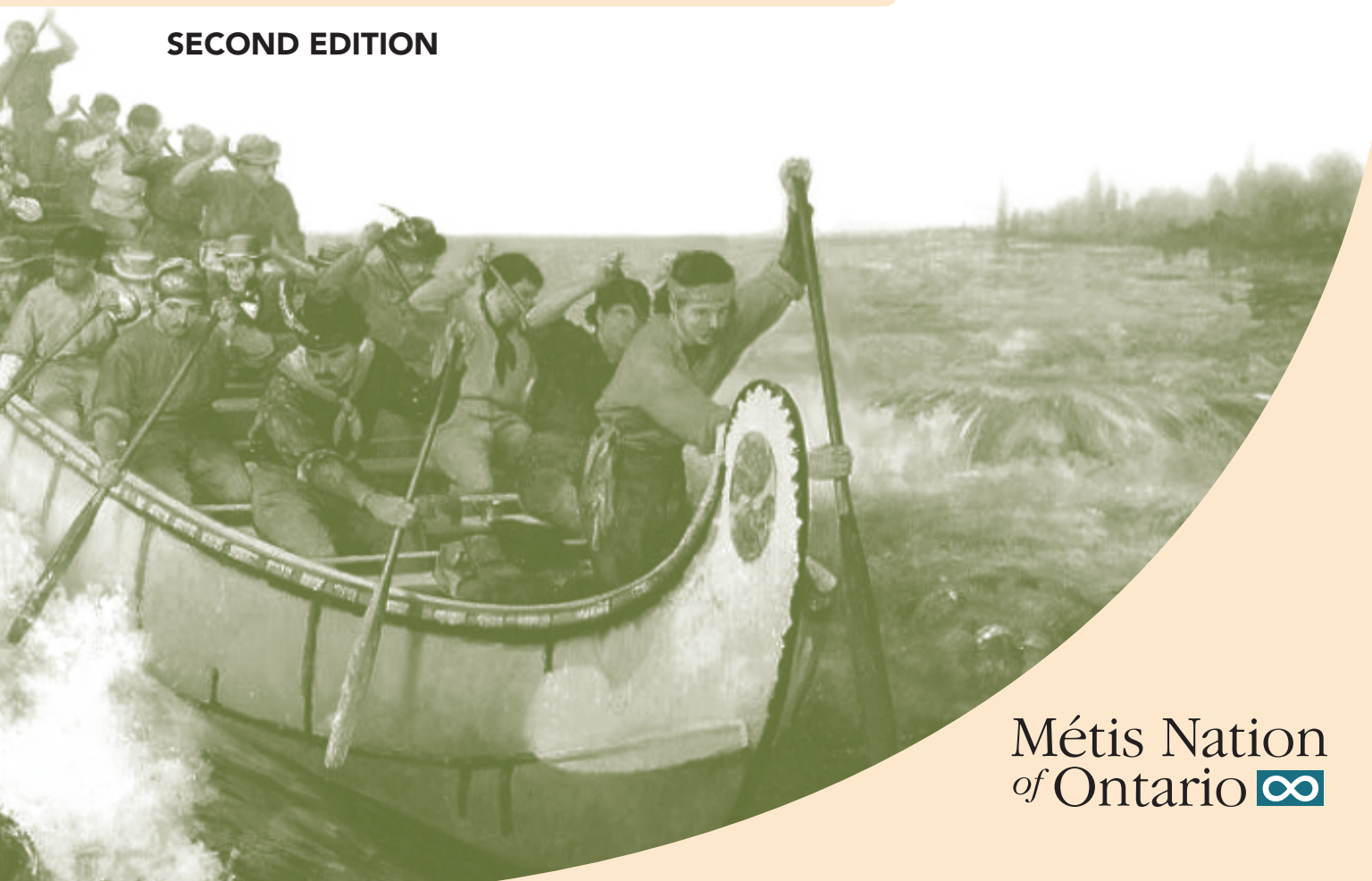


# RESEARCHING YOUR MÉTIS ANCESTORS IN ONTARIO

*Standards and Sources*

**SECOND EDITION**



Métis Nation  
of Ontario 



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**Métis Nation of Ontario** | February 2014



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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to assist individuals who are interested in applying for citizenship within the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO).

In the Fall of 2010, the MNO initiated a two-year, province-wide community consultation process on Métis identification and registration. This consultation process was mandated by a resolution of the MNO Annual General Assembly. For more information on this consultation process visit

[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

Within its initial consultations held in late 2010 and early 2011, the MNO heard many comments about the need to assist new applicants to the MNO in completing their citizenship applications. As well, many existing MNO citizens requested assistance in completing their existing MNO citizenship files.

Based on these suggestions, the MNO has been working on developing a series of “tools” to assist individuals in completing their MNO citizenship applications. This document, entitled, Applying for Citizenship in the Métis Nation of Ontario: Research Standards and Sources, is the first of three tools the MNO will be developing. The other tools, which the MNO is working on, are:

## Applying for Citizenship in the Métis Nation of Ontario:

### Identifying Root Métis Ancestors in Ontario:

This document will include a catalogue of historic Ontario Métis ancestors that will continue to be updated as more Ontario Métis research and information becomes available and published. It will include, among other things, where identified Métis ancestors lived in Ontario and in what time period in order for applicants to trace to these known historic Métis ancestors in Ontario; and

## Applying for Citizenship in the Métis Nation of Ontario:

### MNO Registry Application Workbook

This document will be a workbook to help applicants with the application form including the development of genealogical information required for each application to the MNO Registry. It will include helpful hints on how to make sure your application is as complete as possible in order to avoid delays in processing by the MNO Registry.

Why create this guide and these tools?

Because many people who want to apply to the MNO Registry and complete their genealogies don't know where to start looking or what to do. Presently, the MNO does not have the staff or capacity to assist individuals in completing their applications and genealogies. However, guidance and assistance can be provided through these tools in order to assist in answering questions such as:

- ∞ Should I apply for citizenship within the MNO?
- ∞ Why is genealogical proof required for MNO citizenship?
- ∞ What genealogical proof is required for MNO citizenship?
- ∞ What sources and materials are out there?
- ∞ What am I looking for?

These tools are also important because not as much history and resources have been published about the Métis communities in Ontario that historically existed and continue to exist today. Because much of this history remains unknown, unpublished and hard to access, there is an assumption that there are not identifiable historic Métis ancestors in Ontario. Nothing could be further from the truth!

While Métis scrip and land grants (which identify historic Métis ancestors in other parts of the Métis Nation such as Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) were not issued in Ontario, there are many other historic documents and sources that identify historic Métis ancestors in Ontario. For example, historic documents show that Ontario Métis:

- ∞ petitioned for their lands and rights in locations such as Penetang, Moose Factory, Nipigon, etc.;
- ∞ took collective actions defending their rights in locations such as Sault St. Marie, Fort Frances, Michipicoten, Burleigh Falls, etc.;
- ∞ were identified in the historic record across the province (i.e., Censuses, INAC records, Hudson Bay Company documents, etc.) in locations such as Kenora, Parry Sound, Thunder Bay, Mattawa, Timmins, Temiskaming, Sudbury, North Bay, and all along the shores of Lake Superior and Lake Huron, the river systems of the fur trade and the banks of the Ottawa River; and
- ∞ were recognized as distinct by Europeans as well as First Nations in various published writings, journals and records.

Unfortunately, many of these Ontario Métis historical records and documents are not well-known or well understood. This often leads to ignorant and ill-informed conclusions about Ontario Métis. As the government of the Métis Nation in Ontario, the MNO is working to ensure this history becomes more readily available to Métis people as well as all Ontarians. This guide, along with other tools being developed, will assist in making this happen.

The MNO hopes that this guide is helpful to prospective applicants as well as MNO citizens. Feedback on the Guide is welcomed because it will be updated regularly.



# SHOULD I APPLY FOR MNO CITIZENSHIP?

Prior to applying to be a citizen of the MNO, it is important for all prospective applicants to learn about the MNO, as the government of the Métis Nation in Ontario. This knowledge will be helpful to you in making the determination on whether you are actually eligible to be a MNO citizen, whether you agree with the goals and aspirations of the MNO, and whether you want the MNO to represent you.

The MNO was founded in 1993 on the collective will of Métis citizens and rights-bearing communities in Ontario wanting to: (1) support Métis individuals, families and communities culturally, socially and economically, (2) ensure the aboriginal and treaty rights of Ontario Métis were recognized and respected in the province, and, (3) advance Métis self-determination and self-government in Ontario.

In order to achieve these goals, Métis citizens and rights-bearing communities recognized that they needed to move past having pan-aboriginal, membership-based associations represent them. The Métis citizens and Métis communities who formed the MNO created a Métis-specific governance structure to advance the Métis Nation's agenda in this province.

As a part of this Métis movement in Ontario, the MNO unanimously adopted the Statement of Prime Purpose as the defining document for its existence and development. It sets out the foundation for the MNO by identifying who the MNO represents, what the MNO's aspirations and goals are, and how it will move forward in achieving these goals and aspirations.

Importantly, the Statement of Prime Purpose affirms that the MNO was created to represent Ontario Métis who are a part of a historic Métis people - the Métis Nation – that has communities throughout the Métis Nation Homeland. This Homeland is generally described as follows:

*We, the Métis are a people of the lands which gave rise to our history and tradition and culture. We call these lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies; traverse the mountains into British Columbia and into the far reaches of the Northwest Territories. They include the hills and valleys of the north-central American States. These are our lands. They are Métis lands. They are the lands of our past which nurture us today and which we value as the precious foundation of our future.*

A full copy of the Statement of Prime Purpose is included in this Guide. It is also available via the MNO's website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org). All prospective applicants to the MNO are encouraged to review this document prior to making an application to the MNO Registry. After reading it, an individual needs to make the determination on whether they are actually part of the distinct Métis people the MNO represents, and whether they want to mandate the MNO to represent them.

It is important to highlight for new applicants that based on the Statement of Prime Purpose, the MNO was not created to represent all



individuals who identify as “Métis”. It was created to represent the citizens of the Métis Nation living in Ontario, and the Métis communities in Ontario that are part of the Métis Nation. These are issues applicants should consider prior to deciding to make application to the MNO Registry.

# WHAT GENEALOGICAL DOCUMENTATION DO I NEED FOR MNO CITIZENSHIP?

From a genealogical perspective, in order to become a MNO citizen you need to demonstrate an ancestral connection to the Métis Nation. This is based on the MNO's definition of Métis that was unanimously adopted by the 2004 MNO Annual General Assembly in 2004 and is presently in the MNO's bylaws. This definition reads:

*Citizenship in the MNO shall be limited to individuals interested in furthering the objects of the MNO and who are Métis within the definition adopted by the MNO in accordance with the Métis National Council, which is as follows: Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation."*

This definition is consistent with the Métis National Council's National Definition for Citizenship within the Métis Nation that was adopted in 2002. The National Definition is also in place in all of the Métis Nation's other governments across the Métis Nation

Homeland, including, the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Métis Nation of Alberta and Métis Nation British Columbia.

The adoption of these definitions was an exercise of the Métis Nation's inherent right to self-determination as a distinct Aboriginal people. The MNO definition provides for the following four conditions to be met for Métis citizenship:

- ∞ self-identification as Métis,
- ∞ proof of historic Métis Nation ancestry,
- ∞ is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, and
- ∞ is accepted by the Métis Nation.

Notably, in 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada in its judgment in *R. V. Powley* recognized that "[a] Métis community can be defined as a group of Métis with a distinctive collective identity, living together in the same geographic area and sharing a common way of life. The court also added that section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, "...represents Canada's commitment to recognize and value

the distinctive Métis cultures, which grew up in areas not yet open to colonization.” In both of these conclusions, the court emphasized the distinctiveness of Métis culture and collective identity

Thus to enjoy Métis citizenship it is not enough for an individual to point simply to an Aboriginal ancestor (i.e., a First Nation ancestor). Métis identity and rights from a distinctive Métis history, culture and way of life that emerged in the Métis Nation Homeland. As the MNO’s Interim Registry Policy notes, a successful applicant must have a documented genealogical connection to a “Métis ancestor, not an Indian or Aboriginal ancestor.”

*Métis ancestors* are identified in the historic record in various ways. For example, by and large in Ontario, the term *Métis* is not seen. For the most part, the term *Halfbreed* is used and may be modified in various ways (i.e. French Breed, Other Breed, English Breed, Breed, etc.). As well, other terms in the historic record can be proof of a historic Métis ancestor too (i.e., chicot, bois-brule, etc.).

As well, in some cases the context of the time frame, kinship connections, and location of where the Métis ancestor was living may also need to be factored into a determination.

As mentioned in the guide’s introduction, many applicants may not know where to look to find documents that identify Métis ancestors in Ontario, since they are not as well-published or known. It is for these reasons that the MNO has decided to develop this guide. This guide will provide an applicant with some basic knowledge about how to conduct genealogical research. It also provides a catalogue of sources to assist your research. Put together, the set out methodology and the various sources identified in this guide can likely provide the information necessary for an applicant to be able to trace themselves – generation by generation – back to an historic Métis ancestor in Ontario or throughout the Métis Nation. By demonstrating an ancestral connection to a historic Métis ancestor through documented proof, an individual will meet the MNO’s requirements for citizenship.



# CHAPTER 1

## Introduction to Aboriginal Genealogical Research

When conducting genealogical research one needs to be aware of the need to respect the privacy of ones own information as well as that of the family. This guide will highlight some the responsibilities involved in conducting research.

***The guide outlines resources that will help one find the information about Métis ancestors in Ontario. The majority of the resources are found online. Please note that web page addresses change from time to time or even disappear. Use search engines to find current addresses. If a website has disappeared click on the "cached" button to find where it is archived.***

### **a. Genealogy and the Law**

The protection of individual privacy is central to genealogical research which is both ethically and legally sound. Each of the federal, provincial and territorial governments has adopted privacy laws to govern how government organizations protect personal information. The relevant Federal and Ontario Acts with their website links are the following:

#### **Privacy Act**

An Act to extend the present laws of Canada that protect the privacy of individuals and that provide individuals with a right of access to personal information about themselves

<http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/P-21/page-1.html>

#### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

An Ontario Government Act that, among other things, protects the privacy of individuals with respect to personal information about themselves held by institutions and to provide individuals with a right of access to that information

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90f31\\_e.htm#BKO](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90f31_e.htm#BKO)

Both of these acts will have a bearing on your genealogical research, assuming you will be attempting to access information from government institutions.

In addition to these two acts, the federal government has adopted the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA), which came into force in three phases beginning on January 1, 2001 and pertains to non-governmental organizations that hold personal information. Among other things the Act establishes the Privacy Commissioner of Canada as the ombudsperson for complaints.

Here is how the Commissioner summarizes Part One of the Act:

*Organizations covered by the Act must obtain an individual's consent when they collect, use or disclose the individual's personal information. The individual has a right to access personal information held by an organization and to challenge its accuracy, if need be. Personal information can only be used for the purposes for which it was collected. If an organization is going to use it for another purpose, consent must be obtained again. Individuals should also be assured that their information will be protected by specific safeguards, including measures such as locked cabinets, computer passwords or encryption.*

PIPEDA will have a bearing on your genealogical research in two respects. First, it will govern conditions under which you may access personal information about your ancestors, information held by charitable, not for profit or religious organizations. Secondly, PIPEDA will provide the legal framework for protecting the personal information that you will submit as part of your citizenship application to the MNO. More information can be obtained on PIPEDA through the following link:

[http://www.priv.gc.ca/information/guide\\_e.cfm](http://www.priv.gc.ca/information/guide_e.cfm)

#### **FURTHER READING**

Wilkinson, Dr. Margaret Ann.  
*Genealogy and the Law in Canada*.  
Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society,  
2010.

Mills, Elizabeth Shown, editor.

*Professional Genealogy: a manual for researchers, writers, editors, lecturers and librarians.*

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2001.

#### **b. Code of Ethics**

Before beginning to conduct a genealogical study for oneself or others it is important to be aware of the need to follow a Code of Ethics. A Code of Ethics is a set of guidelines for the researcher to remind them of their responsibilities to themselves, their clients/applicants, their profession, and the public. Some of these requirements may be covered in the confidentiality agreement you sign for the Métis Nation of Ontario. The Genealogical Standards for Sharing Information With Others outlines what is expected of all who carry on genealogical research.

Those who join other professional organizations such as the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) <http://apgen.org> or the Board for the Certification of Genealogists <http://bcgcertification.org> are expected to practice the Code of Ethics for their organizations.

#### **c. Standards**

Conducting genealogical research brings with it responsibilities in terms of research standards, the use of technology, the reporting of findings accurately and citing each document. The National Genealogical Society at <http://www.ngs.genealogy.org> has recommended a series of standards that serve as a guide for all researchers

#### **Genealogical websites of value to researchers are:**

Dave Obees CanGenealogy  
CanadaGenWeb at  
Canadian Genealogy & History  
Ontario Genealogy Records Online

<http://cangenealogy.com>  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com>  
<http://www.islandnet.com/~cghl>  
<http://www.genealogysearch.org/canada/ontario.html>

## Key Points to Remember

### 1. Indexes and Databases are guides not sources

Handwriting, spelling, unfamiliarity with the language the record is written in contribute to serious mistakes when creating indexes and databases. One must always read the original record to determine if the record contains information about your family. Caution must always be exercised when depending entirely on indexes. Use caution when using the indexes associated with the records found at [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca)

### 2. Genealogy without documentation is mythology

Record the source for each item of information that you provide. This includes the name of the document, where and when it was created and who holds the original copy. If you have downloaded a digitized image of the document note the name of the website and the date it was accessed. This is particularly important if you or someone else wishes to find the information or the website is no longer online

*Example:*

1901 Census of Canada. Ontario, Simcoe East No.

113, Sub-district Tiny N-3, page 1, household 17 - Francois Labatte. Library and Archives of Canada microfilm T-6496.

Library and Archives Canada (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>, assessed 12 March 2011)

### 3. The Métis Nation of Ontario Registry **CANNOT** accept information without sources attached.

*For example:*

Cecilia Labatte's parents were Michel Labatte(1846) and Marie Vallee - Vassuer... Michels parents were, Michael Labatte (1814) and Archange Bergie (Berger)(1821...)

### 4. Avoid misleading other researchers by providing misleading or inaccurate information.

### 5. Respect the privacy guidelines by not sharing information without asking permission from each person involved.

## d. The Internet

Archives, libraries and government institutions are now providing databases and digitized images of some of their records that are valuable for those conducting Aboriginal research. The online catalogues and finding aids make it easier to plan research strategies before visiting the institution. Note can be made of those resources which can be borrowed through interlibrary loan. These institutions may have research guides to help the researcher.

Subscription based providers such as [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) offer databases some of which are attached to digitized images. The accuracy

of the databases depends on the indexer so caution should be exercised when using them. On the other hand access to the digitized images enables one to examine the whole resource with relative ease.

Personal web pages and blogs are becoming more popular. Many provide extensive family histories. If they are well documented you should be able to check the sources easily. Others provide research advice or offer to do look-ups for fellow researchers. Therefore, use these sites with caution.







# CHAPTER 2

## Beginning Your Search

### Abbreviations

AO – Archives of Ontario  
<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>

AM – Archives of Manitoba  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/>

ACP – Aboriginal Canada Portal  
<http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/acp/site.nsf/eng/index.html>

CGC – Canadian Genealogical Centre  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>

DIA – Department of Indian Affairs

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

FHC – Family History Center location and hours found at  
<http://www.familysearch.org>

HBCA – Hudson's Bay Company Archives  
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/>

INAC – Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca>

LAC – Library and Archives Canada  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

MNC – Métis National Council  
<http://www.metisnation.ca/>

MNO – Métis Nation of Ontario  
<http://www.metisnation.org/>

MNS – Métis Nation - Saskatchewan

MNA – Métis Nation of Alberta

MNBC – Métis Nation -British Columbia

MMF – Métis Nation Federation

### a. Terms

It is not always possible to make copies of all the records that a researcher examines. After citing the source for the record the researcher may make a transcription, an extraction or an abstract of the record. These techniques may also be used when preparing the written report.

- ∞ transcription – an exact copy of a record including punctuation and spelling

- ∞ extraction – an exact copy of part of the record
- ∞ abstract – an abbreviated summary of some points in the records

### b. Genealogical Proof Standard

Genealogical researchers today subscribe to the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPF) to support genealogical conclusions. These standards can be simplified in five easy steps.

## 1. Search all relevant sources for information for each person.

- family stories, photographs, artifacts
- church and civil records
- school records, newspapers, cemetery records
- family, local, church and school histories
- military, land or probate records
- census, scrip or the records of the Department of the Interior of Indian Affairs

## 2. Cite each source noting what it is, where the document is located and where you found it.

It is important to cite each source you use so that you or your client is able to find it again without having to start the search from scratch. Place the citation, where possible, on the front of each document. As more digitized images are available it is important to identify where these were obtained and

where the original copy is located. If the digitized image was obtained from [Ancestry.ca](https://www.ancestry.ca) an image number enables one to go directly to the page instead of having to search page by page. The information would enable you to check a copy of the Library and Archives Canada microfilm.

### Example:

1901 Census of Canada. Ontario, Simcoe East No. 113, Sub-division Tiny N-3, Schedule 1, page 18, household 135 – Baptiste Vallée, image 55. Digital image <ancestry.ca>. RG 31, Library and Archives Canada microfilm T-6496.

Elizabeth Shown Mills has an example of a documented family group sheet and pedigree chart on pages 103 – 105 in her book *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*.

## 3. Evaluate the source as well as the information

### Standards of Evidence

#### The Source – the format

*Original* – the first recording of an event by the person who wrote it down.

*Derivative* – a photocopy or digitized image of that document. Some items included in this category are abstracts, databases, extracts, transcripts, and translations.

#### Example:

*Original* – the entry of a baptism and birth date in a church register

*Derivative* – copy of the baptism certificate

#### The Information – the data

*Primary* - created at the time of the event.

#### Example:

Date of death on a death registration.

*Secondary* - provided by a person not present at the event.

#### Example:

Other information about the deceased.

#### The Evidence - relevance

*Direct* – when it answers the question without needing evidence.

#### Example:

Mother supplies information for birth registration.

*Indirect* – circumstantial information that needs to be analyzed.

#### Example:

Date of birth in a census record.

#### 4. Note any contradictory evidence

This is where you would list all the sources you have used and note the discrepancies, if any, between them. An example of this would be different ages or birth dates in church, census, military and obituary records.

#### 5. A written report

This is a detailed report that provides your analysis of the problem, details the evidence, and provides the documentation to support your conclusions.

##### FURTHER READING

*BCG Standards Manual*

Washington: Board for Certification of Genealogists. 2000

Merriman, Brenda Dougall

*Genealogical Standards of Evidence*

Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2010

Mills, Elizabeth Shown

*Evidence! Citation and Analysis for the Family Historian*

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1997

Mills, Elizabeth Shown

*Evidence Explained. Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2007

Mills, Elizabeth Shown

*QuickSheet Citing Online Historical Resources Evidence Style*

Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 2007.

#### c. Paper vs. a computer program

Today most people use a computer program to keep track of their family history. It is important that the program enables one to keep a record for all the sources along with the source citations. There should be space for your analysis and suggestions for further research. Most programs now enable one to import photographs and digitized images of documents. Paper copies of family group sheets and pedigree charts are useful backups. Many facilities are now allowing the use of digital cameras.

##### Hint

**When using paper pedigree and group sheets write the information you “know” is correct in pen and the information that could need changing in pencil.**

##### FURTHER READING

Smart, Susan and Clifford Duxbury Collier

*Using Forms for Canadian Genealogical Research*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2006.





# CHAPTER 3

## Research Strategy

### a. Basic genealogy

To begin a genealogical study you start with yourself, the client or the applicant and work back generation by generation. As you record each piece of information you will see what information you still need search for. It is important to have a paper trail but the family stories are equally important. Elders in the community may be able to tell have been passed down as oral history.

### Letters That Are Often Confused

L and S	K and R
T and F	O and Q
J, G and Y	P and R
I and J	U and W

Eakle, Arlene Haslam and Johni Cerny, editors  
*The Source: a guidebook of American Genealogy*

### b. The 5 Ws - Who, When, Where, What and Why for people

#### Who are you looking for? Be open to variables.

- this could be a person and/or a family group
- names are important but there maybe spelling variations because the person recording the information does so the way it sounds to them
- handwriting presents challenges
- a church record may be the only record available to show a relationship but if
- is written in French or Latin and the interpreter may not do this correctly
- there could be use of a *dit* name, which is when a person used the name they are known as rather than their legal name

#### When are you searching?

- this could be a definite date or a time period

#### Where are you searching?

- this could be an actual place or a broad description such as North West Territories
- many places listed in historic records no longer exist so it is important to have
- access to gazetteers and maps
- one cannot do research in Ontario without knowing the county and township locations

## RESOURCES:

Atlas of Canada website

<http://atlas.nrcan.gc.ca/site/english/index.html>

Geographical Names of Canada

<http://geonames.nrcan.gc.ca>

Post Offices and Postmasters

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search/anc>

Ontario Genealogical Society Ontario Locator

<http://www.ogs.on.ca/branches/ontariolocator.php>

Ontario Locator

<http://www.geneofun.on.ca/ontariolocator/>

## FURTHER READING

Douglas, Althea

*Genealogy, Geography and Maps*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2006.

Gartner, Muriel and Frederick Pong, compilers  
*Townships of the Province of Ontario, Canada:  
a complete index of the townships in all the  
counties*

*and districts*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2007

## What are you searching for?

- these are generally names, dates and events

## Why are you searching?

- the reason for conducting Aboriginal research varies from person to person but
- for those wishing to obtain membership in the Métis Nation of Ontario they are
- searching for evidence of Métis ancestry as defined in the definition of Métis
- used by the Métis Nation of Ontario.

## c. The 5 Ws - What, Why, When, Where and Who for Records

It is equally important to analyze and evaluate possible records to search in order to develop your research plan. Next note the order you wish to search them. If you answer each of these questions you will have the background you need to make your research plan.

### 1. What is the record? What is it called? What medium is it found in?

- record the complete title immediately to save time later
- note whether it is a book, manuscript, photograph, microfilm, photocopy,
- digitized image

### 2. Why was the record created?

- for example a church or government record
- why would it be useful for genealogy – usually links children to parents

### 3. When was the record created?

- a check of the timeline may help with this date
- knowing *when* can help with knowing what questions were asked in census or vital statistic records
- when was it made available for public viewing or do you need to submit a *Freedom of Information* request form in order obtain the information your

### 4. Where was the record created?

#### Where is the record found today?

#### Where did you view it? Where have you put it?



## 5. Who created the record?

- the record may be created by a federal, provincial, urban or rural agency
- by a member of the clergy, a school official, a newspaper reporter, researcher,
- photographer or family histories

### FURTHER READING

Dunsford, Fraser

*The Beginners Guide to Genealogy*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2006.

Dunsford, Fraser

*The Beginners Guide to Ontario Genealogy*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2007

Merriman, Brenda Dougall

*Genealogy in Ontario: searching the records. 4th edition*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008

Roberts, Dr. John

*Discover Your Métis Ancestry: a beginners Guide*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008





# CHAPTER 4

## Archives, Libraries and Societies with Aboriginal Sources

### a. Archives — National

#### 1. Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada now has extensive resources available on the Internet. These can be searched in a number of ways.

##### Archives Search

- ∞ archives search enable one to enter the name of a person, the name of a record or a microfilm number
- ∞ some records have digitized images attached to the results
- ∞ those that have been microfilmed and are open to the public may be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan

##### Ancestor Search

- ∞ this search enables one to enter a name that may be found in one of the online databases
- ∞ or one may be able to view an digitized image of a page from the record being searched

##### ArchiviaNet

- ∞ this was one of the first databases developed by LAC which is still useful

but the major records are found on ancestor search as no new records are being added to ArchiviaNet

##### AMICUS

A database of catalogue information about books, periodicals, music, videos and other published materials. AMICUS is made up of several subsets in one database:

- ∞ A catalogue of the published materials in the Library and Archives Canada collection.
- ∞ A national catalogue of published materials held by Canadian libraries across the country, including LAC.
- ∞ The national bibliography Canadiana, a comprehensive database of materials published in Canada, or published elsewhere by Canadian authors/creators or (selectively) on topics of interest to Canada (see Canadiana). This database is particularly valuable to find where books, articles or newspapers are found and how to access them.

##### Library and Archives Canada

395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4

Tel: (613) 996-5115

Toll free: 1 -866-578-7777 (Canada & USA)

Fax: (613) 995-6274

## Canada Theses Portal

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/thesescanada/index-e.html>

Copies of theses can be valuable to find background material about Métis people who

- are not readily traceable in conventional sources.
- search AMICUS, Canada's national online catalogue, for bibliographic records of all theses in Library and Archives Canada's theses collection, which was established in 1965.
- access and search the full text electronic versions of numerous Canadian theses and dissertations.
- find out everything you need to know about Theses Canada, including how to find a thesis, how our program works, information on copyright and much more

## b. Canadian Council of Archives

<http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca>

This site enables you to view the collections in archives across the country that make up the Canadian Archives Information Network (CAIN). Many of the documents and exhibits teach us that genealogy is not only names and dates.

## c. Archives — Provincial

### 1. Archives of Ontario

The web page for Archives of Ontario has a section *Discover Your Family History* which has a section on getting started and another on the records. Each of the records will be discussed in greater detail in the section about individual records.

#### The Archives of Ontario

(AO) <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/index.aspx>

134 Ian Macdonald Boulevard

Toronto, ON M7A 2C5

**Telephone:** 1-800-668-9933 Toll-Free Number (Ontario only)

**Fax Number:** 416-327-1999

**E-mail:** [reference@ontario.ca](mailto:reference@ontario.ca)

### 2. Archives – County, Township or Local

Use search engines to find archives within each of the MNO Regions that may have resources that could aid genealogical research. One such example is the:

#### Penetanguishene Centennial Museum and Archives

<http://www.pencenmuseum.com/>

13 Burke St.

Penetanguishene, ON L9M 1C1

**Tel:** 705-549-2150

**Fax:** 705-549-7542

**E-mail:** [info@pencenmuseum.com](mailto:info@pencenmuseum.com)

## d. Hudson's Bay Company Archives

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

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives contains records for those who were connected to the fur trade with the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company. The online finding aids enable one to learn about the records that are available through Interlibrary Loan. The

maps and the post journals, particularly the lists of servants, and the biographical sheets are valuable to the genealogists.

#### **Hudson's Bay Company Archives (HBCA)**

200 Vaughan Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5  
**Tel:** (204) 945-4949  
**Fax:** (204) 948-3236  
**E-mail:** hbca@gov.mb.ca

#### **FURTHER READING**

Briggs, Elizabeth and Ann Morton  
*Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives*  
Volume 1, 1996, Volume 2, 2003  
Winnipeg: Westgarth Publishers

Briggs, Elizabeth  
*Handbook for Reading & Interpreting Old Documents: with examples from The Hudson's Bay Company Archives*  
Winnipeg: Manitoba  
Genealogical Society, 1992

#### **e. Libraries, Institute Libraries & Native Studies Programs**

Libraries are a valuable source of information for genealogists. Today most have free Internet access and provide access to databases that are pay for view such as Ancestry.com. They also provide Interlibrary Loan access. Be sure to ask if there is a fee for this service. University libraries are often the most under used libraries by genealogical researchers. Check the web pages to use the library catalogues to find resources that could be of help.

Family History Library (FHL)

<http://familysearch.org>

The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) has microfilmed many Ontario records that are

available in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Members of the public can access these microfilms through a Family History Center that are found in some Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One can find the local and hours of operation on the FHL website. The GSU is currently digitizing records. Indexing projects are being added to the website on an on going basis.

#### **f. Genealogical and Historical Societies**

##### **1. Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS)**

<http://www.ogs.on.ca/index.php>

Genealogical societies can provide expertise about the resources in their area. The Ontario Genealogical Society has 32 branches throughout the province. The society has a large library that is found in the North York Central Library in Toronto. OGS has indexed Ontario records for almost fifty years. Many of these indexes have been published and are available for sale. The list of books the society has for sale can be found on their web page. One project that should be checked is the Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index.

Ontario Genealogical Society Provincial Index (OGSPI)

This project seeks to list all sorts of information about everybody. The major challenge designing the indexing system was making it work even though a person's name is not the same on every piece of paper or source document. There is data from censuses, birth, marriage and death registers, references in books, land records, ship lists, military records and a host of other references. Each entry points to the original source, which you can then look up for the complete reference. It takes a bit of time to learn to use well but it is worth the effort. Currently there are over 2.8 million names.

**Ontario Genealogical Society**  
40 Orchard View Blvd, Suite 102  
Toronto, ON M4R 1B9  
**Tel:** (416) 489-0737  
**Fax:** (416) 489-9803  
**E-mail:** provoffice@ogs.on.ca

**OGS Library**  
Gladys Allison Canadiana Room  
Sixth Floor, North York Central Library  
5120 Yonge Street  
Toronto, ON M2N 5N9  
**Tel:** 416-395-5623

The Ontario Historical Society

<http://www.ontariohistoricalsociety.ca/en/>

The Ontario Historical Society has published the journal Ontario History since 1899. There is an online index for the issues to 1992. An index for the following years is currently being developed.

**Ontario Historical Society**  
34 Parkview Avenue  
Toronto, ON M2N 3Y2  
**Tel:** (416) 226-9011  
**Fax:** (416) 226-2740

**E-mail:** ohs@ontariohistoricalsociety.ca

## **2. St. Boniface Historical Society La Société historique de Saint-Boniface**

<http://www.shsb.mb.ca/index.htm>

The St. Boniface Historical Society is an archival facility designed for the administration, conservation and dissemination of Franco-Manitoban and Métis related culture. This is an important resource because many Métis in Ontario have ancestors who came from the west or went west. One of the important resources is the voyageur database. In addition to brief summary about each voyageur contract there is a transcription of the notary document available in either French or English.

**St. Boniface Historical Society  
La Société historique de Saint-Boniface**  
340 Provencher Blvd.  
Saint-Boniface, MB R2H 0G7  
**Tel:** (204) 233-4888  
**Fax:** (204) 232-2562  
**E-mail:** shsb@shsb.mb.ca







# CHAPTER 5

## Vital Records and Alternate Sources

The *Vital Statistics Act* for Ontario introduced civil registration starting 01 July 1869. It took a few years before everyone complied. The long form registration contains detailed information about the birth, marriage or death. The short form certificate contains basic information taken from this record. These records are held in the Office of the Registrar General in Thunder Bay.

### a. Current Records

<http://www.ontario.ca/en/residents/119274.html>

The application form and details about who can apply, the cost and the types of certificates that are available are found online. The information found on the forms changed over the years. You may wish to check the Archives of Ontario website under *Vital Statistics* to be sure that the information you require is found on the form you require. Remember that not all forms were filled in completely or accurately.

A copy of the long form birth certificate is required as part of the application for membership in Métis Nation of Ontario. These are obtained from:

Office of Registrar General Service Ontario  
<http://www.ontario.ca/en/residents/119274.html>

189 Red River Rd.  
PO Box 4600  
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6L8

### b. Historic Records – Post 1869

#### 1. Archives of Ontario (AO)

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>

Those records that are considered as historic are placed in the Archives of Ontario. Each year another year is added to the collection. The Archives of Ontario holds microfilm copies of the indexes and records for the following years:

Births 1869-1913  
Marriages 1869-1928  
Deaths 1869-1938

In addition the Archives holds registrations of Ontario deaths 1939 – 1947 (RG 80-21), which document the deaths of Ontario residents overseas (mostly during military operations) during and immediately after the Second World War. The microfilm records are available from the Archives through Interlibrary Loan. The following online research guides are available:

## Vital Statistics Records – Research Guide 202

Understanding the Vital Statistics Indexes – Research Guide 203

Sources for Birth, Marriage and Death Records – Research Guide 204

## 2. Family History Library

<http://familysearch.org>

Microfilm copies of the Ontario Vital Statistic records are also found in the Family History Library and can be ordered through a Family History Center. An index to these records is gradually being added to the website <http://familysearch.org>

## 3. Ancestry.ca

<http://www.ancestry.ca>

The indexes and digitized images of the Ontario Vital Statistics records are found at [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). This is a subscription-based site that offers a 14-day free trial. Many public libraries have copies of the site that you could use for free if you have a library card.

### Hint

***Note the years available but updates are added. If you don't find the name in the index you are able to browse by county and year.***

### c. Pre 1869 Records

#### District Marriage Registers 1831 – 1858

The district registers contain the copies of those records that were submitted by *non-*

*conformist* clergy. Anglican and Roman Catholic clergy were exempt. The registers are found on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario and may be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. Published indexes are available in many libraries in Ontario. Check a district map for the boundaries for the records that survive for Bathurst, Brock, Colborne, Eastern, Gore, Home Huron, Johnstown, London, Newcastle, Ottawa, Prince Edward, Simcoe, Talbot, Victoria and Western. There is a detailed explanation about the registers in *Genealogy in Ontario*.

#### County Marriage Registers 1858 – 1869

The County Marriage Registers were to include marriages conducted by all denominations. The records are found on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario and may be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. Published indexes are available at many public libraries in Ontario. The only county not included in the series is Glengarry, which is found in Library and Archives Canada. There is a detailed explanation about the registers in *Genealogy in Ontario*.

### d. Church Records

Parish registers are an important source for information on births, baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials because many pre-date civil registration. Historical records may be held in the denomination archives. The Archives of Ontario has a limited collection of church records which are listed on the website. The guide *Sources of Religious Records in Ontario* lists contact information for major religious denominations within the province. Many of the thirty-two branches of the Ontario Genealogical

Society may have indexes or access to church records for their area.



## FURTHER READING

Merriman, Brenda Dougall  
*Genealogy in Ontario: searching the records*  
Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008.

Stratford-Devai, Fawne and Ruth Burkholder  
*Vital Records in Ontario Before 1869: a guide to Early Ontario Vital Records*  
Milton: Global Heritage Press,

## 1. Family History Library

The Family History Library has microfilm copies of many church records for Ontario. The following Roman Catholic Church records could be of interest to Métis researchers:

Beaverton: St. Joseph's 1854 – 1910  
Collingwood: St. Mary's 1855 – 1910  
Lafontaine: Ste. Croix 1856 – 1910  
Midland: St. Margaret's 1883 – 1910  
Newmarket: St. John Chrysostom 1836 – 1906  
Pembroke: \_\_\_\_ 1856 – 1920  
Penetanguishene: St. Anne's 1846-1910  
Port Arthur: St. Andrew's 1878 – 1910  
Victoria Harbour: St. Andrew's 1883 – 1910

## 2. Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

LAC holds a small collection of church records some of which are indexed by name. A list of these is found in the book *A Checklist of Parish Registers- Répertoire de registres paroissiaux*, 1986. Those that are indexed are being added to the LAC site Canadian Families  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/families/index-e.html>

## FURTHER READING

Birkett, Patricia  
*Checklist of parish registers, 1986*

*Répertoire de registres paroissiaux, 1986*  
4th edition

Ottawa: Manuscript Division, National Archives of Canada - Division des manuscrits, Archives nationales du Canada, 1987.

## 3. Institute Genealogique Drouin

<http://www.drouinstitute.com/>

The entire Drouin Collection contains vital, notarial, and other miscellaneous records from Quebec, as well as French Catholic parish records from Ontario, Acadia, and the U.S. It has been produced in manuscript or microfilm formats. It should be noted that the version that is part of the FHL is incomplete. Now it is also available at [Ancestry.ca](http://ancestry.ca).

## 4. Ancestry.ca

<http://ancestry.ca>

Miscellaneous French Records  
(Drouin Collection), 1651-1941

This database contains miscellaneous French Catholic parish records from Ontario filmed by the Institut Généalogique Drouin. The records can also be searched by location and date. The lists of those parishes included in the collection are listed under the location bar.

Quebec Notarial Records  
(Drouin Collection), 1647-1942

This database contains notarial records from Quebec filmed by the Institut Généalogique Drouin. Notarial records include legal documents such as marriage contracts, wills, deeds, agreements, and inventories. Most of the records are written in French, but some records may be written in English, Latin, or Italian.

The records can also be searched by location and date. The lists of those parishes included in the collection are listed under the location bar.

#### 4. Programme de recherche en démographie historique (PRDH) Research Programme in Historical Demography

<http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/>

This database has Roman Catholic baptisms, marriages and burials from Quebec parish registers from 1621 – 1799. A simple search is available free; complete details are available for a fee.

### e. Cemetery Records

Cemetery records may provide valuable clues to the genealogical researcher. One of the questions on a historic death registration asked where and when the internment took place. It is important to note whether a community, a church or a public corporation owns a cemetery. Privacy rules may restrict the kind of information that may be shared.

## 1. The Ontario Genealogical Society

The Ontario Genealogical Society has had a cemetery recording program for many years. This program recorded only those graves with stones. Some of the records are found in the society library, others are held at Archives of Ontario. The Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid database <http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/> contains over 3 million names. Note: Not all branches of OGS contribute to this database. Visit each of the branch web pages to check which cemeteries have been recorded in their area.

## 2. Individual Communities and

## Cemeteries

Some communities and cemeteries have placed cemetery information on their websites. Some websites are adding pictures of the grave as well as obituaries. Two sites to check out are Ontario

Cemetery Resources and Ontario Canada Gravemarker Gallery.

### f. Funeral Homes

Funeral homes no longer provide detailed information because of privacy rules. However, they may list current obituaries for people they have buried. You can find them at this website <http://www.ebituaries.ca/> Funeral homes may also be a good source to find the name and locations of cemeteries in their locality.

### g. Histories — Personal, Church, School, Local and County

Histories can serve to provide background information about people and communities. This is secondary information but often is the only record that is available. Check LAC, local history rooms and county archives as well as church and school archives. Many early Ontario histories are found on microfiche in as part of the CIHM collection. The majority of these are found in university libraries but titles can be found in online databases.

### h. Canadiana Online

<http://www2.canadiana.ca/en/home>

This new website has two parts:

**Early Canadiana Online** is the first large-scale online collection of early Canadian print heritage. It currently offers twelve online collections totaling over three million pages of digitized content and is continually expanding.

The [Canadiana Discovery Portal](#) is a single source for Canadian documentary heritage. It is a free service that enables users to search digital collections of Canada's libraries, museums and archives. The numbers of online collections is growing so check back often.

#### **i. Canadian Institutes for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM)**

Enter the name Canadian Institutes for Historical Microreproductions (CIHM) in a search engine. Use a university site as they may have hard copies of the books or microfiche copies of the material in the collection. This is a good site to learn about items of interest that were published many years ago or that remain as manuscripts.

#### **j. Newspapers**

Newspapers enable us to learn about the lives of our ancestors if we look beyond the birth, marriage and death announcements. One can learn about local politics and community events. Names of schools, churches and organizations can be found. Many of the newspapers in Ontario have been published since the 1800s. A list of newspapers held in the Archives of Ontario is found in the online guide *Original and Microfilmed Newspapers in Archives of Ontario*. The listing is arranged first by the name of the newspaper and then by community.

Library and Archives Canada collects, in hardcopy, a select number of Canadian current daily newspapers, all Canadian ethnic newspapers, all Canadian native newspapers, and student newspapers received from the Canadian university press. All print issues may be consulted on site, or requests for articles from them may be made through the services of your local library. There are over 200,000 reels of Canadian newspapers on microfilm that may be requested through the interlibrary loan services of your local library. Browse the newspaper lists

at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/newspapers-at-lac/index-e.html>

Newspapers online

<http://news.google.com/newspapers>

This website has copies of many historic newspapers. It is searchable by heading but one is not able to print items at this time.

#### **k. National Registration**

There was compulsory registration for all persons age sixteen and older from 1939 – 1946. The exceptions were active members of the armed forces, cloistered nuns and inmates of prisons, penitentiaries and asylums. All respondents were issued with an identification card. Those living on reserves had to have a card in order to leave. The questions on the registration forms included: name, address, age, date of birth, place of birth of the applicant and their parents, marital status, number and relationship of dependents, racial origin, languages spoken, education, general health, occupation, and work experience. Not all questions were always answered. The questions and samples of the questionnaires for men and for women are found at Canadian Genealogy Centre.

[Statistics Canada, Census Pension Searches Unit](#)

150 Tunney's Pasture Driveway  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0T6

Tel.: 613-951-9483

Fax: 613-951-4574

#### **FURTHER READING**

Douglas, Althea

*World War II and National Registration – 1940*

*Here be Dragons, too!*

*More navigational hazards for the Canadian family researcher*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2000, page 71-72.





# CHAPTER 6

## Census Records

The government of Canada East and West conducted a census in 1842. Another census was taken in 1848 and 1850. The first census conducted by the government of Canada for what is now known as Ontario was 1851. A census has been taken every ten years since that time.

Beginning in 1956 a census has been taken every five years. The information gathered from the census enables government to plan programs for future needs. The census can provide the genealogical researcher with valuable information about their family, the neighbors and the community where they lived. The census records were microfilmed in the 1950's and then destroyed. Some parts of the census are missing. Because the microfilming was not up to archival standards some parts of the census are difficult or impossible to read. Today many of the microfilm copies have been digitized. This enables the user to enlarge pages making some of the poor copies readable. Each census has many sections but only the nominal section was generally microfilmed. Some years the agricultural section was microfilmed. The last census that is available is the 1911 census. The 1921 census is to be released in 2013.

The instructions that were given to the enumerators from 1871 are found at Global Genealogy <http://globalgenealogy/Census>. The Canadian Genealogy Centre has the list of the questions that are found in each of

the census years <http://www.collectionscanada/genealogy/index-e.html>. This is part of the online Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1666-1901, which combines the two published catalogues (1666-1891, 1901) of census returns on microfilm. Use this to identify the relevant census districts. There are comments about missing sections and poor microfilm quality.

It is important to note not only the family of interest but also the neighbours. These people could be members of the family at the time or will be in the future. Where possible read the census for the whole enumeration district. Sometimes the enumerator added notes at the end of the district. Remember we do not know who provided the information so personal information may not be accurate. Pay particular attention to the racial origin, the religion and occupation, as these are clues about where to look for other records. Where possible compare the information from a number of census records to look for clues about family members who were born, married or died between the census years.

### Beware

**Spelling could be as names sounded to the enumerator.**

**Ages and dates may be incorrect.**

**Sections can be missing or illegible BUT if the nominal section the agricultural section may be intact.**

**Indexes are a guide – handwriting can be challenge for indexers.**

**Pages may have been microfilmed out of order.**

### 1842 Census

Taken by the government of Canada East and Canada West. The heads of household was listed but every one was enumerated. Only some parts have survived. These are for townships in the districts of Gore, Niagara, Newcastle, Midland, Johnstown and Ottawa. One can find the microfilm numbers in *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm*. The parts that survive have been indexed and transcribed by those branches of OGS that are located in the surviving parts.

### 1848 and 1850

Only the returns for the districts of Huron, Johnstown and Newcastle and a few isolated fragments from other districts survive. Only the head of the family was named. There is excellent information about theses records in Brian Dilts' book. The microfilm numbers for the Johnstown and Newcastle district are found in the *Catalogue of Census Returns*. The index is found on microfiche.

### 1851

This is the first census to list everyone in the household. It was actually taken early in 1852.

Key questions for genealogists are age at *next birthday*, place of birth. Other questions ask for the names and gender of any family member who were born 1851 or died in 1851. The agriculture section lists the concession and lot number, number of acres, kinds of crops and animals on the property. Digitized images for the sections that Genealogy <http://automatedgenealogy.com/> has indexed most of the 1851 census. The 1851 census is also included in [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) database. It can be searched by county and township. IF a section is missing it is still listed shown as a non-link. The agriculture section follows each section. The Family History Library at <http://familysearch.org> has the online index developed by [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). There are no images.

### 1861

This census was taken 14 January 1861. Some of the questions included: age at next birthday, whether the head of household was married during the year, whether coloured, mulatto or Indian. Other questions asked whether people in the household were member of the family, if anyone was born or died in 1860. If someone died they were asked to provided their age and cause of death. Other questions asked about the house, number of families living in the house, animals and number of acres. There is no agricultural section. Microfilm copies are available through Interlibrary Loan or may be found in local Ontario libraries. The 1861 census is part of [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). The index is attached to digitized images that can be searched by county and township. IF a section is missing it is still listed but is shown as a non-link.

### 1871

This census was taken 2 April 1871. All schedules are found on microfilm. Some of the questions included: name, age, county or province or birth, religion, origin, occupation, married or widowed, education



level, infirmities. If born, married or died in last twelve months. If a person died the month and cause of death were given. Origin relates to the paternal ancestor. The agricultural schedule asked for concession and lot number, whether an owner, tenant or employee, number of acres, types of crops and their yields. There were three artificial counties created for this census – Bothwell, Cardwell and Monck that were made up of the following townships.

#### Bothwell

- ∞ Bothwell, Kent Co.
- ∞ Camden, Kent Co.
- ∞ Dawn, Lambton Co.
- ∞ Dresden, Kent Co.
- ∞ Euphemia, Lambton Co.
- ∞ Howard, Kent Co.
- ∞ Orford, Kent Co.
- ∞ Ridgetown, Kent Co.
- ∞ Thamesville, Kent Co.

#### Cardwell

- ∞ Adjale, Simcoe Co.
- ∞ Albion, Peel Co.
- ∞ Bolton, Peel Co.
- ∞ Caledon, Peel Co.
- ∞ Mono, Simcoe Co.

#### Monck

- ∞ Caistor, Lincoln Co.
- ∞ Canborough, Haldimand Co.
- ∞ Dunn, Haldimand Co.
- ∞ Dunnville, Haldimand Co.
- ∞ Gainsborough, Lincoln Co.
- ∞ Moulton, Haldimand Co.
- ∞ Pelham, Welland Co.
- ∞ Sherbrooke, Haldimand Co.
- ∞ Wainfleet, Welland Co.

Microfilm copies are available through Interlibrary Loan or may be found in local

Ontario libraries. A head of household index to the 1871 for Ontario was carried out by the branches of the Ontario Genealogical Society under the direction of Bruce Elliott. This index is found on the LAC website. An index to the 1871 is found at [Family Search.org](http://FamilySearch.org). The 1871 census is part of [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). The index is attached to digitized images that can be searched by county and township. Schedule 2 – Deaths is found at the end of each section.

#### 1881

This census was taken 4 April 1881. Only the nominal schedule was microfilmed. Some of the questions included: name, age, country or province of birth, born in last 12 months, religion, origin, occupation, whether married or widowed. Bothwell, Cardwell and Monck are still enumeration counties. The nominal index was the only schedule that was microfilmed. The index and digitized images of the census are found on *Ancestor Search* at Library and Archives Canada. Many of the pages are faded but most can be enlarged so one can make out the information. Due to handwriting and interpretation problems the index, which was developed by [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), is a challenge. The head of household index created by Lorne Main is more reliable. The 1881 census is part of [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). The index is attached to digitized images that can be searched by county and township.

#### 1891

This census was taken 6 April 1891. Bothwell, Cardwell and Monck are still enumeration counties. Only the nominal schedule was microfilmed. Some of the questions include: name, age, country or province of birth, marital status, relationship to the head of family, religion, origin, occupation, birth place of father and mother of each person. One question asked about the number of rooms in the house and whether it was made of wood, brick or stone. B ½ would mean 1 room upstairs, 2

rooms downstairs. Each enumerator described tents and shanties in their own manner. The index and digitized images of the 1891 census are found on *Ancestor Search* at Library and Archives Canada. An index for the 1891 census is found at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). The 1891 census and index are found on [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca). Individual branches of the Ontario Genealogical Society have indexed the 1891 census for their membership area. These are available for sale. I would think that these indexes would be more reliable because the indexers would be familiar with the residents in their areas.

## 1901

This census was taken 31 March 1901. Bothwell, Cardwell and Monck are still enumeration counties. Only the nominal, Schedule 1, and the *The Return of Buildings and Lands, Churches and Schools*, Schedule 2, were microfilmed. In the book *Catalogue of Census Returns 1901* states that there are some random samples of other schedules inserted periodically. Questions included: name, age, date of birth, country or province of birth, marital status, relationship to the head of family, religion, origin, and occupation of each person. Of particular note was the question about colour and racial origin. Those with Aboriginal blood were described as *R* for red. Under the heading racial origin there could be the term Indian and the tribal designation. For those of mixed blood they were to state the racial origin of the father followed by the initial *B* or *HB* for Half-Breed.

Examples would be:

*FB* - French Half-Breed

*SB* - Scotch Half-Breed

*EB* - English Half-Breed

*IB* - Irish Half-Breed or

*OB* - other Half-Breed.

Sometimes there might be a tribal origin given as well. It is important to note that many well-known Métis families in Ontario are not identified as Half-Breed in this census. Copies of the census are available at libraries or through Interlibrary Loan. Digitized images are

found on the *Ancestor Search* page at Library and Archives Canada.

An index and a link to the LAC digitized images for the 1901 census for Ontario is found at the Automated Genealogy website <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/>. The FHL has an index at <http://familysearch.org> but there are no attached images. Another index is found at [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) along with link to the LAC digitized images. At [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) it is possible to select a specific location and read that district page by page. Schedule 2 of the census is found at the end of the nominal section.

## 1911 Census

This census was taken 1 June 1911. Questions included: name, age, month and year of birth, country or province of birth, marital status, relationship to the head of family, religion, racial or tribal origin, and occupation of each person. There was a question about where the family was living that included the concession and lot number, street and house number and nearest post office. Other questions asked about education, literacy and mother tongue. It should be noted that if the family had white and aboriginal parents the racial background of the mother was to be noted. Copies of the census are available at libraries or through Interlibrary Loan. Digitized images are found on the *Ancestor Search* page at Library and Archives Canada.

An index and a link to the LAC digitized images for the 1901 census for Ontario is found at the Automated Genealogy website <http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/>. The FHL has an index at <http://familysearch.org> but there are no attached images. Another index is found at [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) along with link to the LAC digitized images. At [Ancestry.ca](http://Ancestry.ca) it is possible to select a specific location and read that district page by page.

### Hint

**If you are unable to find the name in an index look for the neighbours.**

**Paper copies of indexes and the one at Automated Genealogy provide guide for various spellings of names.**

### Hudson's Bay Company Census

The following census records found on microfilm at the Hudson's Bay Archives are available through Interlibrary Loan. The records are found in the post journals or the post journals, the reports in the district of the miscellaneous records.

Place	Date	HBCA Ref.	Microfilm
Albany River District	1858	B. 3/z/1	1M871
Fort George (Chisasbi)	1870	B. 77/z/1	1M876
Lac La Pluie	1822 - 1823	B. 105/e/2	1M778
	1829 - 1830	B. 105/e/9	1M778
Lac La Pluie District	1838	B. 239/z/10	1M903
Fort Francis			
Rat Portage			
Marten's Falls	1848-1868	B. 123/z/1	1M880
Osnaburgh House	1828	B. 155/a/39	1M113
	1857-1858	B. 155/z/1	1M889
Trout River	1846 - 1891	B. 220/z	1M167-71

### FURTHER READING

Briggs, Elizabeth and Anne Morton  
*Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Volume One*  
Winnipeg: Westgarth, 1996

Dilts, Brian Lee  
*1848 and 1850 Canada West (Ontario) Census Index*  
Salt Lake City: Index Publishing, 1984

Elliott, Bruce S., editor  
*Index to the 1871 Census of Ontario. 30 volumes*

Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society,  
1986 – 1992

Hillman, Thomas A  
*Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1666-1891*  
*Catalogue de recensements sur microfilm, 1666-1891*  
Ottawa: Supply and Services Canada, 1987

Hillman, Thomas A.  
*A Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1901*  
*Catalogue de recensements sur microfilm 1901*

Ottawa: Public Archives of Canada, 1992

Main, Lorne William  
*Index to 1881 Canadian Census of the North West Territories and Algoma, Ontario*  
Vancouver, British Columbia: self-published, 1984

Main, Lorne William  
*Index to 1881 Canadian Census of Manitoba With Extensions and East Rupert's Land*  
Vancouver, British Columbia: self-published, 1984

Merriman, Brenda Dougall  
*Genealogy in Ontario: searching the records 4th edition*  
Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008

## Census Substitutes

Census substitutes can be lists of people. Some examples are directories, voters lists and telephone books. These lists place people in communities during specific time frames that in turn point to records that were created in these communities.

### 1. Directories

There are directories for the entire province of Ontario as well as county, township or individual cities and communities. Images of some can be found online. Copies may be found in local or genealogical society libraries. Some of the county directories were published in the county atlases. Check library catalogues for possible titles.

Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canadiandirectories/index-e.html>

You can also use Ancestor Search and Canadian Directories. This database has a list of 95 Canadian Directories that can be searched by name.

### 2. Voters Lists

Voters lists for Canada from 1935 – 1983 are found on microfilm at LAC. There is no province or constituency listing on the site. One can find the list at the Parliament of Canada website <http://www.parl.gc.ca/> under the heading *History of Federal Ridings Since 1867*.

### 3. School Records

There is restricted access to school records 100 years or less in Ontario. The Ontario Archives has records that may include the daily attendance registers that may include the students' names and ages, parents' or guardians' names and information on school attendance, graduation and moves. Other records include administrative records, general registers and minute books of boards and ratepayers meetings.

In 1980 school boards in remote areas of Ontario were dissolved if no successor boards were established. These records were transferred to the Archives of Ontario. Some records date back to 1848.

*The Grammar School Trustees' Half-Yearly Reports* (RG 2-21, 1854-1871) has the names and ages of students and the names of teachers across Ontario. For details check:

Archives of Ontario Research Guide 216 Student and Teacher Records  
<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/index.aspx>

### FURTHER READING

Lovell, John

*Lovell's Province of Ontario Directory for 1871*  
Montreal:1871. \*

McIvoy, John, compiler and editor  
*The Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Directory, Containing Concise Descriptions of Cities, Towns and Villages in the Province, with the Names of Professional and Business Men and Principal Inhabitants, Together With a Full List of Members of the Executive Governments, Senators, Members of the Commons and Local Legislatures, and Officials of the Dominion, and a Large Amount of Other General, Varied and Useful Information, Carefully Compiled from the Most Recent and Authentic Data*  
Toronto: Robertson & Cook, 1869. \*

Smith, William Henry. Smith's  
*Canadian Gazetteer: comprising statistical and general information respecting all parts of the upper province or Canada West. With map of*

*upper province (1846.)*  
Toronto: H. & W. Rowsell, 1846. \*

Wilson, Thomas B. and Emily W. Wilson  
*Directory of the Province of Ontario, 1857*  
Lambertville, New Jersey: Hunterdon House, 1987

*Henderson's Manitoba and North-Western Ontario and Northwest towns and City of Winnipeg Directory: a complete directory for the year 1886-87*  
Winnipeg: Henderson Directory Co, 1887 \*\*

\* Available online at Google Books  
<http://books.google.com/>

\*\* Available online at Peel's Prairie Provinces  
<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>







# CHAPTER 7

## Military Records

Military records may provide extensive information about the time a person served. Muster rolls, pay lists, medal registers, war diaries and ships logs are some of the records that exist. Information for those who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force is available from Library and Archives Canada. The records after World War Two are only available to the person who served or to their immediate family providing they can prove the deceased has been dead for twenty years. Detailed information is found on the Canadian Genealogy Centre website.

### a. World War One

#### Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF)

Over 600,000 men and women enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) during the First World War (1914-1918) as soldiers, nurses and chaplains. At the time of enlistment the recruits filled in a two-sided Attestation paper which included the recruit's name and address, next-of-kin, date and place of birth, occupation, previous military service and distinguishing physical characteristics. If the man had been drafted into the CEF under the provisions of the Military Service Act of 1917 there was a one-sided form. Each recruit was assigned a regimental number. Officers did not have a regimental number unless they enlisted first as privates or non commissioned officers. Officers completed a one-sided form called the Officers' Declaration Paper.

#### Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) database

Is an index for the service files held by Library and Archives Canada for the soldiers, nurses and chaplains who served with the CEF. Scanned images of most of the Attestation papers are available in the database. More will be added as the scanning project continues. LAC has stated to add digitized copies of the service files to the database.

#### Courts-Martial of First World War

Is a database is at *Ancestor Search*. One can find the name, regimental number, rank, time in the service and nature of the offence. This is followed with the file number and the Library and Archives of Canada microfilm number. One can order the microfilm through Interlibrary Loan.

- ∞ If you can't find a name try spelling variations or combine given names and initials.
- ∞ The ages given may not be correct.

Check the War Diaries for details about military operations.

- ∞ The records for those who served with British forces are found in England.
- ∞ Read the Search Help section for more details about the records.

## 1. War Diaries

The War Diaries are the daily account of each unit's *Actions in the Field*. The diaries are arranged by regiment number. If you do not know the regiment number note regimental number for the recruit and then check *The Regimental Number List of the Canadian Expeditionary* found on the *Search Help* section. Digitized images are found of the diaries are found online at *Ancestors Search*.

## 2. Ship Logs

The Ship Logs for Canada's naval vessels that served in World War One are found in Library and Archives Canada. In order to find the log you need to know the name of the ship. Directions for how to find the logs are found on the Canadian Genealogy Centre website. None of the logs have been microfilmed but copies can be obtained from the Canadian Genealogy Centre.

## 3. Air Force

The Royal Canadian Air Force did not exist during World War One. Those who served would have served with the Royal Flying Corp, the Royal Naval Air Service or the Royal Air Force. Their records would be found in the National Archives in England. Check the Air Force Association of Canada section for more information.

## 4. Royal Canadian Navy (RCN)

The Royal Canadian Navy was formed in

1910. The records for those who served in World War One are found in Pay Ledger Sheets (RG 150, 1992-93/170), which consist of single over-size pages that summarize each individual's service, including the names of all ships and shore bases on which he served. Directions about how to find the records are found in at the Canadian Genealogy Centre.

### FURTHER READING

Nicholson, G.W.L. *Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919*  
Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1962

Spencer, William  
*Air Force Records for Family Historians*  
Kew: The National Archives, 2000

Wright, Glenn  
*Canadians at War 1914 – 1919: a research guide to World War One service records*  
Milton, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, 2010.

## b. Post World War One Records

The service records for those who served in World War Two and the Korean War are held at Library and Archives Canada. Restrictions apply. However, there are a number of records that can be searched online. Some regiments have published histories or web pages. Local newspapers can also be a good source of information.

## c. Second World War Two Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead

There are no restrictions for those who died in service between 1939 and 1947. These deaths include not only those killed in action, but those who died of injuries related to their service or as a result of accident or injury while in service. The database at *Ancestor Search* provides the name, date of death, service number, unit, which force they served with,

and the names of their parents and wife if married along with where they were living.

## 1. War Diaries and Ship Logs

Follow the directions given at *Ancestor Search* for how to access these records in the section on World War One. Copies of some diaries are found on individual regiment or unit websites.

## 2. Air Force

There is a list of unit Operation Record Books found in Finding Aid 24-104 that lists the relevant volume and microfilm numbers. It is not available online. Staff at the Canadian Genealogy Centre can consult the finding aid for you if you fill in the online Reference Inquiry Form. Information about those who served can also be found in the Air Force Association of Canada section.

## d. Military Cemeteries and Memorials

Military cemeteries contain the graves of, or memorials to, those who served in the Canadian military. They contain standard markers that show the name, military number, rank, unit name, age and date of death. The badge of the unit is found above the name. Many cemeteries in Canada will have special sections set aside for veterans with a distinctive grave marker. Veterans Affairs Canada has developed a website that provides information about graves and memorial sites of more than 116,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who died in service to Canada. It includes memorials of more than 1500 soldiers who died since the Korean War, including peacekeeping and other operation.

## 1. Canadian Virtual War Memorial

<http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/>

The search page will direct one to information about the person who is buried in a Commonwealth War Grave Commission Cemetery or to the page in the Book of Remembrance where the name is found.

## 2. Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<http://www.cwgc.org>

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website enable one to find information about those who died in active service and are buried in Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries. The information can include; name, rank, unit and regiment, regimental service number, age, date of death, the cemetery name and a picture of the cemetery. There can be information about the family if this is known. One can also write to the Commission for this information. This is free for family members but there is a small charge for others.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
2 Marlow Road  
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 7DX  
UK

## 3. Books of Remembrance

The *Books of Remembrance* contain the names of Canadians who fought in wars and died either during or after them. All the books are kept in the Memorial Chamber located in the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill. Each day a different page is displayed. The Canadian Virtual War Memorial search page can take one directly to the page where a particular name is recorded.

#### 4. Canadian Merchant Navy War Dead Registry

A registry of the merchant seamen who died in the First or Second World War and their ships. The Canadian Merchant Navy War Dead Database is an index that can be used to search for the names of Canadian Merchant seamen who were killed while serving in Canada's Merchant Marine. It can also be used to search for the names of Canadian Merchant Navy vessels. You can enter the name of the Canadian Merchant Navy war dead, the vessel they served on, or both.

#### 5. Canadian Post War Military and Dependant Graves

This site provides the burial locations of service members and their dependants who died outside of Canada and the USA but were not returned to Canada.

#### 6. National Inventory of Canadian Military Memorials

This web page lists cenotaphs, monuments in parks, cemeteries and public areas. There are currently 6293 memorials listed by province and then community. Under the detail section there will be a picture and a transcription of the plaque. Sometimes there is a list of those who are being recognized.

#### e. Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC)

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/>

The records for those who have served since 1 January 1998 are found at Veteran's Affairs. Consult the *Canadian Forces after 1918 (including Second World War)* at the Canadian Genealogy Centre website for details.

#### f. Aboriginal Veteran's Tribute Page

<http://www.vcn.bc.ca/~jeffrey1/tribute.htm>

Jeff Schlintoff started the Aboriginal Veteran's Tribute Page in 2001 to honour First Nation, Métis and those with Aboriginal heritage who have served in the Canadian military. The Aboriginal Veterans Honour List has over 6600 names, identifying their band, town, district or Agency, which war they served, rank and division along with some additional notes. This site is being added to on an on going basis.

#### g. Military Service Organizations and Interest Groups

##### 1. Royal Canadian Legion

<http://www.on.legion.ca>

Royal Canadian Legions halls can have valuable information about their members. Find the location of the branches at the website or contact:

Royal Canadian Legion Ontario  
Provincial Command  
89 Industrial Parkway North  
Aurora, ON L4G 4C4  
Tel: (905) 841-7999  
Fax: (905) 841-9992

The Legion Magazine

<http://www.legionmagazine.com/en/lastpost/>

The Royal Canadian Legion has published a column *The Last Post* in *The Legion Magazine* for many years. This is an obituary for the members who have died. There is a database that contains the names dating back to 1987. Twice a year they update the list going back a few more years.

## 2. Air Force Association of Canada

<http://www.airforce.ca>

The Air Force Association of Canada has the following databases that are particularly valuable to genealogical researchers. Find them listed under the heading *Honours and Awards*. Or use the search engine:

- ∞ Canadians Serving in RAF during World War I
- ∞ Canadians Serving with British Flying Services during World War I
- ∞ CF Personnel Postwar Services Related to Aviation
- ∞ Commonwealth Air Forces serving in

RCAF during World War II

- ∞ RCAF Personnel Awards 1939 – 1949

## 3. Royal Canadian Navy Awards

<http://www.rcnvr.com>

This site has a list of those Canadians who received awards whether they served in the Royal Canadian Navy, Royal Navy, Canadian merchant Navy or the US Coast Guard. Included in the list are awards from the 1800s, WW 1, 1935, WW 2, 1950s, Korea and Long Service Awards. There are short biographical sketches, citations for the awards and some photographs of the decorations and some photographs of the recipients.







# CHAPTER 8

## Court Records

Adoption, divorce and probate records are the most used records by those looking for genealogical information. Civil and criminal court records may contain other valuable information. One needs to understand the court system to make the best use of these records.

Civil and criminal courts deal with matters arising from civil or criminal law. Civil law deals with disputes between private individuals with the court as the arbitrator. Criminal law deals with disputes or offenses against society with the courts bringing the offenders to justice.

The historic records for Ontario are found in the Archives of Ontario. There are online guides to help one make the best use of the records. Most of these records are stored off site so it is important to request files before you visit. The records are subject to access restrictions for 100 years after their creation.

### a. Change of Name

The Archives of Ontario Research Guide 229 *Finding Change of Name Records In Ontario* prior to 1939 there was no legal process to document a change of name through the courts. People were able to adopt any name providing there was no intention to defraud.

Pre-1939

Individuals could file a deed poll at the County or District level as the public declaration so the new name would be recognized in the community. The deed poll

was sworn before a judge but the courts were not required to keep an official record. The person who changed their name retained the copy. Some deed polls from across Ontario have been retained and are now in York Supreme Court matter files in Ontario Archive. There is an index covering 1850s-1946.

1939 – 1979

County/District Court matter records

Following the passing of the *Change of Name Act* judges held formal hearing into proposed name changes. No one could apply to change their name unless they were 18 years of age and a British subject, (which included Canadians.) Married women could not initiate a name change and a married man could only change his name if he changed the name of all other members of his family, all of whom had to give their written consent if they were more than 14 year old. A notice about the proposed name change had to be published in a local newspaper.

1948 – Divorced and Deserted women could apply to resume their maiden name

1972 – citizenship required Ontario residence

*Change of Name Act* applications were

required to list the applicant's surname, first name(s), address, date and place of birth, occupation, proposed name, and the reasons for the name change. The application also contained details of any criminal record and outstanding court judgments or debts.

#### Hint

**Check the local newspaper for the Change of Name notice for the date and name.**

**If the Change of Name document is not found in the court record a copy of the order was filed with the Office of the Registrar General and can be obtained for a fee.**

Post 1979

These records are held at the Office of the Registrar General:

Office of the Registrar General  
<http://www.vitalcertificates.ca/ontario/>  
P.O. Box 4600, 189 Red River Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8  
Tel: 1-800-461-2156 or (416) 325-8305

## b. Family Law

### 1. Guardianship Research Guide 223 Guardianship and Adoption

The *Guardianship Act* of 1827 allowed a Probate or Surrogate court judge to appoint an individual to safeguard a child's "property, person and education" until maturity. These records are held in the Archives of Ontario. Poor families rarely approached the courts but made private arrangements with relative or friends.

## c. Adoption

The *Access to Adoption Records Act, 2008* opens up more information in adoption records to adopted adults and birth parents. This new law gives adopted adults and birth parents more rights to information and privacy. It includes identifying information, like the original name of an adopted adult or the name of a birth parent. Adopted adults and birth parents have the option to protect the privacy of their post-adoption birth information. There is an *Adopted Person's Guide to Post-Adoption Birth Information* found online but the application must be sent to:

Services Ontario  
Office of the Registrar General  
P.O. Box 4600, 189 Red River Road  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8

## d. Divorce

1867 – 1930

During this period only the Federal Parliament could grant divorces. Notices of divorces were listed at the back of the Statues of Canada volume for the year they were passed. Those wishing to obtain a divorce had to publish their intention in their local newspaper and in the *Canada Gazette*.

Divorce in Canada 1841 – 1968

This database at *Ancestor Search* that contains 12,732 references to acts published in official publications of the Government of Canada between 1841 and 1968. The database lists the names of the parties, reference, year and citation. The Search Help provides the names of the publication over the years and suggestion one use the AMICUS site to find where copies of the various books can be found. This is

generally in provincial archives, legislative and university libraries. The entries would include information about the petitioner and their spouse, including maiden name of the wife, their place(s) of residence, date and place of their marriage and the grounds under which the divorce is being sought.

An Introduction to Canadian Parliamentary Divorces 1826 - 1946 by Hugh Armstrong  
<http://www.islandnet.com/~daveobee/cangenealogy/armstrong/index.htm>

This article provides background information to the procedure for divorce during this time frame and has an index to names found in the records.

1968 +

Since 1968 divorces have been registered with the Central Divorce Registry in Ottawa. This agency has an index to all divorces in Canada.

**Department of Justice**  
Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings  
P.O. Box 2730, Postal Station D  
Ottawa ON K1P 5W7  
**Tel.:** (613) 957-4519

## Where to Find the Divorce Records

1931 - May 1949

The Supreme Court of Ontario has been able to grant divorces since 1931. The records for 1931 - 1949 are held at the Archives of Ontario. In order to access the records one needs to know the date and location where the divorce took place. The index can be found at the Archives or at the courthouse where the divorce took place.

June 1949 - 1969

The index for this time period is found on microfilm in the Reading Room at the Archives of Ontario. The index has the names of the spouse seeking the divorce and the defendants, the application date, the application number and the city where it was granted. Use this information to find the microfilm number that contains the file. See Research Guide 210 *Finding Divorce Files in Ontario* for more details.

July 1968 to the present

The Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings can supply you with the courthouse number where the divorce took place, the file number and the year that you need to get the divorce file. The actual file is located at the Archives of Ontario if the divorce took place prior to 1980. After that time they are found in the courthouse where the divorce was filed.

Complete details are found in Archives of Ontario Research Guide 210 *Finding Divorce Files in Ontario*.

## **e. Ontario Court of Probate and Surrogate Court Records: Wills and Estate Files**

1793-1963

Not everyone had a will and not all wills are found in court records. Wills that involved real estate are likely found in the local Land Registry Office because it would have been used to transfer the land to heirs. While a copy of the will may be interesting it is important to examine the estate file that has a copy of the inventory or assets and how the estate was eventually divided. Family relationships will be detailed in this part.

Ontario Probate and Surrogate Court Records from 1793 - 1963 are found in the Archives of

Ontario. Research Guide 206 *How to Find a Will in Court Records* will guide you through the process. A number of people have compiled indexes to probate and surrogate court records for counties and districts. Check library catalogues or genealogical society websites for details.

#### Estate Files 40 Years Old or Less

Estate files that have been probated within the last 40 years are at the local courthouse. Indexes for the following records are found at the Archives of Ontario:

Kenora to 1973  
Lennox & Addington to 1970  
Ontario to 1970  
Parry Sound to 1986  
Rainy River to 1977

#### FURTHER READING

*Archives of Ontario Research Guide 206 How to Find a Will in Court Records.* Gibson, June, compiler, Elizabeth Hancocks, indexer and Shannon Hancocks. *Surrogate Court Index of Ontario, Canada, 1859-1900. 27 volumes. 2nd edition* Campbellville, Ontario: Global Heritage Press, 2005

Merriman, Brenda Dougall  
*Genealogy in Ontario: searching the records* Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008.

Shepard, Catherine  
*Surrogate Court Records at the Archives of*

*Ontario: a genealogical research guide* Toronto, Ontario: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1984.

Zufelt, Bill, editor  
*Court of Probate: Registers and Estate Files at the Archives of Ontario (1793-1759)* Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1986.

#### **f. Civil Court**

The minutes of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace Court provide the most genealogical information. In order to find the record you need to know the date and place of the court. This information can be found in local newspapers that often provided extensive coverage especially in sensational cases. Newspapers often had more details than the court.

#### **g. Criminal Court**

*The Archives of Ontario Research Guide 233, Criminal Justice Records at the Archives of Ontario* has a step-by-step guide for how to us find and use these records. Remember they are subject to the access restrictions of 100 years after their creation.







# CHAPTER 9

## Métis and First Nation Sources

The records that have been discussed in the previous chapters enable you to make a connection to people identified as half-breed, country-born, chicot, strangers in blood, winterer, freemen, Métis, etc.. These people or their ancestors may have served fur trade companies as voyageurs, coureur de bois, guides, interpreters and later as traders. There are additional document sources from Ontario that may prove helpful in identifying root Métis ancestors and Métis families.

### a. Fur Trade Records

Fur trade records provide the earliest mention of a people distinct from the European and Indian populations. Before the 1790s they are rarely identified by name. Two books that discuss the role of intermarriage between traders and native women and their children are: *Strangers In Blood: fur trade families in Indian Country* and *Many Tender Ties: women in fur-trade society, 1670 – 1870*. Both books provide examples of particular families who were associated with the North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company. Portions of both books are found online at Google Books.

#### FURTHER READING

Brown, Jennifer S. H.  
*Strangers In Blood: fur trade families in Indian Country*  
Vancouver: UBC Press, 1980.

Van Kirk, Sylvia  
*Many Tender Ties: women in fur-trade society, 1670 - 1870*  
Winnipeg: Watson & Dywer, 1980.

### b. Hudson's Bay Company Archives

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

The fur trade records in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives enable to view the records that were created at the various trading posts. Those records that have been microfilmed are available through Interlibrary Loan. To find the records select the *Search* tab. The HBCA Post Map shows the location of the post. When you select a post it takes you to the site that shows what records exist for that post. The online finding aid describes the kinds of records found in each of the record types. Note if there are *Lists of Servants* or *Miscellaneous Records*.

Of interest is the tab *HBCA Biographical Sheets*. Hudson's Bay Company Archives staff created these to provide employment information on individuals who were employed by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and/or the North West Company. Biographical sheets outline the person's employment history and may also include the parish of origin or place of birth; positions, posts and districts in which the person served; family information, if available;

and references to related documents, including photographs or drawings. Biographical sheets have not been created for every employee. When the birthplace of an employee is given as *native, Rupert's Land* or *Hudson's Bay* the inference is the individual was born on land held by the company.

Volume One of *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives* provides detailed descriptions about the Fur Trade records. There often are examples of the records showing the kind of information that one is likely to find. The microfilm numbers are given for each item discussed. A number of pages contain names of those who are mentioned in the North West Company records.

Volume Two of *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives* continues with the operations beyond 1870 and deals with the settlement in the Red River and the movement to the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific areas. It also highlights other operations than the fur trade. Many of the employees were descendants of the fur trader. There are examples of documents showing why they are important and how to locate them in the records. Some sections have lists of names in the records. There is an extensive index.

Copies of these books are found in many libraries and can be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. They are available for purchase from the Manitoba Genealogical Society.

<http://www.mbgenealogy.com>

#### **FURTHER READING**

Briggs, Elizabeth and Anne Morton  
*Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Volume One and Two*  
Winnipeg: Westgarth, 1996 and 2003.

The Champlain Society Journal

<http://www.champlainsociety.ca>

some in digital format

Hudson's Bay Record Society publications  
Find under *Search – Information Sheets* on the Hudson's Bay Company Archives website.

### **C. Records of Indian Affairs**

Many of the early records identifying individual Métis people in Ontario are found in the records that were created by the Department of Indian Affairs. For example, individuals in locations throughout Ontario are identified as receiving treaty annuity payments as Halfbreeds. These INAC sources identify individuals receiving treating payments – as Métis – not as Indians. These records are held at Library and Archives Canada. Many of the records have been digitized others are available on microfilm. Not all files are open to the public.

### **There are three areas to check:**

#### **1. Canadian Genealogy Centre**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>

*At the Canadian Genealogy Centre site select:*

- What to Search Topics
- Ethno-Cultural and Aboriginal Group
- Aboriginal Peoples
- Red and Black Series

## Red and Black Series

[www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/red-black/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/red-black/index-e.html)

The Red and Black Series contain the records of the Department of Indian Affairs that are an incredible historical resource. These records, which are designated Record Group 10 (RG 10), are arranged using the original central registry system that was established in 1872. It was called the Red Series because it was kept in a book with a Red Cover. This series contains the records for Eastern Canada. In 1882 the Black Series was established which contains the records for Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, British Columbia and the Maritime provinces. In 1907 the Maritimes were transferred to the Red Series.

Most files are arranged by band, agency or district and then by the date they cover. Knowing when or if the band signed a treaty could be important. Many of the records list names of *Half-Breeds* who were part of the community.

The database enables one to search under many different fields. This is particularly important if you find a reference that provides the volume and file number. The database is very specific in terms of how words are spelt in a document. If you fail to have any success be sure to try other ways to spell a word. Western Ontario records may be found in either of the series but if they are part of the current database they will be reported. Currently, volumes 1855 to 2343 in the Red Series are available in digital format; these volumes were scanned in black and white from microfilm reels C-11103 to C-11204. The remaining Red Series and the entire Black Series will be digitized in the upcoming year and added to this database. These additions are found in *Archives Search*:

## Fields:

- ∞ **Keywords:** Enables you to search all fields alone or in combination.
- ∞ **File Number:** Enables you to find a specific file or, if wild card characters are used, several files belonging to a series.
- ∞ **Volume:** Enables you to locate an item based on the volume/box number cited in publications or elsewhere.
- ∞ **Outside Dates:** To access records with a range of dates, for example 1884-1890, it is necessary to include either the beginning year (1884) or end year (1890) that appears in the file description (they cannot be accessed by indicating any years that fall between the Outside dates).
- ∞ **Microfilm Reel Number:** Enables you to retrieve all the records on the same microfilm reel (numbers were assigned by Library and Archives Canada).
- ∞ **Descriptions with Digitized Images:** Enables you to retrieve only the records with digitized images.

## 2. Archives Search

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

The *Archives Search* database includes information from both the *General Inventory* and the *Government of Canada* files. Some of the search results include the main title, type and creator of the material, dates of creation, a description of the material and whether it is found online. Use the *Search Helps* to achieve the best results. Some examples of search terms to try are: annuity, pay lists, census, Half-Breed, Halfbreed, Non-Treaty, Treaty, Treaty 3, Treaty 9, agency or Northern Superintendency. Use these terms in conjunction with a place name, a band name. You can also restrict your search to *Online Sources*. One way to learn how items are described is to enter the term *Red Series*. There is a return over 24,000

hits but will give you some ideas of what to use as a search term(s). This search engine is useful if you have a book, article or document that refers to particular sources in Library and Archives Canada. You can also enter a microfilm number. Sometimes you will see all the documents found in that microfilm and sometimes just a few. If there is a microfilm number but there is a notation that says "open but not available" it means that there is no paper copy available. Particular references will be outlined in the regional guides which are being prepared.

### 3. Ancestors Search

This search pages searches databases that have been created within Library and Archives Canada. It can be searched by a particular name. At the bottom of the page there are links to other databases found on other sites in Canada.

#### d. Voyageurs Contracts Database

<http://voyageurs.shsb.mb.ca/search.aspx>

This database is the result of a twenty years of extracting data from reports of the archivist of the Province of Quebec and microfilms of the Protonotaire Montréal Greffes de notaires fonds. The initial database was started by Alfred Fortier, executive director of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface (1990-2002). This became the starting point for a more ambitious project undertaken by Dr. Nicole St-Onge of the University of Ottawa and Dr. Robert Englebert of the University of Saskatchewan, assistant director of the project. This project was a component of the National Research Initiative of the Métis National Council.

The Voyageur database comprises approximately 35,000 fur trade contracts signed in front of Montreal notaries between

1714 and 1830. It is currently the single largest collection of data regarding the contracts signed by men of the Montreal fur trade. The information collected from the contracts includes: family names, parishes of origin, hiring company, length of contract, destination(s), advances and wages, supplies, conditions of hire, the name of the notary, date of signing, and miscellaneous notes.

**The database is in French only.**

#### FURTHER READING

St-Onge, Nicole

*The Persistence of Travel and Trade: St. Lawrence River Valley French Engagés and the American Fur Company, 1818-1840 in Michigan Historical Review, Fall 2008*

(Available on <http://findarticles.com> )

Godbout, Suzanne. *Sur la piste du temps avec les voyageurs in Perspectives sur la recherche, Numéro d'automne, novembre 2006.*

#### e. United States Records

The fur trading area extended throughout North America. Many of the Métis families in Ontario can trace their roots as far south as St. Louis, Missouri, as well as to Detroit, Chicago, Green Bay, Prairie du Chien and Michilimackinac. Many of the records from these areas begin in the late 1700s and carry on to the present day. Early histories, census, church and vital records can be found online. Enter the names of states, dates, type of record or the name of your ancestors in Search engines and databases.

#### Beware

**Spelling of names and places can vary from one index to another**

**Databases and indexes are not sources they guide you to the original record**

## 1. General

Family History Library (FHL)

<http://familysearch.org>

The Family History Library website now has two sections. The first is a database of records that have been indexed. After you select the records for the *US and Canada* and will view the list of records that are currently available. Beware that this list is updated frequently. Then enter a name and state. The list of returns provides possible matches with names, dates and places. By clicking the little arrow on the right hand side of the entry you will learn what other information is associated with that entry including the FHL microfilm number. At the top of the page you have the option of selecting the library catalog. This will give you the opportunity to see what is included in the collection for each state. If the record is on microfilm one is able to arrange to have the film brought to the nearest Family History Center now called Family Search Center.

## 2. Individual States

### i. Illinois

Illinois State Archives

<http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/archives.html>

The Illinois State Archives web page has a section on genealogical research that outlines the major records sources. The section *Online Databases* has many choices beginning in 1793.

The Newberry Library, Cook County, Chicago

<http://www.newberry.org/>

Use the library catalog to find the titles about fur trade records. Note the titles of interest and then use Google Books to see if there are online copies one can read.

## FURTHER READING

Sinko, Peggy Tuck

*Guide to Local and Family History at the Newberry Library*

Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1987

Szucs, Loretto Dennis

*Chicago and Cook County Sources: a genealogical and historical guide*

Salt Lake City: Ancestry Publishing, 1986

### ii. Minnesota

Minnesota Historical Society

<http://www.mnhs.org>

The Minnesota Historical Society website enables one to learn about the fur trade era in Minnesota, as well as about individual traders, voyageurs and their families. Daybooks, journals, ledgers, diaries, personal narratives and notary contracts are a few of the records that make up this collection. Access these in the Manuscript Collection by entering the terms such as "fur trade families" or "fur trade records."

Since 1915 the society has published the journal *Minnesota History*. There is a very detailed online index to the journal. Individuals may be identified as voyageurs, traders or interpreters or as being involved with the fur trade. Mention is made if there is a genealogy, diary or journal as part of the article. Many places in Canada are identified, some as trading posts or as centres that were involved with people in the fur trade. From the index you are able to access and print the article.

The family history section has numerous databases to find people in the census and other records of interest.

#### FURTHER READING

*Guide to Genealogical Resources at the Minnesota Historical Society. St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2003*

Warren, Paula Stuart  
*Minnesota Genealogical Reference Guide. 6th edition. St. Paul, MN*  
Warren Researching and Publishing, 2003.

ii. Michigan  
Michigan State Archive and Libraries  
<http://www.statearchives.us/michigan.htm>

This is a family history site that provides information about genealogical records of interest for Michigan. There are links to the Michigan State Archives, Family History, and the Library of Michigan.

Detroit Public Library  
[http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton/burton\\_index.htm](http://www.detroit.lib.mi.us/burton/burton_index.htm)

The Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library began life as the private library

of Clarence Monroe Burton. Realizing that Detroit's history was inextricably connected to that of Michigan and the Old Northwest and those histories to that of Canada and New France, he assembled a collection that was one of the most important private historical collections in the county.

Over the course of 40 years, Mr. Burton systematically collected original documents and personal papers of prominent citizens of Detroit and Michigan. By 1914 the library contained 30,000 volumes, 40,000 pamphlets and 500,000 unpublished papers. Mr. Burton donated his collection, including the building it was housed in, to the Detroit Public Library in 1915. There are online guides to particular collections.

Use the library catalog to find what materials pertain to the fur trade and the fur trade families. Note titles of interest then check to see if they are available online at Google Books.





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