

The Emigration Service Fund Records at Library and Archives Canada

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Overview

The Emigration Service Fund records detail expenses incurred by the provincial government's emigrant agents at Ontario ports from 1843 to 1847. The records include approximately 5,000 names of immigrants, who were provided assistance by the agents at Toronto, Kingston, Hamilton, Port Hope, Cobourg, and Bytown (Ottawa).

The records list expenses related to the temporary support of immigrants for food, medical treatment, burials, and coffins. The overwhelming majority of expenses however were payments to teamsters and ship captains for the transportation of migrants from ports to inland townships or other ports along the Great Lakes.

Searching the Emigrant Services Records

The Emigration Service Fund records have been digitized and indexed by Library and Archives Canada. You can search the indexed records through the [Immigrants Before 1865](https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-before-1865/Pages/introduction.aspx) database (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/immigrants-before-1865/Pages/introduction.aspx>). The database includes other record groups; the instructions below apply only to documents found the Emigration Service Fund records. At present, there is no direct link between the database and the digitized pdfs. Follow the instructions below to locate the digitized record.

This database does not include the names of all emigrants who received assistance, only those for whom receipts survive. In most cases, only the head of household name is provided, but often the number of family members and their relationship to the head of household is also listed. The records include the Lake Ontario port of origin, and the destination to which the immigrants were transported.

Searching the Database and Finding the digitized record

1. To search the database click **Search Database**. The database search returns an item number, last name, first name and year of immigration for each record.

Results : Immigrants to Canada			
Search term(s)			
12 result(s) found for "Smith", "1847".			
Filter: <input type="text"/> Showing 1 to 12 of 12 entries			
Item Number	Surname	Given Name(s)	Year Of Immigration
11120	SMITH	William	1847
11123	SMITH	Samuel	1847
11124	SMITH	Robert	1847
11127	SMITH	Randal	1847
11133	SMITH	John	1847
11143	SMITH	Fany	1847
11146	SMITH	Darrick	1847
11148	SMITH	Charles	1847
11151	SMITH	Anne	1847
11157	SMITH	Widow	1847
15557	SMITH	Sarah	1847
18805	SMITH	Bridget	1847

Figure 1: Database results for "Smith" and "1847"

- To find the digitized record, click on the item number for the immigrant. This will take you to the database record for the immigrant including page that gives you an item description including the fonds in which the record can be found at LAC. The Emigration Service Fund Records are listed under Department of Finance Fonds. The Record Title for these records is: Accounts Relating to the Emigration Service Fund, 1843-1854.

Item: John SMITH	
No image available	<p>Related Pdf file(s)</p> <p>0 pdf file(s) found for item "11133".</p> <p>No PDF file available</p>
Given Name(s):	John
Surname:	SMITH
Year of Immigration:	1847
Fonds:	Department of Finance
Additional Information:	From Toronto to Brampton.
File:	11
Volume:	2532
Page:	598
Record Title:	Accounts relating to the Emigration Service Fund, 1843-1854.
Reference:	RG 19
Item Number:	11133
Suggest a Correction	

Figure 2: Example of database search result

- Make note of the **File**, **Volume** and **Page Number** for the Item. You will need this information to access the digitized image.
- Return to the main [Immigrants Before 1865](#) page.
- Scroll down to **Records Included in this Database**, and click **List of Records**.
- Scroll down to the last entry which lists records from the Department of Finance from 1846 to 1853, RG 19 Volume 2532. You will see a list of pages on the right.
- Click on the one that includes the page range from your search result. This will take you to a group of digitized records that include the record.
- Scroll through the pages until you find the one corresponding to the record you have identified. Page numbers are noted on the top right corner of the pdfs.

Search Tips

The search function of [Immigrants Before 1865](#) does not provide the same level of automatic searching of variant forms of names, as does Ancestry or other genealogical utilities. In general, it is best to try to search as many variant forms of the name possible. For instance, if you are looking for the name Docherty, you should also search for Doherty, Doharty, Dougherty, Daughtery, Dogharty, Dority, etc.

Capitalization or non-capitalization of letters does not matter. DOHERTY pulls up the same search results as Doherty or DoHerty.

An asterisk (*) will replace any number of characters after it but it will not replace interior characters in a word. For example, a search for Dog* will return Dogherty, Dogharty, Dogherty. However this technique is not always accurate. For example, a search for Doh* gave results for Doherlet, Doherty, Dohorthy but not Doharty even though a record under Doharty exists. A search for Do*ty will not pull up any results.

Sometimes the search will provide variants but not always. For instance, a search for Bryan will return results that include O'Bryan. However a search for O'Bryan will *not* return results for Bryan.

Canada Ireland Foundation Emigration Service Fund Records Project

As part of its mandate to tell the story of the Irish in Canada, the Canada Ireland Foundation is engaged in a project to analyze the Emigration Service Fund records for the peak Irish Famine year of 1847. The project will identify and count the Irish migrants who arrived in Canada that year, map their dispersal from Ontario ports throughout the province and beyond, and trace their survival and settlement in Canada. The project will culminate with digital and physical exhibits.

The foundation hopes to engage genealogists with expertise in mid nineteenth-century Simcoe County, Brantford, Peterborough, Durham Region, and Lake Erie ports to help with tracing immigrants transported to those areas to reveal critical details of their migration and settlement experience and subsequent family history in Canada.

For more information go to www.canadairlandfoundation.com

If you are interested in participating in this project or learning more, please contact Charmaine Lindsay at clindsay29@hotmail.ca.