

THE ARCHIVES & MUSEUM at St. James' Cathedral

LOCATION

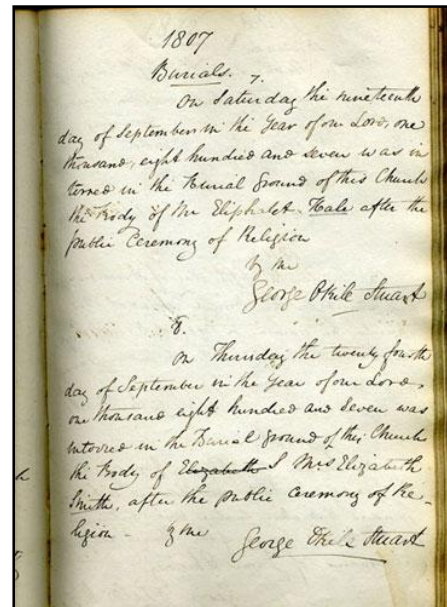
The Cathedral Archives & Museum is located adjacent to the Cathedral on the second floor of the Parish House, 65 Church St. (at the southeast corner of Adelaide St. E). Tours can be made at any time by appointment, or during on the open hours as listed for special exhibits. Contact with the Curator in advance may save researchers time and effort - please feel free to call and enquire the Archives & Museum at 416-364-7865 ext 233, or email archives@stjamescathedral.on.ca.

The Archives and Museum is a completely volunteer operation, and while there are no charges for admission or for research undertaken, donations are welcomed to assist in the care and maintenance of the collection. Tax receipts are available for those of \$10.00 or more.

THE ARCHIVES

Archival holdings include records of long term value from 1800 that are organized, preserved and maintained to be available for research and reference for members of the congregation and the public. In addition to documenting the activities and growth of St. James' Cathedral from its founding in 1797, the collection provides a valuable insight into the history of Toronto from its earliest years:

- marriage records from 1800 and baptism records from 1807 to the present;
- burial records from 1807 (with major gaps between 1812 and 1824); and
- biographical material about former clergy, and about parishioners prominent in government, business and religious circles from the late 18th century to the present.
- unpublished books compiled by descendants of some of our early families;
- music written and arranged especially for the Cathedral, as well as information on directors of the music programs, organists, choirs, special services and concerts;
- parish newsletters and service leaflets dating back to the late 19th century;
- pictorial records including site maps, engineering and architectural drawings;
- parish deliberations, decisions, actions, administration, minutes of meetings, correspondence, and finances from 1807 to the present;
- some sermons;
- listing of owners of pews from 1803;
- photographs of the Cathedral, special events, and many programs occurring on site, as well as in the community around and the early town;
- newspaper reports on the Cathedral and surrounding area from the early part of the 19th century; and
- materials from special exhibits held within the Archives and Museum reference library.



EXHIBITS

A large gallery within the Archives and Museum enables us to present changing exhibits throughout the year. Details are announced on the Cathedral website as information becomes available.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

The Cathedral Archives and Museum maintains a reference library which supplements the archival records. The library concentrates on church history and architecture, as well as Toronto history.

The library includes unpublished books from some of our early parishioners, prayer books going far back, bibles, a full set of 63 volumes of the "Dictionary of National Biography" published in London and New York between 1885 and 1900, books on cathedrals, and much much more relating to the church. Re the town: We have an original edition of Scadding's, "Toronto of Old" dated 1873, as well as the newer version of 1966, and many, many others. We are always on the watch for old books and family papers as well as buying newer ones as they appear on the market.

WHAT WE DO

A. Collection Management

1. Artefacts:
 - Books: Prayer Books, Bibles, History, Biography, Registers of Baptism. Marriage and Death
 - Silver, Furniture, Embroideries, China, Flatware, Vestments, Frontals, ironware
 - Art: oil paintings, watercolours, engravings, Prints, Silhouettes

2. Archival Records
 - Photographs
 - Biographical files
 - Corporation and Committee Reports
 - Pew Records
 - Correspondence
 - Service leaflets
 - Accounts
 - Plans
 - Music - Organ, Choirs, Choir Camp, visiting Choirs, Concerts
 - Building Reports
 - Cemetery
 - Leaflets, Christmas Cards, Newsletters, Materials relating to the Parish, Outreach, Military, Videos, Audio Tapes of Sermons, Choirs
 - Bells, Clock, Heraldry, Exhibits, ...



B. Specially organized Cathedral Tours

Tours vary according to age and interests of the group, and can last from 30 minutes to an hour, or sometimes longer if the interest is high. School tours are planned around the curriculum of the classes involved which include Medieval Studies, Canadian History, World Religions, and Art and

Architecture. Hands-on activities can follow, or we are sometimes joined by clergy for a question period following a tour, and occasionally a special service will be conducted. Tea is frequently included for adults, whereas school children often bring a lunch which they will eat in the Parish House or outside in the park.

Tours generally include information on:

- Memorials - with stories of persons involved, wars, heraldry
- Windows - with information on artists, glass manufacturers, stories depicted
- Organ
- Carvings on organ casings, choir stalls, cathedra - manufacturer, symbolism in design
- Animals and the symbolism depicted
- Busts of Strachan, Grasett, Draper - who they were and what they did
- Military Colours
- Embroideries - frontals, cushions
- History of Church, general layout - altars, pulpit, lectern, baptistry
- Bells
- Architecture, and the associated language - gothic, capitals, bosses, corbals, nave, chancel, narthex ...

C. Programming within the Archives and Museum

- Research - undertaken by volunteer staff for exhibit purposes undertaken by outside researchers for family genealogical purposes, a university theses or school assignment, for a publication of some kind ... It has included research for a play and a film ...
- Special tours of exhibit
- Public lectures related to an exhibit
- Hands-on activities for children related to an exhibit Demonstrations related to an exhibit - an icon artist at work during the Icon Exhibit, and Italian woodcarver preparing a carving of the Madonna and child during a Creche Exhibit
- Tours elsewhere in the city and beyond related to an exhibit - Pilgrimage to St. James from across the city, tour of icons in churches across the city ...
- Tours around Toronto's Old Town within the Cathedral Parish for groups from out-of-town, and some schools

D. Outreach

- Participate in city-wide events - Arts Week, Doors Open, Heritage Week
- Participate in community events - at St. Lawrence Market
- Work in cooperation with other Committees in Cathedral - with the Prayer Group re special Prayer Service that went with a special exhibit and a pilgrimage, with the Altar Group re the restoration of kneelers at High Altar, with the Gays, Lesbians and Friends re annual Art Exhibit, with Music Dept. re Arts Week Publicity...

E. Membership/ associations with outside organizations

1. Belong to:

- The Ontario Archives Association
- The Ontario Museum Association
- The Ontario Genealogical Association
- The Ontario Historical Society
- The Toronto Historical Association
- The Canadian Church History Society

2. Represent Cathedral at meetings of the local community umbrella group, Old Town Alliance, and at the National Historic Sites Alliance