

Canadian War Brides Sources

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1. Extensive primary sources on the Canadian War Brides can be found at the Library and Archives Canada, Directorate of Movements, War Brides

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/pages/war-brides.aspx>

Second World War

The records for war brides of the Second World War, held by Library and Archives Canada, are more extensive due to the departments and programs established to handle the care and transport of soldiers' dependants.

By 1946, an estimated 48,000 marriages between Canadian servicemen and civilian women overseas had been registered. These marriages resulted in 22,000 children, and by the end of March 1948 the Canadian government had transported approximately 44,000 wives and 21,000 children to Canada.

Canadian Wives' Bureau

From 1944 to 1947, the *Canadian Wives' Bureau* oversaw the transportation of women and children to Canada and supported local war brides associations across England and Scotland. Library and Archives Canada's files on the *Canadian Wives' Bureau* cover the period from 1939 to 1947. Other Second World War records also address the transportation and repatriations of war brides and children of Canadian servicemen.

2. Red Cross Escort Diary of Kay Ruddick is at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

3. War Grooms by Judith Kozar

www.CanadianWarBrides.com

4. Canadian War Brides Facebook

facebook.com/CanadianWarBrides

5. Canadiana Heritage Directorate of Movements (War Brides)

https://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_mikan_135140

6. FindMyPast.com has all the Canadian War Brides passenger lists that were organized by Canadian Wives Bureau between 1944 and 1947. You can also search for marriage and birth certificates there.
7. Look for references to your war bride in local newspapers from the period before and after her expected arrival. There will be newspaper articles noting her arrival in the major provincial newspapers, broken down by ultimate destination in the province. For example, the Toronto and Ottawa newspapers would report the arrival of war brides coming to Ontario (especially the first 6 months and tapering off towards the end of the mass movement 1946-47). Also in small towns and villages all across the country the little newspapers would feature stories about the war brides arriving locally. At Christmas and other special occasions they would feature stories in the "Social" section about events for war brides organized by Red Cross or IODE or WI for example.
8. There may be wedding announcements in the bride's and the groom's hometown newspapers in Britain or Europe and Canada.
9. Obituaries also provide a good resources for family connections back in Britain and Europe.
10. Regimental War Diaries often note the marriage of men in the unit and the birth of children.
11. If searching for long lost relatives and you have a name, Facebook can be an excellent source for children and grandchildren!
12. If searching for long lost relatives of your war bride and you don't have a name, Ancestry DNA is the best place to start looking.