

Cemeteries

Cemeteries and their ties to churches make them an ideal spot for genealogical researchers. Quinte West has over 20 marked and unmarked pioneer cemeteries.

Until the turn of the 20th century, churches were the primary record-keepers in rural places like Quinte West. Residents in the town of Trent Port (Trenton), the village of Frankford and the townships of Sidney and Murray were normally documented by the churches. When residents of any given parish died, the churches normally recorded the burial grounds and lineage of the deceased.

The Quinte region is largely known as Loyalist country because of the influx of United Empire Loyalists who fled north to Upper Canada escaping persecution from American Revolutionaries. What's known as the Loyalist Parkway Heritage Route starts in Quinte West and many Loyalist settlers can be traced to the Quinte region. The United Empire Loyalists brought with them their architectural ideals. Loyalist architecture, dating back to the 1780's, is plentiful in the area and makes for a pleasant afternoon driving tour. Symmetrical features and building materials can often identify houses and public buildings in this style, also known as Georgian.

Quinte West City Hall and Public Library houses the Quinte Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society. A not-for-profit organization managed entirely by volunteers, the Society is responsible for the Counties of Hastings, Prince Edward and southeast Northumberland; however records reflect an expanded geographical area. The volunteers are highly knowledgeable and will happily assist with genealogical and heritage researchers.

The Quinte Branch also maintains its share of a names database that contains more than 1,014,000 names overall. These names are painstakingly recorded from church baptism records, cemetery transcriptions, genealogies and newspaper indices.

