

R. S. Williams & Sons Co.

Toronto

- 1834 Richard Sugden Williams is 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 Williams moves to #206 Yonge (dir).
- 1861 Williams 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 RS Williams is now also the 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, 6th floor (dir).

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

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

1953 Now gone from the directory.

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

Photos are from Horn-u-copia.net & auction sales.