Manitoba

Photo: Wood Lake School, Manitoba, 1896
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
This guide is intended to point you in the direction of our major resources for Manitoba Genealogy. Please feel free to ask staff for further assistance.

**General Research Guides**

The Archives of Manitoba website provides general information about family history research in Manitoba as well as detailed descriptions of its holdings: http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/family_history/index.html

**The Central Canadians, 1600-1900; an alphabetical directory of the people, places and vital dates.**
[3 Volumes- please ask for assistance to interpret the codes following each entry] GEN 929.3713 CEN

**Fast Facts for Finding Family from Manitoba.**

**Ukrainian Genealogy: A Beginner’s Guide.**

**Databases**

**Ancestry Library Edition:** International genealogy resource with the largest online Canadian family history collection, searchable by surname. Includes many digitized records. Ancestry is only available at the Cloverdale Branch. The Library Edition matches the record set of Ancestry.com, with the exception of the historical book collection. However, the same online book collection can be found in Heritage Quest, also available at Cloverdale.

Ancestry Library Edition includes, for example:
- Canadian Census records from 1881-1911 and Prairie Provinces for 1906 & 1916.
- Canadian soldiers of World War 1 1914-1918.

**Heritage Quest:** Although Heritage Quest is best known for its US records, the online historical book collection is valuable for Manitoba residents as well. Heritage Quest also includes PERSI, an index of local history publications.

**Census Records**

**Online**
Census returns contain a variety of very useful information such as place of birth, origin, level of education, religion, etc. Many census returns for Manitoba are available online and searchable by surname. Rather than beginning with microfilm, use one of the following online databases for faster and easier results. When searching, remember that Manitoba joined Confederation in 1870. The first Canadian census covering the area that is now Manitoba was taken in 1870. Census returns for the Red River area were taken in 1831, 1835, 1838, 1846, and 1856.

- **1881:** LDS Family History website: www.familysearch.org
  - Index includes microfilm numbers, as well as household names, ages, district, sub-district and page numbers. Corresponding microfilms are available at Cloverdale.
• **1881-1921**: Ancestry Library Edition at Cloverdale
  o Includes the Prairie Provinces Censuses (Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan) of 1906 & 1916.
  o Links to full digitized records.

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• **1666-1916**: Library & Archives Canada: [http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx)
  o Information centre for all Canadian censuses and links to searchable databases.

**Microfilm**

**Finding Aids** in print will help you identify the correct microfilm for your ancestor, *if* you know the geographic location. They are arranged by province, county, sub-district and township. Use the following Finding Aids for Manitoba:

• **1921 Census:**
  This is the most recently released national Census. It is available online through Ancestry only at this time and there are no finding aids currently available. This census includes all provinces and offers information such as paternal origins, trades, and education. The census can be browsed by province, district and sub-district.

• **1916 Census:**
  This is the most recent special census released for the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There is a binder marked “1916 Census,” located on the census book shelves near the print directories, which summarizes the census districts and sub-districts by name. To find the corresponding microfilm number for a certain location, see the list in the binder of film numbers and areas covered on each reel.

• **1911 Census:**
  Three binders marked “1911 Census,” located on the census book shelves near the print directories, summarize the census districts and sub-districts by name. To find the corresponding microfilm number for a certain location, go to the Library & Archives Canada website and search the 1911 Census database by geographic location: [http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/about-census.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/about-census.aspx). Ask staff if you need assistance using the database.

• **1906 Census:**
  This is a special census for the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There is a binder marked “1906 Census,” located on the census book shelves near the print directories, which gives a detailed breakdown of the census districts and sub-districts and corresponding microfilm numbers.

• **1901 Census:**
  There are several print copies of *Catalogue of census returns on microfilm, 1901.* It is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers. GEN CIN 304.60971 NAT 1993
• 1666-1891 Census:
  There are several copies of a Finding Aid called Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1666-1891, which includes Manitoba. The Aid is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers noted for each location.

Print
Census Indexes:
Cloverdale Library has a collection of census indexes filed on the shelves adjacent to the census finding aids for the 1881, 1891 and 1901 censuses. You can find a list of these indexes at Cloverdale Library by doing a general keyword search of the library catalogue using the words “MANITOBA CENSUS.”

1918 Census of Independent Doukhobors: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta & British Columbia.
GEN CIN 929.3712 KAL 2002 (Filed with other census indexes next to the census finding aids)

Censuses of the Red River Settlement: an index to the censuses for the years 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1840 & 1843.
GEN 929.37127 MOR 1998

Surname Index to the 1870 census of Manitoba and Red River.
GEN 929.37127 JON

General Information about Census Records

Library & Archives Canada:
http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx

**Vital Records**

Birth, marriage and death records are available for Manitoba from 1882, together with some incomplete church records prior to that date. Privacy laws restrict public access to these records, as follows:

- Births – more than 100 years ago
- Marriages – more than 80 years ago
- Deaths – more than 70 years ago

Searchable Database: Manitoba Vital Statistics
http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca//Query.php

- The fee for each record is $12. If you wish Vital Statistics to perform the search, the fee is $25 per search.

Print
GEN 929.1072 KEM 2013

Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: Manitoba genealogy to find books with birth, marriage and death records for Manitoba.
**Church Records**

As with vital statistics records, churches may limit access to their parish registers on the basis of an individual’s privacy. Check the following websites for information and links on church records in Manitoba:

- Canadian Genealogy: [www.canadiangenealogy.net/manitoba/manitoba_church_records.htm](http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/manitoba/manitoba_church_records.htm)

**Microfilm**

The library has parish records for Manitoba on microfilm and microfiche which are described in Section 5 of the *Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library* in Section 5. These include Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Registers as well as Catholic and Anglican registers for various communities, including the Red River Settlement, White Mud River, Winnipeg and Portage La Prairie.

**Print**

*Checklist of parish registers, 1986 = Repertoire de registres paroissiaux, 1986.*
National Archives of Canada. Manuscript Division.
GEN 016.929371 NAT 1987
[List parish registers held by the National Archives, which are available on interlibrary loan].

*Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of the United Church of Canada.*
Committee on Archives and History, United Church of Canada (ed.) Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1996. (Section 5, page 73.)
GEN 929.371 GUI 1996

*Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register: out of Ontario, 1826-1909*
GEN 929.3714 WES 2004

**Cemetery Records**

Most cemetery records are maintained at the local level (church, town, municipal or city hall).

**Online**

*Alberta Family History Society: Manitoba Cemetery Records:* [http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regmb_cemetery_r.html](http://www.afhs.ab.ca/registry/regmb_cemetery_r.html)


*Known graves of holders of the Victoria Cross in Canada:* [www.stewart.prestel.co.uk/ggcanada.htm](http://www.stewart.prestel.co.uk/ggcanada.htm)


Print

For a general guide to cemetery research see:

Your Guide to Cemetery Research.
GEN 929.5072 CAR

### Newspapers

**Online**

- List of newspapers available on microfilm.

- Digital copies of historical newspapers


### Wills and Estate Records

Wills and estate records are a provincial responsibility. In Manitoba, estate files are transferred to the Archives of Manitoba after 20 years from rural courts and after 60 years from the Winnipeg court. Records that have not been transferred to the Archives are available at the appropriate court office. See Archives of Manitoba website for more information on probate records: [http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/probate/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/probate/index.html)

**Microfilm**

Section 8-18 of the Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library, explains how to find an application for probate in the Manitoba Application Registers for 1871-1984. The records are indexed by year and are available to view on microfilm.

**Online**


Manitoba Court Locations: [http://www.manitobacourts.mb.ca/court_locations.html](http://www.manitobacourts.mb.ca/court_locations.html)
**Passenger & Immigration Lists**

**Online**

**Ancestry Databases at the library:**
- Canadian Passenger Lists: 1865-1935 - searchable by name, port, ship, arrival/departure dates, with digital images of records
- Border Crossings from Canada to US: 1895-1956 - searchable by name, location, with digital images of records.

**Library & Archives Canada:**
Home page for information on passenger lists and links to resources for ship’s passenger lists (ocean arrivals) as well as border entries.
- Russian and East European Immigration database (LI-RA-MA) for 1898 to 1922: [http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/Pages/russian.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/Pages/russian.aspx)

**Microfilm**

Microfilms for all Canadian incoming passenger lists are available at the library. The films are organized by port of arrival and date. If neither of these is known, you can search the Canadian passenger list records or Canadian census records on Ancestry. Census records often include the year a person arrived in Canada. For details on the microfilms, see section 3-10 of the library’s guide: [Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library](https://surreylibraries.ca/). Section 3-56 lists the microfilms for the Russian and East European Immigrants from 1898 to 1922. For an online version of the Guide go to: [https://surreylibraries.ca/](https://surreylibraries.ca/) and follow the links to Services > Family history and scroll down to find Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library.

**Print**

There are also numerous books of passenger list arrivals and a variety of books on the topic of immigration to Canada. Browse the book shelves in the 929.3 area. General books about Immigration are in the 325 area.

**Doukhobor Ship Passenger Lists, 1898-1928.**
GEN 929.3088289 LAP 2001

**Border Entry Records**

**Online**


The Ancestry database also includes [Form 30 records: from 1919 to 1924](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/Pages/border-entries.aspx). During this time, the federal government required that individual forms be completed and submitted when crossing the border into Canada.

**Library & Archives Canada:**
Microfilm
The library has microfilm records of border crossings from the U.S. to Canada between 1908-1919, organized by date and port. To view a list of ports of entry for Manitoba and the corresponding film numbers, check section 3-41 in the library’s guide: Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library.

General Register of Chinese Immigration

Online
The UBC department of History recently indexed the General Register of Chinese Immigration. The following database at Library and Archives Canada includes this Register, as well as other Chinese Immigration records: http://tinyurl.com/oo67sj

Microfilm
Between 1887-1923 Chinese people wishing to immigrate were required to pay a $500.00 tax. The records of these payments provide a wealth of information about the immigrants. The microfilmed records are organized by the date immigration certificates were issued. To view these microfilms consult section 3, pages 52-53 of the library’s guide: Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library: https://surreylibraries.ca/SurreyLibraries/Services>Family history>scroll down to the Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library.

Directories

Print
The Central Canadians, 1600-1900; an alphabetized directory of people, places and vital dates. Elliott, Noel M., ed. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library. 1994. [3 Volumes- please ask for assistance to interpret the codes following each entry] GEN 929.3713 CEN

Geographical Resources

Land Records

With the acquisition of Rupert’s Land from the Hudson’s Bay Company in 1869, western lands came under federal control. In 1930, responsibility for Crown Lands was transferred to the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The federal government retained a copy of the original letters patent* issued for these lands which are indexed in the Western Land Grants database at Library & Archives Canada: http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-grants-western-canada-1870-1930/Pages/land-grants-western-canada.aspx

*Letters patent grant or confirm title to a portion of land.

The actual homestead applications and files relating to the grants were transferred to the Archives of Manitoba. Microfilms may be ordered through inter-library loan: http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/microfilm/recs_gov.html These records are found within the Department of Natural Resources.

Subsequent transfers of title are recorded in the district Land Titles Offices: http://www.tprmb.ca/tpr/
Sales of agricultural land by the **Canadian Pacific Railway** to settlers in Manitoba, 1881-1927, can be searched at:  http://www.glenbow.org/lasearch/cpr.htm look for “CPR Land Sales” as you scroll down.

**Microfiche**

**Manitoba Land Index 1870-1930** is available at Cloverdale Library on microfiche. See section 6-16 of the **Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library** for more information. The fiche is organized by surname or corporate name and is an index of administrative records related to Dominion lands that were made available for settlement through homestead entry. Since records from this index are also duplicated in Library & Archives Canada’s **Western Land Grants** database, search there first:

If you find an entry on the microfiche index, but not in the online database, copy the information from the fiche and contact the **Archives of Manitoba**:

Archives of Manitoba  
130-200 Vaughan Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5  
E-mail: archives@gov.mb.ca  

**Print:**

**Researching Canadian Land Records.**  
GEN 929.1072 MUR

**Back to the Land: A Genealogical Guide to Finding Farms on the Canadian Prairies.**  
Obee, Dave (2nd ed.) Victoria: Published by Dave Obee, 2003.  
GEN 929.3712 OBE 2003

**Place Names**

**Online:**
**Manitoba GenWeb: Land Locations:** www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canmb/mblindocations.html

**Print:**

**Gazetteer of Canada: Manitoba (3rd ed.)**  
GEN 917.127 GAZ 1981

**Atlases & Maps:**

Cloverdale Library has a large collection of historical atlases and maps which are filed on the map stand in the Genealogy Department. Also check the non-fiction section on the main floor which has many maps and atlases.

**Manitoba Historical Atlas: a selection of facsimile maps, plans and sketches from 1612 to 1969.**  
GEN ATL 911.7127 MAN 1970
Hudson’s Bay Company Records

The Hudson’s Bay Company was active in the development of the western provinces since its establishment in 1670. These records can be useful to research early genealogy. Many types of records exist including contracts, personal accounts, pension records, estate records and census information on some First Nations peoples.

Online
There is an easy to use guide to the HBC records at:

Microfilm
The library has three Hudson’s Bay Company record indexes on microfilm, that act as detailed finding aids to what’s available at the Hudson Bay Archives in Manitoba. Many of these records can be ordered by interlibrary loan. See section 10 of the Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to Materials at Cloverdale for more information.

Print:
Biographical resources at the Hudson's Bay Company archives, vol. 1.
GEN 929.371 BRI 1996

GEN 971.201 NEW

Handbook for reading & interpreting old documents: with samples from the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives.
GEN 929.1072 BRI 1992

The Most Respectable Place in the Territory; Everyday Life in Hudson’s Company Service York Factory, 1788 to 1870.
GEN 971.2701 pay 1988

Biographical Resources

Online
Our Roots: http://www.ourroots.ca/
  • Search digital library for Canadian biographies

Print
Search the library catalogue under the subject: Manitoba Biography for a list of books. Check the indexes for the surnames of people you are looking for. Some of the books in the collection are:

A bibliography of the Prairie Provinces to 1953: with biographical index.
GEN 971.2 PEE 1973
Dictionary of Canadian biography.
GEN 920 DIC

Local Histories

Online
Google Books:  http://books.google.ca/bkshp?hl=en&tab=wp
- Search by place name for access to digital books

Our Roots:  http://www.ourroots.ca/
- Search digital copies of books for Canadian local histories

Print
The library has many local histories for towns in Manitoba. To see if the library has a history of a particular town or area, look in the library catalogue using “Subject browse” and terms: Place Name – History. For example, to locate a history of Brandon, type Brandon (Man.) – History:

Brandon: A Prospect of a City.
Hume, Mary (ed.) Brandon, Man: City of Brandon, 1981.
GEN 971.273 BRA 1981

Métis Land Records & First Nations

Census Records
Census records may be a good starting point as “racial origins” are often noted on the census, as well as household members, place of birth and birthdates. Determining the geographical location could also lead you to a band name.

Cloverdale Library owns microfilm number T-6554 covering the 1901 Native census returns for a number of provinces, including Manitoba. The Berens River Indian Agency is enumerated on this microfilm.

See page 7-1 of Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library for more information on how to search census records for First Nations information.

Métis Land Claims

Métis or Half –Breed Scrip: Land Records, Half-breeds & Original White Settlers 1870-1920
“Scrip” refers to a system used by the Canadian government beginning in 1870, of issuing certificates for land claims made by mixed-race people and original white settlers, for property released from the Hudson’s Bay Company’s jurisdiction in the West.

The Department of the Interior records (RG-15) offer considerable family history information. Notably women can be searched by maiden name as extensive cross-referencing is provided. See the Métis Land Claims in section 7 of the library’s Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library.

Online
Glenbow Archives:  http://www.glenbow.org/collections/archives/genealogy/
- Information about Métis genealogical resources.
- Detailed information about Métis people and the records, as well as access to an online database with over 15,000 digitized images.

Manitoba Métis Federation: [http://www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca)
- Information and links for genealogy sources

Microfilm
Section 7 of the library’s [Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca) describes the microfilms that we have at Cloverdale for Métis scrip records. Films that we do not have can be ordered from Library & Archives Canada through interlibrary loan. Ask the information desk staff for assistance.

Print
Listed below are a few of the books you can find by doing a general keyword search of the library’s catalogue using the terms: Métis Genealogy:

**Discover your Métis Ancestry: a beginner’s guide.**
GEN 929.108997071 ROB 2008

**Manitoba Scrip, 2nd edition**
Morin, Gail. Baltimore, Maryland, 2015

**Northwest Half-Breed Script- 1885.**
GEN 929.37127 MOR 1997

**Métis Families: A Genealogical Compendium.**
GEN 929.37127 MOR 2001

GEN 929.37127 GAG 2000

**The Genealogy of the first Métis nation: The Development and Dispersal of the Red River settlement 1820-1900.**
GEN 929.37127 SPR 1983

**First Nations:**

Online
**Indian & Northern Affairs Canada: Manitoba Regional Office:** [https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020394/1100100020398](https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100020394/1100100020398)

**Manitoba First Nations Education Centre:** [http://mfnerc.org/](http://mfnerc.org/)
Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for: Indigenous peoples Manitoba. Following is one of the books you will find in our collection:

**Tracing your Aboriginal ancestors in the Prairie Provinces: A guide to the records and how to use them.**
929-10720712 TRA 2006

**Military Records**

For an alphabetical listing of Canadian participants in the South African War or Boer War, check the library shelves for this book:

**Index to Canadian Service Records of the South African War (1899-1902) held at the National Archives of Canada.** Ottawa: British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, 1999.
GEN 929.371 IND 1999

See Section 9 of the library’s Canadian Family Resources Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library which describes Canadian military records on microfilm available at the library.

**Online**

- Search the Books of Remembrance for names of Canadians who fought and died in the wars

Soldiers of the First World War: [http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/020152_e.html)
- Digital images of war diaries of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, searchable by unit name and date


Canadian Virtual War Memorial: [http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/](http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/)

Royal Canadian Armored Corps Battle Honors: [http://regimentalrogue.com/battlehonours/rcac.htm](http://regimentalrogue.com/battlehonours/rcac.htm)

Other Internet Resources for Manitoba

About Manitoba Genealogy & Family History:  
http://genealogy.about.com/cs/manitobagenealogy/

Canadian Genealogy & History- Manitoba:  

City of Winnipeg Archives:  
http://www.winnipeg.ca/clerks/toc/archives.stm

Doukhobor Genealogy Links:  
http://www.doukhobor.org/links.html

Manitoba Genealogical Society:  
http://www.mbgenealogy.com/

Genealogy Links: Manitoba:  
http://www.genealogylinks.net/canada/manitoba/index.html

Manitoba GenWeb:  
http://mb.canadagenweb.org/

Provincial Archives of Manitoba:  

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness - Manitoba:  
http://www.raogk.org/manitoba.htm

Ukraine Genealogy:  
www.infoukes.com/genealogy

Western Manitoba Genealogy Project:  
http://www.westmanitoba.com/

Manitoba Archives Researchers for Hire  