



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal

<http://jgs-montreal.org/index.html>

Canadian Naturalization Records – 1914-1951

- Phase I of this project digitized and indexed 200,000 1914-1932 Canadian Naturalizations (both Jewish and non-Jewish). The index is online at the [Canadian Genealogy Centre's \(CGC\) web site operated by Library and Archives Canada](#). This index, the result of thousands of hours of work by JGS-Montreal volunteers, allows searching for Canadian naturalization by name with the information returned including city and date of naturalization, occupation, and naturalization certificate number. Using this information, it is often possible to positively identify ancestors and order their complete naturalization file. The story of how this project started was published in Avotaynu.
- Phase 2 of the project to index 1932-1951 naturalizations is in progress - totalling about 400,000 records. All of the printed images have been digitized and **effective October 15, 2010** can be searched by date at the [Canadian Genealogy Centre](#). Indexing by JGS-Montreal volunteers has begun and we will shortly be putting together a team of volunteers to fully index these 400,000 records.
- [See our research guide](#) to learn how to search and order naturalization records.

Montreal and Quebec Province Vital Records:

- Several years ago, the JGS of Montreal indexed over 75,000 vital records for the Jewish Community in Montreal and Quebec - part of the "Drouin" collection of vital records. Copies of these records are available from the Society. Read a [description of the project](#) and review the [Surname List](#).
- Our volunteers have almost completed a detailed review of those records and have added the event date, the parents' names and place of birth where noted in the records. The new expanded and supplemented index will greatly increase our ability to locate family.
- We have also purchased indices to all Quebec marriages and deaths for 1926-1996.

Together all of these resources have now given us an unprecedented capability to research Jewish families and re-unite long-lost relatives.

Montreal Cemetery Indices:

- The [Baron de Hirsch Cemetery Inc.](#) and Affiliates have graciously provided the full database of over 54,000 burials at the de la Savane cemetery and 6,500 burials at the [Back River Memorial Gardens Cemetery](#). The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal has submitted them to the [JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry \(JOWBR\)](#) and they are now online. A [Surname List](#) for all burials at the Back River is available, and the BdH will be added soon.
- Thanks to several members of our Society, all tombstones at the Back River Cemetery have been photographed, and will be submitted to JOWBR.
- The small cemetery in Ste. Sophie, Quebec has been fully indexed and is available with tombstone photos on JOWBR
- All JOWBR records and photos are also searchable at no cost on www.ancestry.ca and www.ancestry.com.
- Work is in progress to make indices available for several other Montreal Jewish cemeteries in the very near future.

RESEARCH SERVICES:

On-site visits are required at most research venues in Montreal. The JGS-Montreal will help any researcher with Montreal or Quebec family - contact us at vital@jgs-montreal.org. There is no charges for searches of our Drouin records, and we will always try to offer useful suggestions for future research. Of course, donations are welcome.

For more extensive research, some of our members will take on research assignments and we can also recommend other local professional genealogists. Please send inquiries to vital@jgs-montreal.org.

Are you researching your family in Montreal, Quebec, or Canada? The links that follow may help you:

- [How to Find a Burial in Montreal](#)
- [Guide to Quebec Marriage Records](#)
- [Guide to Jewish Vital Records Research in Quebec](#)
- [Montreal and Quebec Jewish Birth/Marriage/Death records – JGS Montreal Drouin Database and Surname List.](#)
- [Lovell's Montreal City Directories – 1842-1999](#)
- [Search for Canadian Naturalization Records](#)
- [Requesting Canadian Naturalization Records](#)
- [Locating and requesting pre-1916 Montreal Naturalization records](#)
- [Canadian 1940 National Registration](#)
- [Canadian Census Records](#)
- [1901 Canadian Census Page Images](#)
- [1911 Canadian Census – Images](#)
- [1911 Canadian Census - Montreal District Finding Aid and Map](#)
- [Canadian Immigration \(ship arrival\) records – Indexed by name – 1925-1935](#)
- [Canadian Border Crossing Records \(1908-1918\)](#)
- [Canadian Divorce Index – 1841-1968](#)
- [inGeneas inc. Canadian Genealogy & Searchable Databases Website](#)
- [Canadian Telephone Directory \(Canada411\)](#)

OTHER LINKS:

- [JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy](#)
- [JGS Montreal Mailing List](#)
- [Jewish Public Library](#)
- [Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives – Genealogy Resources and home page](#)
- [City of Montreal](#)
- [McGill University](#)
- [Concordia University](#)
- [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- [Montreal Gazette](#)
- [Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada \(Archives\)](#)
- [Montreal Association of Independent Libraries](#)
- [Jewish Community of Sherbrooke, Que., Sherbrooke Agudath Achim Society](#)
- [Canadian Jewish History – a Partial Bibliography \(Web format\) \(MS WORD format\)](#)

MONTREAL AND REGION SYNAGOGUE WEB SITES:

For a full list of synagogues, see the [Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Synagogue Directory](#).

In the following list, if a synagogue site includes their history, there is a direct link to it following the synagogue name.

- [Adath Israel-Poale Zedek Anshei Ozeroff Congregation History](#)
- [Beth Israel Beth Aaron Congregation](#)
- [Beth Zion Congregation History](#)
- [Chevra Kadisha-B'nai Jacob-Beit Hazikaron History](#)
- [Communauté Sépharade de Ville Saint-Laurent – Petah-Tikva](#)
- [Congregation Beth Ora History](#)
- [Congregation Beth Tikvah Ahavat Shalom Nusach Hoari](#)
- [Congregation Beth-El](#)
- [Congregation Dorshei Emet History](#)
- [Congregation Shaar Hashomayim History](#)
- [Congregation Shomrim Laboker History](#)
- [Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem History](#)
- [Ghetto Shul History](#)
- [Shaare Zedek Congregation](#)
- [Shaare Zion Congregation History](#)
- [Spanish & Portuguese Congregation History](#)
- [Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom History](#)
- [Young Israel of Chomedey History](#)

Growth of the Montreal Jewish Community

Between 1760 and 1763, perhaps up to 20 Jewish families spent time in the Montreal area, about half of whom may be considered long-term residents. By 1768, when about a dozen families founded the first Jewish congregation in Canada, they chose the Sephardi minhag and the name Shearith Israel. The congregation remains to this day a vibrant component in the life of Jewish Montreal.

The Jewish community grew slowly: 107 by 1831, and 451 by 1851, etc. The next 100 years saw a big increase to 83,458. The new arrivals were mostly Ashkenazim from Europe, many pogrom and some Nazi escapees. The years from 1951-71 saw another increase: many were holocaust survivors, but there were also a large number of Sephardim from North Africa and the Middle East. Fluctuations over the next quarter century have now stabilized at just over 100,000.

Source: Joseph, Anne. [Heritage of a Patriarch: A fresh look at nine of Canada's earliest Jewish families](#). 1995. Sillery (Quebec):

Éditions du Septentrion.