

# R. S. Williams & Sons Co.

## Toronto

- 1834 Richard Sugden Williams born in London, England
- 1838 Williams moves to Hamilton, Ontario
- 1845 Williams apprentices to William Townsend as melodeon maker at age 11
- 1853 Townsend moves to Toronto, #144 Yonge Street (dir)
- 1855 Williams takes over failed business from Townsend
- 1856 Richard S. Williams, melodeon manuf., #144 Yonge (dir)
- 1859 moves to #206 Yonge (dir)
- 1861 moves to #143 Yonge (dir)
- 1870 now R. S. Williams & Co. with William Morris, #143 Yonge, factory at #27 Hayter St. (directory)
- 1871 R.S. Williams & Co adds brother Wm H. Williams (dir)
- 1873 RS & WH Williams, #143 Yonge & #31-41 Hayter (dir)
- 1874 William gone; RS Williams now also director of the Canada Organ & Piano Co., #31-45 Hayter (dir)
- 1879 son Robert Williams now listed as piano mfr (dir)
- 1880 R.S. Williams & Son, #143 Yonge w/Robert (dir)
- 1885 opens dealership in London, Ontario
- 1888 moves factory to Oshawa
- 1889 now R. S. Williams & Son with son Robert (b.1854)
- 1896 organized as R. S. Williams & Sons Co. Ltd. with sons Richard Jr. (1873-1945) and Robert (dir)
- 1905 Richard Sr. is pres, Richard Jr. is vp; Robert gone (dir)
- 1906 Richard Sr. dies and Richard Jr becomes president
- 1915 now at #145 Yonge (dir)
- 1917 they are Boosey representatives and have stores in Winnipeg, Calgary, Montreal & Toronto; Williams brand band instruments are models "Special", "Artist Class A", & "Class B"; probably all made by B&F in Austria
- 1921 they are selling both Boosey and Conn band instruments with their store and head office at #145 Yonge St., Toronto



1931 the company history book "Under The Sign of the Big Fiddle" has them closing in 1931; there is no listing for them in the 1931 directory

1932 now back at #468-474 King St. (dir)

1936 move to #431 King St., 6<sup>th</sup> floor (dir)

1948 move to #4A Trafalgar Ave., Roger & Hugh Morris (dir)

1952 move to #1 Wiltshire Ave., Alex & Doris Vasey (dir)

1953 gone from directory

Their factory made melodeons, mandolins, violins, banjos, drums, and possibly pianos. The brass were probably all imports.

Photos from [Horn-u-copia.net](http://Horn-u-copia.net) & auction sales