Sort by newest”). This arranges the results by date.



19 records – page 1 of 1.

Sorted by Relevance | List View | Expand All

Sort by Title
Sort by Newest
Sort by Oldest

← Prev Next →

Metallic Vault Co. Hydraulic Press

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	November 21, 1951
ACCESSION NUMBER	2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION	M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3365 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3366 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3367 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3368 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3369 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3370

MORE DETAIL | 3 images

Select + | Share | Feedback | Discuss 0 | More like this | Permalink

Another way to search by date is to enter your search term, and then click on “Advanced Search” on the main screen (before you conduct your search). Towards the bottom of the screen, you can either move the slider to specify a date range, or enter it in “From Year, To Year”. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

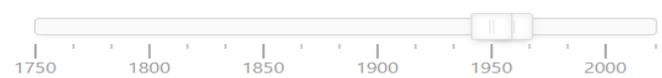
"metallic vault"

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search | Browse Fonds / Collections | Browse Subjects | Browse Names | Browse Places

— Select a field —	Contains	
— Select a field —	Contains	
— Select a field —	Contains	

Keywords
"metallic vault"

 From Year: 1950 To Year: 1959

Media Available Online <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Image / Photograph<input type="checkbox"/> Document<input type="checkbox"/> Audio Recording<input type="checkbox"/> Video Recording<input type="checkbox"/> Large Document / Zoomable Image<input type="checkbox"/> Website or Street View	Archival Hierarchy <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Fonds / Collection<input type="checkbox"/> Series<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-series<input type="checkbox"/> File<input type="checkbox"/> Item	Museum / Archive <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Elgin County Archives<input type="checkbox"/> Elgin County Museum<input type="checkbox"/> Aylmer - Malahide Museum and Archives<input type="checkbox"/> Backus-Page House Museum<input type="checkbox"/> Edison Museum of Vienna<input type="checkbox"/> Elgin County Railway Museum<input type="checkbox"/> Forge and Anvil Museum<input type="checkbox"/> Gay Lea Dairy Museum<input type="checkbox"/> North America Railway Hall of Fame<input type="checkbox"/> Oneida Language & Cultural Centre
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4. Removing irrelevant newspaper results

Since we have launched our newspaper finding aid, which has allowed all of our newspaper pages to be searched, we have found that a number of irrelevant newspaper pages now show up as search results, given the power of our key word search engine, also known as optical character recognition (or OCR). Although you might want to do a quick browse to see if some might actually be useful results, you might want to remove these from the search results, to focus in on the most relevant records. You can do this after you have conducted your search. Just go to the “Fonds/Collection” section on the left hand side of the page, and deselect “Elgin County Newspaper Collection”. Then hit “Apply”.

The screenshot shows a search interface with the following elements:

- Search Bar:** Contains the text "metallic vault" and a search icon.
- Actions:** Buttons for "Print" and "PDF".
- Sorting and View Options:** "Sorted by Relevance", "List View", and "Expand All".
- Navigation:** "Prev" and "Next" buttons.
- Results Summary:** "47 records – page 1 of 3".
- Left Sidebar (Narrow Results By):**
 - Museum / Archive:** This section is circled in red, and a red arrow points to it from the left.
 - Fonds / Collection:** A list of collections with checkboxes and counts:
 - Alma College fonds 2
 - City of St. Thomas Engineering Department fonds 1
 - Elgin County Letterhead Collection 1
 - Elgin County Newspaper Collection 3
 - Elgin County Vertical File Collection 5
 - Ian D. Cameron Collection 2
 - Municipal World Inc. fonds 1
 - Ponsford Construction Company Limited fonds 1
 - Reference Room Collection 10
 - Scott Studio fonds 5
 - St. Thomas Public Library Collection 1
 - St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds 6
 - Buttons:** "More" and "Apply".
- Main Content Area:**
 - Record 1:** "Metallic Vault Co. Hydraulic Press". Includes a thumbnail image and a table of metadata:

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	November 21, 1951
ACCESSION NUMBER	2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION	M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3365 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3366 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3367 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3368 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3369 M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3370
 - Record 2:** "Metallic Vault Display". Includes a thumbnail image and metadata:

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Stollery Studio fonds

5. Removing irrelevant pdf results

Since all of our pdf documents, including our by-laws, council minutes, and numerous other publications, can now be searched, we have found that a number of irrelevant pdf documents now show up as search results. Although you might want to do a quick browse to see if they might be useful results, you might want to remove these from the search results, to focus in on the most relevant records. You can do this after you have conducted your search. Just go to the “Material Type” section on the left hand side of the page, and deselect “records in electronic form”. Then hit “Apply”.

The screenshot shows a search results interface. At the top left, there are buttons for 'Print' and 'PDF'. On the right, there are controls for 'Sorted by Relevance', 'List View', and 'Expand All'. Below these is a 'Narrow Results By' section with a list of filters: 'Museum / Archive', 'Fonds / Collection', 'Material Type' (circled in red with a red arrow pointing to it), 'Subject', 'Name', 'Decade', 'Archival Hierarchy', and 'Online Media Type'. Under 'Material Type', there are three options: 'graphic material' (checked, 22), 'records in electronic form' (unchecked, 4), and 'textual records' (checked, 21). An 'Apply' button is below these options. To the right of the filters, it says '47 records – page 1 of 3.' and has 'Prev' and 'Next' buttons. The main content area shows two record details. The first is 'Metallic Vault Co. Hydraulic Press' with a thumbnail image and a table of metadata: MUSEUM / ARCHIVE (Elgin County Archives), PART OF (Stollery Studio fonds), DESCRIPTION LEVEL (Item), GMD (graphic material), DATE RANGE (November 21, 1951), and ACCESSION NUMBER (2018-57). Below the table are 'M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3365' through 'M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3370'. There are buttons for 'MORE DETAIL', '3 images', 'Select +', 'Share', 'Feedback', 'Discuss 0', 'More like this', and 'Permalink'. The second record is 'Metallic Vault Display' with similar metadata: MUSEUM / ARCHIVE (Elgin County Archives), PART OF (Stollery Studio fonds), DESCRIPTION LEVEL (Item), GMD (graphic material), DATE RANGE (September 12, 1950), and ACCESSION NUMBER (2018-57).

6. Searching newspapers

There are two ways to search our newspapers: by conducting a specific search (searching by key word), or by browsing the individual newspaper issues. The easiest way to search is to click on our Newspaper Finding Aid (found about halfway down our main search page). Then, you can enter a search term in the box. Or, as shown on the right, you can browse individual issues of the newspapers. Click on the name of the newspaper you are interested in, and it will display the digitized/available issues.



Newspaper Finding Aids

This list is a compilation of all newspapers that have been digitized to date, and are now available on our online database. We are continuing to add more newspapers from our collection on a regular basis, and they will be automatically added to this list as they are digitized.

The Elgin County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has worked to index a number of the issues that are on our finding aid. The indexes are available here: <https://elgin.ogs.on.ca/ancestor-indexes/newspaper-indexes/>.

Issues beyond the digitized dates are likely available to view at the Archives on microfilm.

To find a person by their name try using quotes and the proximity operator. e.g. "Allan Smith" ~3 finds the words Allan and Smith within 3 words of each other. See the search help for more details and additional options.

If you don't find what you are looking for, or to recreate the experience of the physical newspaper, you may browse individual issues by selecting a newspaper name and issue date.

This newspaper digitization project was funded in part by the Elgin County Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, the Estate of Donna Vera Evans Bushell and the Blidner Family Foundation. We also want to mention the assistance of the Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives, who allowed us to digitize and copy early issues of the Aylmer Sun.

Search Newspapers



Browse Newspapers

 Aylmer Enterprise



[← Back to Finding Aid](#)

St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1853 - 1876

1850s

- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1853
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1854
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1855
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1856
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1857
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1858

1860s

- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1861
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1862
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1863
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1864
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1865
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1866
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1867
- St. Thomas Weekly Dispatch, 1868

7. Making selections

You can select any of our database records, and request more information from archives' staff, print the description of the record, download a pdf, or email yourself a list of selections. To select one or more records, press "Select" right below the record on the search results screen. You can then see your selections by clicking on the top right-hand corner of the screen. While you are searching, you can also share individual records, provide feedback or discuss them, and create a permalink, so that you can always find the record again. These buttons are next to the "Select" button".



Metallic Vault trucks

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE October 17, 1949
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION M7 S1 Sh2 B2 2_2486
M7 S1 Sh2 B2 2_2487
M7 S1 Sh2 B2 2_2488
M7 S1 Sh2 B2 2_2489

MORE DETAIL 2 images

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink

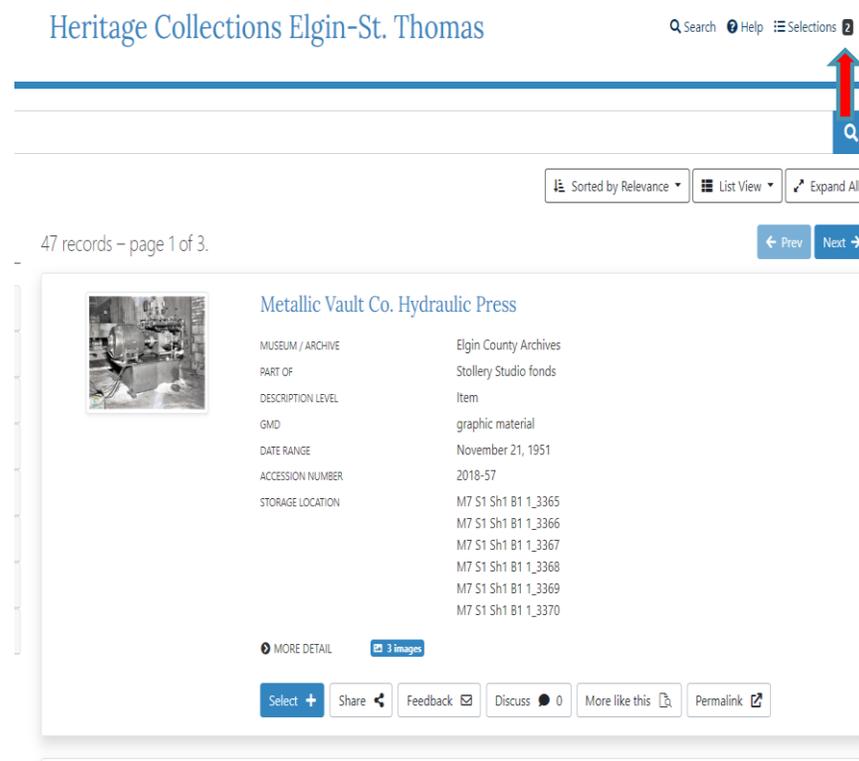


St. Thomas Metallic Vault Company

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Scott Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE ca. 1935
STORAGE LOCATION Box 508, Envelope 95105

MORE DETAIL 1 image

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Heritage Collections Elgin-St. Thomas

Search Help Selections

Sorted by Relevance List View Expand All

47 records – page 1 of 3. Prev Next

Metallic Vault Co. Hydraulic Press

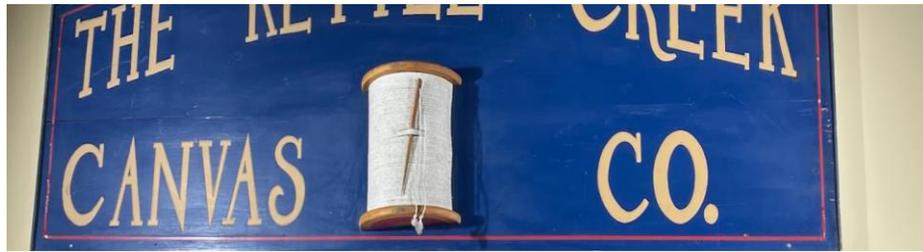
MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE November 21, 1951
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3365
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3366
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3367
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3368
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3369
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3370

MORE DETAIL 3 images

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink

8. Viewing recently added records

If you are curious about what collections we are currently working on, and what records we have been adding to the database recently, you can click on “Recently Added Records”.



Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

[Advanced Search and Browse](#)

Quick Start

Select one of these links to begin exploring our collections, or search with keywords above.



[View Recently Added Records](#)

[View Newspaper Finding Aids](#)

created:[NOW-60DAYS/DAY TO NOW/DAY]

Print PDF

Sorted by Creation Date List View Expand All

Narrow Results By 2686 records – page 1 of 135. Prev Next

- Museum / Archive
- Fonds / Collection
- Material Type
- Subject
- Name
- Decade
- Archival Hierarchy
- Online Media Type

Advanced Search Help



Y.W.C.A. Swimming Class

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE March 19, 1953
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION M7 S1 Sh1 B2 2_3031
M7 S1 Sh1 B2 2_3033

MORE DETAIL 1 image

Select Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



T.J. Carrier Boys Mothers

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE March 20, 1953
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57

9. Searching popular topics

Many of our records have been assigned a “subject term”. That way, all records with the same subject are grouped together and can be found with a simple link. If someone just wants to browse a particular topic, they can click on one of the “popular topics” on our main search screen, and see all records relating to that topic.

Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

[Advanced Search and Browse >](#)

Quick Start

Select one of these links to begin exploring our collections, or search with keywords above.

[View Recently Added Records](#)

[View Newspaper Finding Aids](#)

- [Elgin County Courthouse](#)
- [Fire Insurance Plans](#)
- [First World War](#)
- [Second World War](#)
- [London and Port Stanley Railway](#)
- [Michigan Central Railroad](#)
- [Plowing Matches](#)
- [Ford Assembly Plant](#)
- [Jumbo the Elephant](#)
- [Alma College](#)
- [Colonel Thomas Talbot](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- [City and County Directories](#)
- [Sports and Recreation](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Community Service](#)
- [Hospitals](#)
- [Elgin Regiment](#)

10. Using Advanced Search

By using Advanced Search, you can narrow your search down to a specific media type, archival hierarchy (collections, series, file, item), and the institution that houses the record. You can also browse collections, subjects, names and places. Or, if you are looking for something specific, you can specify search terms within a database field (Title, Collection, Material Type, Names, Subject, Place, Accession Number, Institution, and Series).

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse ▾

Advanced Search | Browse Fonds / Collections | Browse Subjects | Browse Names | Browse Places

— Select a field — ▾ | Contains ▾ |

— Select a field — ▾ | Contains ▾ |

— Select a field — ▾ | Contains ▾ |

Keywords

1750 1800 1850 1900 1950 2000

From Year: To Year:

Media Available Online

- Image / Photograph
- Document
- Audio Recording
- Video Recording
- Large Document / Zoomable Image
- Website or Street View

Archival Hierarchy

- Fonds / Collection
- Series
- Sub-series
- File
- Item

Museum / Archive

- Elgin County Archives
- Elgin County Museum
- Aylmer - Malahide Museum and Archives
- Backus-Page House Museum
- Edison Museum of Vienna
- Elgin County Railway Museum
- Forge and Anvil Museum
- Gay Lea Dairy Museum
- North America Railway Hall of Fame
- Oneida Language & Cultural Centre
- Port Burwell Marine Museum
- St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre

[Advanced Search Tips](#)

Now, here are 10 of our most frequent inquiries, with tips on how to search our database to find what you are looking for!

Elgin County Archives

10 Common Database Searches

heritagecollections.elgin.ca

July 2022

1. Photographs of people and family members

Use quotations around key words, if you are looking for a specific name. This helps to narrow down your search and avoid irrelevant search results. For example, if you are looking for information on Lloyd Jarvis, enter the search term “Lloyd Jarvis”. After you’ve entered the search term, check the box “Limit to records with online photographs” underneath the search box.

***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse >

21 records - page 1 of 2

Sorted by Relevance | List View | Expand All

← Prev Next →



Lloyd Jarvis - Rodney Agricultural Society

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Harley Lashbrook Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GND	graphic material
DATE RANGE	February 6, 1986
ACCESSION NUMBER	2016-09
STORAGE LOCATION	W9 B7 387

MORE DETAIL  1 image

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Optimist Brad Reive Presenting Cheque to Lloyd Jarvis

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives

Photographs of family members

If you are looking for ANY members of the Jarvis family, enter “Jarvis” as a search term.

After you’ve entered the search term, check the box “Limit to records with online photographs” underneath the search box.

***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse >

The screenshot shows a search interface for a digital archive. At the top, a search bar contains the text "jarvis". Below the search bar, there are options for "Image", "Print", and "PDF". To the right of these options are filters for "Sorted by Relevance", "List View", and "Expand All". Below the search bar, there are navigation buttons for "Prev" and "Next".

The search results are displayed in a list view. The first result is titled "Alma College Composite Class Photograph, 1948-1949 - Dorothy Jarvis". To the left of the title is a small thumbnail image of a woman. To the right of the title is a table of metadata:

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Alma College fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	1949
ACCESSION NUMBER	2014-16
STORAGE LOCATION	C2 SH2 B4 315

Below the table, there is a "MORE DETAIL" button and a "1 Image" button. At the bottom of the result, there are buttons for "Select", "Share", "Feedback", "Discuss", "More like this", and "Permalink".

The second result is titled "Alma College Composite Class Photograph, 1948-1949 - Jean Jarvis". To the left of the title is a small thumbnail image of a woman. To the right of the title is a table of metadata:

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
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At the bottom left of the screenshot, there is a search icon and the text "Advanced Search".

2. Photographs of houses/businesses

To find a photograph of a house, the best thing to do is to enter the address into our database. For example, if you are looking for a photograph of 58 Wellington Street in Aylmer, look up “58 Wellington”. And, of course, click on the box “Limit to records with online photographs”. Best not to include the words “Street” or “Road”, etc., since it might be listed in a different format. If you are not finding results with the exact street number and name, you can see if you can spot the house on the road, by entering a search term like “wellington Aylmer”. And clicking on the photograph box below. (If you get no results for either the street address or the street name, you can also try entering in the name of a family that you know was associated with the house, or if the house had a title).

***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

"58 wellington"



Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse >

"58 wellington"

Sorted by Relevance List View Expand All

Narrow Results By

- ▶ Museum / Archive
- ▶ Fonds / Collection
- ▶ Material Type
- ▶ Subject
- ▶ Name
- ▶ Decade
- ▶ Archival Hierarchy
- ▶ Online Media Type

10 records – page 1 of 1.

58 Wellington Street, Aylmer

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Wilfred Smith fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	ca. 1925
ACCESSION NUMBER	2014-2
STORAGE LOCATION	C1 SH2 B5 F5

MORE DETAIL 1 website 1 image

Select Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink

58 Wellington Street, Aylmer

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Wilfred Smith fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	ca. 1925
ACCESSION NUMBER	2014-2

Photographs of businesses

Similar to how you would find a photograph of a house, the best thing to do is to enter the address of the business into our database. And then click on the box “Limit to records with online photographs”. You can also try entering the name of the business. And clicking on the photograph box below the search field. For the St. Thomas Metallic Vault Company, here are the two search results for entering in the business name (search “metallic vault”) (on left) and address (search “155 Curtis”) (on right). ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

20 records – page 1 of 1.

← Prev Next →



Metallic Vault Co. Hydraulic Press

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE November 21, 1951
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3365
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3366
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3367
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3368
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3369
M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_3370

● MORE DETAIL

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Metallic Vault Display

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE September 12, 1950
ACCESSION NUMBER 2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION M7 S1 Sh1 B1 1_719

3 records – page 1 of 1.

← Prev Next →



St. Thomas Metallic Grave Vaults Ltd. - Making Munitions, First World War

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Elgin County Photograph Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE ca. 1917
STORAGE LOCATION C3 Sh5 B6 F8

● MORE DETAIL

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



St. Thomas Metallic Industries Limited - New Building

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD graphic material
DATE RANGE 1969
ACCESSION NUMBER 2008-01
STORAGE LOCATION C8 Sh1 B3 F5 5

● MORE DETAIL

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink

*Tweedsmuir as a source of photographs of rural houses and businesses

Once other thing we should mention is that the Women's Institute Tweedsmuir Histories are another good source of photographs of houses and businesses, especially if they are a rural (farm) house or business, or located in a small town. The Tweedsmuir Histories might be entered into our database individually as photographs, or you could search for the pdf of the Tweedsmuir by entering a search term such as "Wallacetown Tweedsmuir" (or go to our finding aid here: <https://www.elgincounty.ca/ElginCounty/CulturalServices/Archives/tweedsmuir/index.html>). ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

3. Information on family

We have created a brochure, which outlines various resources you can check, both at the archives and online, for information on family: <https://bit.ly/3o4YUEM>

To search our online database, simply enter the name of the person. For example, “Jack Bissett” (search results on the left, below). If you are looking for information on the Bissett family in general, enter the search term “Bissett” (search results on the right, below). Even if you are looking for a specific person, it is always good to as well do a general search (ie.) “Bissett” in addition to a specific search of the person’s name, in case his name is listed as something like “J. Bissett”. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

14 records – page 1 of 1.

← Prev Next →



Jack Bissett & Car Telephone

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Stollery Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	April 1, 1953
ACCESSION NUMBER	2018-57
STORAGE LOCATION	M7 S2 Sh1 B1 1_1 M7 S2 Sh1 B1 1_2

[MORE DETAIL](#) [Image](#)

[Select](#) [Share](#) [Feedback](#) [Discuss](#) [More like this](#) [Permalink](#)



Profile Photographs, General Interest - Mr. and Mrs. J.M. (Jack) Bissett

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material textual records
DATE RANGE	1949-1972
ACCESSION NUMBER	2008-01
STORAGE LOCATION	RB S4 Sh4 B4 341

acquired the Reliance Gas station in Elgin street and the tin barn property on the west side of Elgin, -w^here a new

142 records – page 1 of 8.

← Prev Next →



BISSETT JACK MRS

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Scott Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
STORAGE LOCATION	Box 141, Envelope 62137

[MORE DETAIL](#)

[Select](#) [Share](#) [Feedback](#) [Discuss](#) [More like this](#) [Permalink](#)

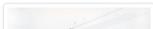


BISSETT JACK MRS

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Scott Studio fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
STORAGE LOCATION	Box 141, Envelope 62138

[MORE DETAIL](#)

[Select](#) [Share](#) [Feedback](#) [Discuss](#) [More like this](#) [Permalink](#)



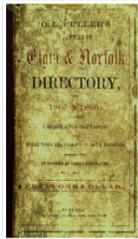
Bissett Motors

4. Business information

Other than photographs of businesses (which we've already covered), some of the main things that people want to know about businesses are: addresses, dates of existence, and owner. The first thing to do is a general search of the business name, or address (if you know it). We also have a number of Elgin County directories (many of which are digitized and viewable on the online database), and many St. Thomas city directories (digitized up to 50 years after publication, so 1971; more recent years can be viewed in our reading room). You can browse these by looking up (including the year) “elgin county directory 1865” (search results on bottom left); or, you can look up “st Thomas directory 1967” for the 1967 St. Thomas City Directory (search results on bottom right). Or, you can browse “City and County Directories” in the Quick Start section of our main search page. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

291 records – page 1 of 15.

← Prev Next →



Fuller's 1865 Directory of St. Thomas, Elgin County and Norfolk

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Reference Room Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	textual records
DATE RANGE	1865
ACCESSION NUMBER	2011-10
STORAGE LOCATION	C10 Sh1

blacksmith and horse shoer Walker. George township clerk / White, Warren, reeve, township of Houghton County of Elgin. It is sometimes called Centreville, and is distant from St. Thomas, the County Town, 15 miles. Population about 100. : ■ ; : ■ ; Tyrrell, 1. R., postmaster i HOUGHTON CENTRE. Alton, John, J. P., farmer LUTON, W:-: ♦ A P P E N D I X . COUNTY OF ELGIN COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1865. J ohn Clukas, Esq., Warden., Township of Aldborough—John HeKUllop, Esq., Reeve. . Archibald Thomson, Deputy

MORE DETAIL 1 document

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



"Fuller's Directory of St. Thomas and Elgin County, 1865-1866"

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Elgin County Vertical File Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	File
ACCESSION NUMBER	99-7
STORAGE LOCATION	Box 49, File 11

249 records – page 1 of 13.

← Prev Next →



St. Thomas City Directory, 1967

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Reference Room Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	textual records
DATE RANGE	1967
ACCESSION NUMBER	2002-26
STORAGE LOCATION	C10 Sh2 B6

professional men of St. Thomas have shown in this publication. February, 1967. VERNON DIRECTORIES LIMITED, Publishers. j VERNON'S FORTY-SECOND EDITION CITY OF ST. THOMAS (Ontario) DIRECTORY 1967 CONTAINING AN Alphabetical Directory of Business Concerns and Residents; a Street Directory of Householders, Occupants of Office Buildings and other Business Places, including a Complete Street Guide; a Miscellaneous Section of General Information; also a Complete CLASSIFIED BUSINESS DIRECTORY a) a Price \$45

MORE DETAIL 1 document

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Name index cards: Surnames Aaley to Zwig

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	St. Thomas Public Library Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	records in electronic form
DATE RANGE	compiled ca. 1980s

5. Information on property

We have created a brochure, which outlines various resources you can check, both at the archives and online, for information on property: <https://bit.ly/3yJci67> Similar to business information, people are often interested in when a property was built, what it looked like at a certain time, and previous owners. Looking up the address of the property on our online database would be the first step to see what information we have on that property. Also, look up any family names of people you suspect once owned the property, or if the property had a business name. A valuable source of information is Fire Insurance Plans (FIPs). We have plans for St. Thomas and many communities in Elgin County. FIPs contain detailed information about the physical composition of buildings, provide insight into the physical development of a site over time, and can help determine an approximate date of construction. To search for fire insurance plans, enter “fire insurance” and the name of the town you are looking for: ie. “fire insurance fingal”. The FIPS also have a special zooming feature, which you can enable by clicking on “large document” and “Zoom in”. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

666 records – page 1 of 34.

← Prev Next →

Fire Insurance Plan- Fingal, Oct. 1896

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Elgin County Map Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD cartographic material
DATE RANGE October 1896
STORAGE LOCATION M15

MORE DETAIL [1 large document](#) [1 image](#)

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink

The Home Journal/The Canadian Home Journal, 1875

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Archives
PART OF Elgin County Newspaper Collection
DESCRIPTION LEVEL File
GMD records in electronic form

NAME ACCESS Charles E. Good Company
Fingal (Ont.)

SUBJECT ACCESS Fire Insurance Plans

Large Documents / Zoomable Images



Fire Insurance Plan- Fingal, Oct. 1896

[Zoom In](#)

6. Community history

If you are looking for general community history, you can just do a general search of the town, for example, Lyons. This will come up with many results (1409 results). Many of the irrelevant results will be newspaper results or records in electronic form. To remove these, conduct the search, and then deselect the “Elgin County Newspaper Collection” from the Fonds/Collection section, and “records in electronic form” from the Material Type section (see below for examples). Press “Apply”, and then you will find more relevant search results. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

The screenshot displays the Elgin County Archives search interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various collections, with "Elgin County Newspaper Collection" (477 items) and "Elgin County Microform Collection" (121 items) circled in red. The main content area shows three search results:

- "Lyons Branch (Elgin East) Tweedsmuir History Book", Copy**: A textual record from the Elgin County Archives, part of the Elgin County Vertical File Collection, stored in ECVF Box 290, File 9 (M3 S1 Sh4 B6 F9).
- Aerial Photograph - McCredie Farm near Lyons, Ontario**: A graphic material item from the Ken Verrell Collection, dated ca. 1945, with accession number 2016-30 and storage location R4 S5 Sh3 B7 F10 5.
- Aerial Photographs, [195-?] - Lyons**: A graphic material item from the St. Thomas Times-Journal fonds, dated ca. 1955?, with accession number 2008-01 and storage location C8 Sh5 B1 F2 68.

Search filters are visible on the right side of the interface:

- Material Type**: A list of material types with counts. "records in electronic form" (595) is circled in red. Other types include architectural drawings (1), artifact (8), cartographic material (6), graphic material (534), objects (3), records on microform (2), and textual records (307). An "Apply" button is present below the list.
- Subject**: A dropdown menu with options for Name, Place, Decade, Archival Hierarchy, and Online Media Type.

At the bottom of the page, the URL is: https://heritagecollections.elgin.ca/list?q=lyons&p=1&ps=20#level_face

Tweedsmuir Histories

As well as being a great source of photos of houses, one of our most useful collections relating to general community history are the Women's Institute Tweedsmuir History books. They document much of the early history of the communities, including schools, businesses, farms, and people. To search for the Tweedsmuir books, just put in the search term "clachan tweedsmuir", for example. Which will bring up this book (bottom, left) as a search result. You will notice that there is an option to view the book as a "flipbook". The intention of this feature is to recreate the experience of paging through material as you would with the physical item. You can see an example on the bottom-right. All of the multi-page pdfs on our online database have this capability. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This volume of the **Clachan Tweedsmuir** History was compiled in 2009. The book is comprised of photographs of **Clachan** -area farms (especially barns which were at risk of being demolished). Underneath the photographs, the location of the farm is listed, as well as the type of farming undertaken on that property, and list of current and former owners.

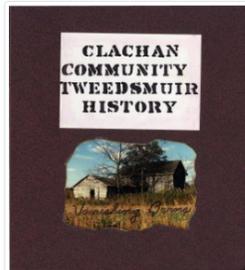
NAME ACCESS

Clachan Women's Institute
Clachan (Ont.)

SUBJECT ACCESS

Tweedsmuir Histories

Documents



R13%20S2%20Sh2%20B2%20F2

Read PDF

View as Flipbook

Download PDF

LESS DETAIL

Select +

Share

Feedback

Discuss 0

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Permalink

Present owner: Richard & Rodger Hladsh
Location: North half of Lot 11, Concession 4
Date: June 2009
Type of farming: Cash crop & livestock
Owners:
-1927-Albert H. & Hannah M. Howe
1927-1932, Fred C. Eberhardt
1932-1990, Benjamin B. Graham
1990-1998, Frank & Greta Quinlan
1998-2004, George & Janet Quinlan
2004—Richard & Rodger Hladsh
West Elgin County

Present owner: Allan & Lois Woolner
Location: South half of Lot 1, Concession 2
July 2009
Type of farming: Cash crop & livestock
cattle, pigs, chickens
Owners:
1867-Henry Ross Archer purchased
this land from the Crown
Owned for a short period by Duncan
McCull and then Railton Smith
1877-Jacob Woolner bought the property
1890-Martin Woolner took over
1942-Gordon Woolner became owner
1980-Allan & Lois Woolner became
the owners

CHPEL LIMITED
PRESTON ONTARIO
MANUFACTURERS
PATENTED THE 8-1932

8. Maps

The best way to search for maps is to enter the terms “map” and then whatever township you are interested in. And then you can sort the maps by date. Since many of the maps don’t have a lot of detail in the description, it is always best to be general with your search terms, but if you want a specific type of map, such as an Elgin County Surveyor Map, you could enter a search term like “elgin county surveyor map” (see below). Here are the search results for that term, with the results sorted by date (which you can select in the top right corner). ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

 Limit to records with online photographs[Advanced Search and Browse >](#)

Quick Start

Select one of these links to begin exploring our collections, or search with keywords above.

Sorted by Oldest | List View | Expand All

678 records – page 1 of 34.

Prev Next



Archives of Ontario - Ministry of Natural Resources fonds, RG 1-470

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE **Elgin County** Archives
PART OF Archives of Ontario - Ministry of Natural Resources fonds, RG 1-470
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Fonds
GMD cartographic material
DATE RANGE 1793-1844

MORE DETAIL

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Plan of the Township of Yarmouth, County of Elgin - F 501-1-0-0-40

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE **Elgin County** Archives
PART OF Archives of Ontario - Thomas Talbot fonds, F 501
DESCRIPTION LEVEL Item
GMD cartographic material
DATE RANGE 1802

MORE DETAIL **3 documents**

Select + Share Feedback Discuss 0 More like this Permalink



Plan of Dunwich

9. Alma College records

One of our largest collections is the Alma College fonds, and we receive many inquiries about these records, both from the general public wondering about the students and building, academic researchers inquiring about aspects of the education and traditions, and relatives looking for information about individual students. To search the records, enter the name of the student (or just last the last name is usually best, since the first name could have been listed as an initial). Then, go to “Advanced Search and Browse” → Select a field → Fonds/Collection, and then enter “alma”. Then press “Search” at the bottom. So, a search for student Helen Fowler would be as follows:

(It would be a similar search if you are looking for a different topic about Alma College, such as the “amphitheatre”). ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

 Limit to records with online photographs [Advanced Search and Browse](#) ▾

Advanced Search | Browse Fonds / Collections | Browse Subjects | Browse Names | Browse Places

Fonds / Collection ▾ Contains ▾ alma

— Select a field — ▾ Contains ▾

— Select a field — ▾ Contains ▾

Keywords

From Year: 1750 To Year: 2022

14 records – page 1 of 1. [← Prev](#) [Next →](#)



Alma College Composite Class Photograph, 1941-1942 - Helen Fowler

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Alma College fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	graphic material
DATE RANGE	1942
ACCESSION NUMBER	2014-16
STORAGE LOCATION	C2 Sh2 B4 99

[MORE DETAIL](#) [1 image](#)

[Select +](#) [Share](#) [Feedback](#) [Discuss 0](#) [More like this](#) [Permalink](#)



The Almafian

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE	Elgin County Archives
PART OF	Alma College fonds
DESCRIPTION LEVEL	Item
GMD	textual records
DATE RANGE	1970-1971
STORAGE LOCATION	R6 S4 Sh2 B8 F2

that she can keep track of AL L her grand- children. r ♦ Our Foster Child t r, p " + " G « A, .{QI J C:t Q~ ., " "IL ~ ~...bl.:t~ ~ ~ .. k ~ -L"" I F l.c_'.r_ }> -1; " ~ ~ .. i ., .).b~1"" l...-l - .. t..."" l...l...r... ""-:] ~ -a - - - ".....~e.J.r.. ""1' ~ ~ ••1.. z... "" "" "" ..l...-t... ~-j- "" ; J.....-J;~1 ~ ..y.. * 6' . . . "" ~ J... A "" ~ ~ t- ~ ~ ~ - paf0A'] t... ~l

10. Subjects

There are a few ways to conduct a general subject search. For example, if you are looking for records on the Michigan Central Railroad, you can go to the Popular Topics links on the main search page. Or, leaving the keyword box empty, you could go to “Advanced Search and Browse” → Select a field → Subject, and then enter “Michigan central”. Then press “Search” at the bottom. Or, you can just enter “Michigan central” (in quotes) as a keyword, that should give you all relevant results. ***Please note: capitalization is not important when searching.**

Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search | Browse Fonds / Collections | **Browse Subjects** | Browse Names | Browse Places

Subject Contains

— Select a field — Contains

— Select a field — Contains

Keywords

From Year To Year

Media Available Online
 Image / Photograph
 Document

Archival Hierarchy
 Fonds / Collection
 Series

Museum / Archive
 Elgin County Archives
 Elgin County Museum

389 records – page 1 of 20.

[← Prev](#) [Next →](#)



Hat

MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Museum
ARTIFACT TYPE Conductor Hat
MATERIAL Cloth
STORAGE LOCATION Collections Storage



1915 M.C.R.R. Instruction Book

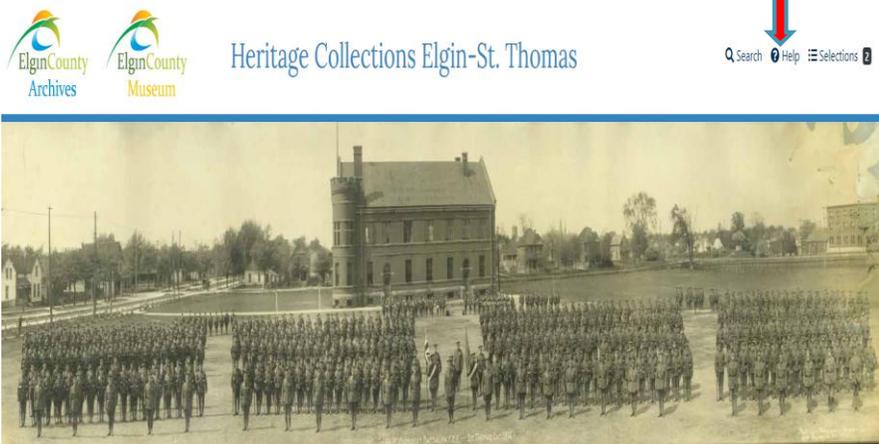
MUSEUM / ARCHIVE Elgin County Railway Museum
DATE RANGE FROM September 1, 1915
ARTIFACT TYPE Book, instruction
MATERIAL Paper, Hardcover
STORAGE LOCATION 7-C-3



Agreement between Michigan Central Railroad and the Brotherhood & Maintenance & Way Employees

Detailed Search Help

We hope that by sharing with you our search tips and examples of the most common database inquiries, you are better able to navigate and search our online database! If you ever need more help, a Detailed Search Help button can be found at the top and bottom of the main search page.



Elgin County Archives Collections

Acquiring, preserving and providing access to Elgin County Municipal Records is the Archives' principal responsibility. These include council minutes, by-laws, tax assessment rolls, maps, voters lists and other records of the county government and its sixteen former and current local governments dating back to 1852 (or earlier in some cases).

The Archives has a rich collection of public and private records, including those documenting Alma College, the Scott Studio, fire insurance plans, vast genealogical resources and local newspapers.

Elgin County Museum Collections

The Elgin County Museum exists to promote Elgin County's rich historical and agricultural heritage by acquiring, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting artifacts pertaining to the history of the County of Elgin; and to provide leadership and support to County museums in the promotion of a heritage partnership.

Other Museum Collections in Elgin County and St. Thomas

This site also includes the collections of these other local museums:

- Aylmer-Malahide Museum and Archives
- Backus-Page House Museum
- Edison Museum of Vienna
- Elgin County Railway Museum
- Forge and Anvil Museum
- Gay Lea Dairy Museum
- North America Railway Hall of Fame
- Oneida Language & Cultural Centre
- Port Burwell Marine Museum
- St. Thomas-Elgin Public Art Centre

Services and Fees

Here is a listing of the Elgin County Archives' Fees and Services

Search Our Collections

Limit to records with online photographs

Advanced Search and Browse >

Quick Start

Select one of these links to begin exploring our collections, or search with keywords above.

- 🏠 Archives Home
- 🏠 Museum Home
- 🔍 Search
- 🔗 Help
- ☰ Selections 2

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Elgin County Archives

450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1
tel 519-631-1460 Ext. 154
email archives@elgin.ca
web elgincounty.ca/archives

Elgin County Museum

460 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, ON N5R 5V1
tel 519-631-1460 Ext. 193
email museum@elgin.ca
web elgincounty.ca/museum

Questions?

And of course, the Elgin County Archives and Museum staff are available if anyone has questions about the database!! Feel free to contact us:

Gina Dewaele, Assistant Archivist, gdewaele@elgin.ca, 519-631-1460 ext. 154

Amber Mandich, Archivist Assistant, amandich@elgin.ca, 519-631-1460 ext. 127

Ally Shelly, Museum Assistant, ashelly@elgin.ca, 519-631-1460, ext. 193

If you have any inquiries about records from other institutions, consult the contact information from their website links, which are found on the main search screen:

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[🏠 Museum Home](#)

[🔍 Search](#)

[🆘 Help](#)

[☰ Selections 2](#)

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Elgin County Archives

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