

the Métis
Nation *of*
Ontario

Métis Genealogy 101

26 March 2013 - Sudbury, Ontario



Goals



- Confirm your Métis genealogy and ancestors.

New MNO Registry
Telephone Number

1-855-798-1006

(toll free)

613-798-1006

(Ottawa local)

What do we mean by genealogy?

Original

- a study of family lineage starting with the oldest known ancestors and tracing down to the present
- governments began keeping records so that there could be a legal means to pass property/money from one generation to the next
- churches kept the first records – one set for the government; one for themselves
- government wanted accurate lists of its population in order to levy taxes as well as draft men to the army
- church needed money to support itself and its clergy as well as track how people were related in terms of who could marry according to church law

What do we mean by genealogy?

Today

- a study of your genealogy/family history starts with yourself and traces back generation by generation to the first known ancestor
- use names, dates, relationships
- document each fact with a birth, marriage, death date found in government records such as vital statistics (long-form birth certificates, death records, marriage certificates, etc.), census records, land or court records
- church records (baptismal certificates, marriage certificates, etc.)
- could include newspapers, local histories, diaries or journals
- historical studies conducted by reputable researchers

Sources to help with the search

1. Métis Nation of Ontario Registry

<http://www.metisnation.org/registry>

- application has you list yourself, your parents and grandparents
- supplies a genealogical chart with spaces to show dates of birth, marriage and death and places
- the genealogical chart serves as a research plan to show what you know and what you need to research
- genealogical handbook
- research papers



the Métis Nation of Ontario

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Registry

- Interim Registry Policy
- Resources for Applicants
 - Historic Research
- Genealogical Guide
- Historic Research
- Registry Consultations

Resources for Applicants

The tools on this page have been developed to assist Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens and applicants with their genealogical research. [Click here if you are interested in applying for MNO citizenship.](#)

Much of this information is also useful to any Métis person interested in learning more about their family history. Click on the titles below to access these resources.

Citizenship Application Form

Registry Genealogical Chart

Frequently Asked Questions

This document was created by the MNO to address common questions that are asked of the MNO Registry. It has been developed to assist individuals on whether to apply for citizenship within the MNO and how to apply for citizenship within the MNO.

Genealogy Guidebook

This is an on-line book that provides exhaustive information about how to research Métis genealogy. It covers virtually every imaginable topic related to Métis genealogy and provides information on where to find records and how to access other genealogical resources.

Historic Research

Unfortunately the amount of historic research done on the Métis in Ontario has not as of yet been that extensive. This section, however, provides access to some of the research that has taken place. This research may be of use to some individuals with genealogical ties to Ontario.

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Sources to help with the search

2. Public Libraries

- have computers, Internet access and a subscription to Ancestry.ca that can be accessed in the library
- Inter-library Loan to borrow Vital Stats microfilms from the Provincial Archive
- local histories and newspapers



Sources To help with the search

These sites are excellent to assist with research but do not contain source documents

3. Genealogical Societies

- volunteers helping like minded genealogy searchers
- projects to index local records – cemeteries, census
- list helpful web-pages and other sources

Sources to help with the search

4. Family History Library <http://www.familysearch.org>

- largest genealogical library in the world since 1894
- millions of microfilm from around the world
- now indexing and imaging - online databases, tutorials and guides
- Ontario Roman-Catholic church records to 1910

5. Family History Centers

- staffed by volunteers
- access to Ancestry.ca

6. Laurentian Library and Archives <http://www.laurentian.ca>

- databases – genealogy section accessible from home
- books, maps and advice

Sources to help with the search

7. Ontario Vital Statistics/ Archives of Ontario

<http://www.archives.gov.ca/en/index.aspx>

Now available:

- Births 1867 - 1915 – order index 1914/15
- Marriage 1867 – 1930 – order index 1929/30
- Deaths 1867 – 1940 – order index 1939/40
- Every year another year added; next year is Thunder Bay
- Images available on Ancestry.ca
- Births 1867 – 1913; Marriages 1867 – 1928; Deaths 1867 – 1938

Possible information found in the records:

- Births – date and place of birth; names of parents, maiden name
- Marriage – date & place of marriage; names, ages, place of birth of bride and groom; marital state; names of parents
- Death – date/place of death; age; cause of death; racial origin, names and birthplace of parents; name of informant

*** Different forms were used over the years

Sources to help with the search

8. Library and Archives Canada (LAC)

Names and dates only primary information

- **Ancestor Search** <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/anc> databases for census records; need exact spelling; can use
- **Archives Search**
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search>
names search; Indian Affairs pay lists

9. Automated Genealogy

<http://www.automatedgenealogy.com>

- 1901 and 1911 census databases
- list(s) of alternate spelling for the surname spelling

Sources to help with the search

10. Métis National Council Database

<http://metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca/MNC>

- index and copy of 1901 Census that list Métis as their racial origin

11. Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1747 – 1967

- images available on Ancestry.

Baptisms – may give birth date; né or née; names of parents, maiden name of mother; residence; names of sponsors

Marriages – major, minor, legitimate marriage; widow or widower name of spouse, names of parents, residence, witnesses

Burials – date of burial; date of death; age; witnesses. Sometimes indicates the years spent at last residence

Three points to remember before You begin

1. The 5 Ws

Who are you looking for?

- name
- a particular ancestor – great grandfather

When are you looking?

- a date – a time frame

Beware:

- 80 year old ladies didn't have babies
- Children who were born after parents

Where in the Homeland are you looking?

- province, county or district. township, village

Why are you looking?

- for Métis ancestors

Always put the source of your information on EVERY document you use as proof.



Three points to remember before You begin

2. Always put the source of your information on EVERY document you use as proof.

Example

1901 Census of Canada, Ontario, Nipissing 92, Mattawan Town (01-1), page1, household 1 - Clemont, Joseph. Library and Canada Archives T-6484. <<http://ancestry.ca>>, image 7. Accessed 21 March 2013.

Three points to remember before you begin

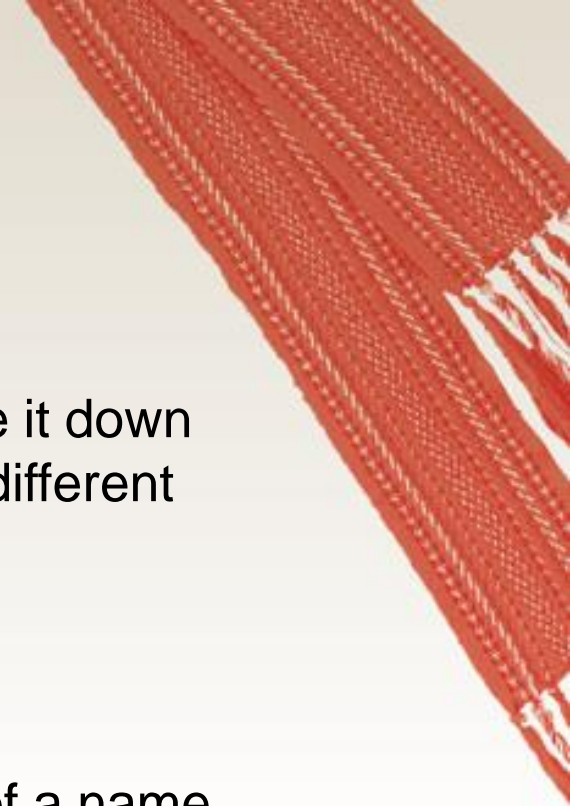
3. Beware of Indexes

How you spell your name; how the person who wrote it down spelt your name and how it was indexed could be 3 different ways of spelling a name

Hints:

Surnames:

- try exchanging vowels – Le instead of La in front of a name such as LeBlanc
- if double letters drop one
- a “c” could be written as an “s”
- Given names: Just initials J.B instead of Jean Baptiste
- Abbreviations: Bapt., Bpt.



How to begin your genealogy



Step 1 Work with the MNO application form

- begin with yourself - You are number 1 on the genealogical chart
- what document do you have that shows your name, birth date and the names of your parents?
- what information about the family can you learn from your parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles that you can use as a guide?

Sources: Long form birth registration – now \$85

Baptism certificate – an extraction or copy of the original document that shows the date and place of your birth, the names of your parents with the maiden name of your mother. May include the date & place of their marriage. The church may ask for a fee or a donation to cover search time, copying and postage.

How to begin your genealogy

Step 2 Your parents - No. 2 & 3 on the pedigree chart

- enter the names of your parents on the application form; use the maiden name of your mother
- enter their place of birth
- enter the information on the pedigree chart add date of birth and marriage and date of death if applicable

Sources:

- Long form marriage registration – now \$65
- Vital stats on Ancestry.ca if married by end of 1930
- Marriage certificate from the church – fee or donation
- Church record from Ancestry.ca if baptized or married before 1967
- Possible census records if born by June 1911 or earlier

How to begin your genealogy



Step 3 Your grandparents on your mother's side - No. 6 & 7

- add the name, place of birth and if you think they are Métis, First Nations or Inuit

Step 4 Your grandparents on your father's side - No. 4 & 5

- add the name, place of birth and if you think they are Métis, First Nations or Inuit

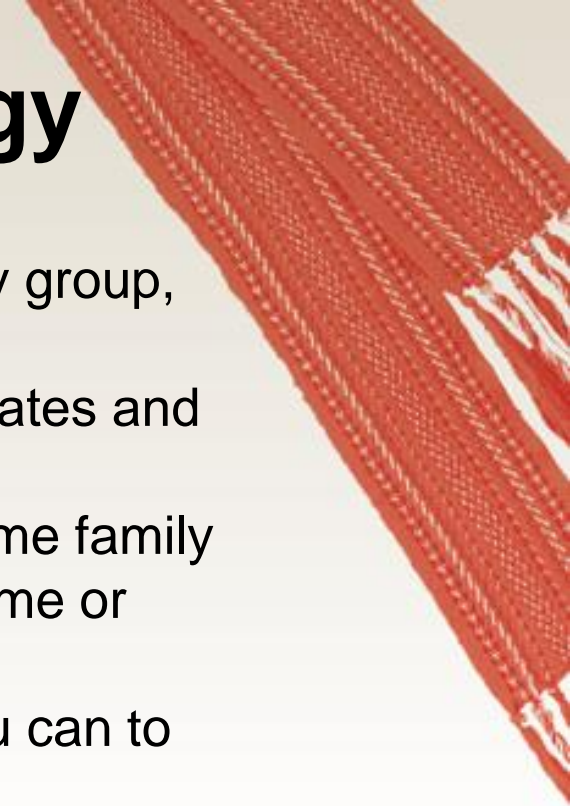
Next Steps:

Analyze the information you have entered on your genealogical chart to determine which records will help you fill in the blanks or extend the chart to include the next generation.

Put the source on every document you use as evidence.

How to begin your genealogy

1. **A Census record** provides the names of the family group, their ages and places of birth.
 - We don't know who gave the information so birth dates and places often are least reliable.
 - The family are usually listed in their birth order. Some family members may have married, moved away from home or died during the 10 years between census dates.
 - Look for the family in as many census years as you can to establish the family unit.
 - Children may live next door after they marry and parents may live with one of their children in their old age or have grandchildren living with them.



How to begin your genealogy

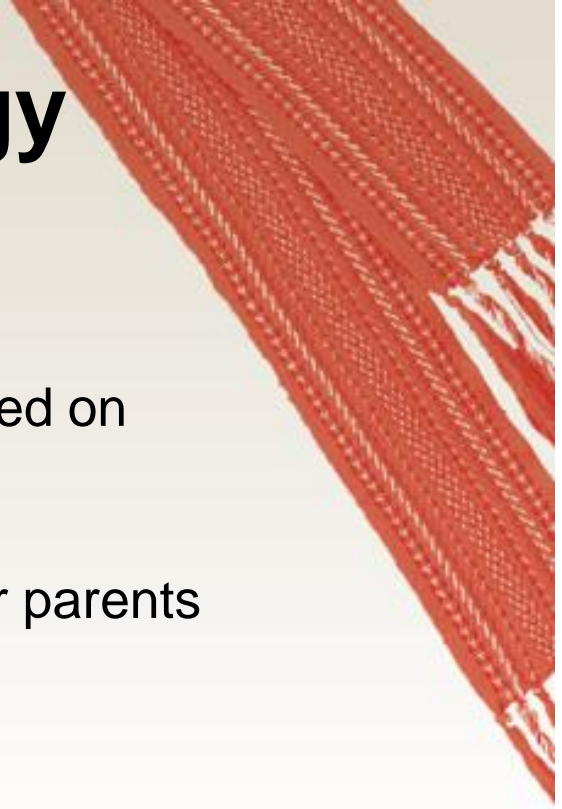
1911 Census - asks for racial origin

1901 Census - asks for colour, racial/tribal origin, based on father

1891 Census - asks for birth place of person and their parents

1881 Census - asks for ethnic origin

****1921 Census** – (said to be released June 2013) asks for colour, racial/tribal origin based on mother and birth place of person and their parents



How to begin your genealogy

2. **A Church Record** may provide the parish where the person and the parents live.
3. **A Vital Statistics record** may be incomplete because the informant did not know the answers.



Genealogy Conclusion

This presentation was just enough to get you started with your search for your Métis ancestor. The Genealogical Guidebook has many more sources such as the Hudson's Bay Archives Biographical Sheets

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/index.html>

Remember

Each generation you are able to trace back doubles the number of possible direct ancestors. Each of these couples may have had an average of ten children. This means it increases the chances of finding the Métis ancestor that meets the criteria set out in the National Definition that much more.

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