

*A Guide to Researching Genealogy  
At the Cloverdale Library*

*Updated August 2014*

# Prince Edward Island



PARO Acc. 2689/128

**Along The Line: Photographs of the P.E.I. Railway**

*Murray Harbour Station, circa 1905 (Elliot Lumsden, Photographer)*

*Used with permission from Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island*

This guide is intended to point you in the direction of our major resources for Prince Edward Island genealogy. Please feel free to ask staff for further assistance.

## **General Research Guides**

**The Atlantic Canadians, 1600-1900; an alphabetical directory of the people, places and vital dates.** Edited by Noel Montgomery Elliott. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library. 1994. *[3 Volumes- please ask for assistance to interpret the codes following each entry]*  
GEN 929.3715 ATL

### Online

- The Public Archives and Records Office of PEI offer a database called the **Prince Edward Island Petition Index**. It is a searchable database of documents regarding government petitions or “memorials.” The petitions found in this database date from 1780 to 1915. It is searchable by name. <http://www.gov.pe.ca/archives/petitions/>

## **Databases**

**Ancestry Library:** International genealogy resource with the largest online Canadian family history collection, searchable by surname. Includes many digitized full records. Ancestry is only available at the Cloverdale Branch. This version 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.

A list of resources within Ancestry, relevant to PEI can be found by conducting a search by location:

- 1) Click on the Search Tab
- 2) Under “Browse by Location” click on “Canada”
- 3) Choose Prince Edward Island

Ancestry includes, for example:

**Canadian Census records for PEI - 1861, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921**  
**Prince Edward Island Baptism Index 1788-1943**

**Heritage Quest:** Although Heritage Quest is best known for its US records, the online historical book collection is valuable for PEI residents as well. Heritage Quest also includes PERSI, an index of local history publications. There are multiple books regarding the history of PEI found in Heritage Quest.

## **Census Records**

When searching for census records, remember that Prince Edward Island joined Confederation in 1873. Therefore, the nominal census returns (naming all members of the family) are available for the years 1861, and 1881-1921. There were head of household and agricultural census returns taken in 1841 and 1861.

### Online

Census returns contain a variety of very useful information such as place of birth, origin, level of education, religion, etc. Prior to viewing the census on microfilm, the use of the following online databases may speed up a search.

### **Searchable Online Databases:**

- Automated Genealogy: <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/index.html> for 1901 & 1911
- Canadian Genealogy Centre: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html>
- **Ancestry.com Library Edition** at the Cloverdale Library:  
<http://www.surreylibraries.ca/programs-services/4818.aspx> Ancestry provides access to indexes and some original images for a large number of Canadian, and also international census records.

### **Follow these steps to locate PEI census records on microfilm:**

**Finding Aids** will help you find the microfilm you want if you know the geographic location for your ancestor. They are arranged by province, county, sub-district and township. We have the following **Finding Aids** related to PEI:

- **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.
- **1911 Census:**  
We have three binders, marked “1911 Census” located on the census book shelves near the print directories that summarize the census districts and sub-districts by name.  
  
To find the microfilm number for a specific location, go to Library & Archives Canada website and search the 1911 Census database by geographic location:  
<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/archivianet/1911/index-e.html>. Ask staff if you need help using the database.
- **1901 Census:**  
There are several copies of **Catalogue of census returns on microfilm, 1901** GEN CIN 304.60971 NAT 1993 which is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers. There is also a Finding Aid binder with information on districts and sub-districts, also with microfilm numbers.
- **1666-1891 Census Returns:**  
There are several copies of this Finding Aid called **Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1666-1891**. It is organized by province and district with relevant microfilm numbers. Pre-confederation census records for 1841 and 1861 can be found on the films M-896 to M-900.

## **Historical Census**

The PEI Public Archives and Records Office also has on-line search capabilities for the 1841, 1881, 1891, and 1901 census at the following site  
<http://www.gov.pe.ca/cc/census>

## **Additional Census Resources**

### **Researching Canadian Census Records.**

Bourrie, Doris. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 1998.

GEN 929.1072 BOU 1998

**Prince Edward Island “strays in the 1891 census”. Vol 1: Individuals living on Prince Edward Island in 1891 who were born elsewhere in North America or at sea.** Compiled by Glen, William M. Charlottetown, PEI: Prince Edward Island Genealogy Society, 1997.

GEN 929.3717 PRI 1997.

Other “strays” for PEI can be found for 1881, 1891, and 1901.

## **Vital Records**

PEI vital records are released to the public as follows:

- **Birth** 120 years after the date of the event
- **Marriage** 75 years after the date of the event
- **Stillbirth or Death** 50 years after the date of the event.

If your vital records query falls out of this category, you can contact the Vital Statistics Division at the address below:

Department of Health & Social Services

Vital Statistics Division

126 Douses Road, Box 3000,

MONTAGUE, PE C0A 1R0

Telephone: (902) 838-0880

Toll Free: (877) 320-1253

Fax: (902) 838-0883

### Online

**The PEI Public Archives and Records Office** has more information about how to find vital records, and what records are available at;

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/archives/index.php3?number=1019767&lang=E>

**Family search** ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) has the following databases to search for older vital records;

PEI Baptism Card Index 1721-1885 searchable by name

Browsing feature available for:

PEI Death Card Index 1721-1905

PEI Marriage registers 1832-1888

PEI Church records 1777-1985

### Microfilm

#### **Prince Edward Island Department of Health Records: Baptisms Prior to 1886.**

This is a set of microfilmed index cards that recorded the following information; name of child, date of birth, place and parish of baptism, parents' names, and the clergyman officiating.

The index cards are arranged alphabetically from A-Z on 19 unnumbered microfilms. These films are kept in the bottom drawer of the small cabinet holding newer microfilms.

#### **Fabian Index – Quebec Region – H1048-1092**

Cards for marriages of some Acadians in PEI as well as other events taken from the journal Saguenayensis Review.

### Print

The following book contains forms for requesting certificates.

#### **International Vital Records Handbook**

Kemp, Thomas Jay. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2009.

929.1 KEM 2009

Other helpful books may be found in the area of 929.3715:

#### **An Index of Irish Immigrants based on obituaries and death notices in Prince Edward Island newspapers, 1835-1910.**

Gallant, Peter. Charlottetown: Prince Edward Genealogical Society, 1990.

929.3715 IND 1990

## **Church Records**

Apart from national church archives, church records are generally found at the local level, in individual churches or parishes. As with vital statistics records, churches may limit access to their parish registers on the basis of an individual's privacy. Check the following sources for information and links on church records in Prince Edward Island:

### Online

#### **Family Search**

<https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1937794>

PEI Church records 1777-1985 (browse feature)

#### **Listing of church records held by the Provincial Archives:**

<http://www.islandregister.com/churchrecords.html>

#### **Canadian Genealogy**

[http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/princeedward/prince\\_edward\\_church\\_records.htm](http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/princeedward/prince_edward_church_records.htm)

### Print

To find titles in print, try a keyword search of the library catalogue for: **Prince Edward Island genealogy** for a list of all the resources including church records.

**The Early History of the Catholic Church in Prince Edward Island.**

MacMillan, John C. Campbellville: Global Heritage Press, 2007.

282.717 MAC 2007

**The Arrival of the First Scottish Catholic Emigrants in Prince Edward Island and after (1722-1922).** Campbellville: Global Heritage Press, 2005.

282.717 ARR 2005

## **Cemetery Records**

Most cemetery records are maintained at the local level (church, town, municipal or city hall). An ancestor who died away from home was often buried in a cemetery near where he or she died. Many rural cemeteries are no longer in use so you should try contacting the closest church of the same denomination to inquire about missing records.

### Online

The government of Prince Edward Island – Island information:

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/infopei/index.php3?number=751&lang=E>

### Print

**Prince County, Prince Edward Island: Index of Monumental Inscriptions.** Charlottetown, PEI: Prince Edward Island Genealogy Society, 1998.

929.5097171 PRI 1998

**Who Departed This Life: a History of the Old Protestant Burying Ground, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.**

Wright, George. Charlottetown: Acorn Press, 2005.

971.7502 WRI

## **Newspapers**

### Online

Island Newspapers

<http://islandarchives.ca/inewspapers>

### **PEI Newspaper repositories**

<http://www.islandregister.com/repositories.html>

### **Newspapers in PEI**

<http://www.afewthings.ca/mediape.html>

## Wills and Estate Records

Wills and estate records are a provincial responsibility. Most probate records are found in provincial court records.

### Online

#### **Prince Edward Island Wills Database:**

<http://www.islandregister.com/wills/willdata.html>

#### **PEI Public Archives and Records Office Court Records**

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/archives/index.php3?number=1019769&lang=E>

Information about estates, executors or beneficiaries are found posted in the local newspapers. It's a good idea to check local historical papers for at least one week AFTER the date of death of the individual you are seeking.

### Print

#### **Researching Canadian Wills and Estates**

MacCarl, Ronnie. Toronto: Heritage Productions, 1998  
929.1072 MAC 1998

## 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
- Canadian Immigration Records: 1790-1906 - Transcriptions of records searchable by name.
- Border Crossings from Canada to US: 1895-1956 – searchable by location, and name, with digital images of records.

Note – port of entry for PEI is Charlottetown.

### Print

There are also numerous books of passenger list arrivals. Most of these cover east coast arrivals. Browse the shelves in 929.3.

#### **The arrival of the first Scottish Catholic immigrants.**

Campbellville. Ont: Global Heritage Press, 2005  
282.717 ARR 2005

#### **An Index of English Immigrants (with a few other North American immigrants) based on obituaries and death notices in Prince Edward Island newspapers, 1835-1910: and an index of English immigrants based on cemetery transcriptions.**

Gallant, Peter. Charlottetown. PEI: Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society, 1990.  
929.3715 IND 1990.

## **Ships and Seafarers**

### **Ship Records**

#### Database

The Maritime Provinces are historically renowned for the ship industry. This resource includes records as early as 1787 through to 1936. Records such as voyages, crew lists, vessel registry file (including vessels registered in Bermuda!), masters and owners of said vessels, as well as a ports file of over 33,000 ports visited by Canadian registered vessels. You can access this data from workstation WS7334, by clicking on the “ships and seafarers” icon.

## **Naturalization Records**

#### Microfilm:

See Section 4 of the **Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library** for a description of naturalization records available on microfilm. Only immigrants who were born outside of Canada, Great Britain or the Commonwealth were required to become naturalized.

#### Online:

##### **Library and Archives Canada:**

- General information about citizenship records:  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-908.011-e.html>
- Upper Canada & CanadaWest Naturalization Registers: 1828-1850  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization/index-e.html>
- Canadian Naturalization: 1915-1932  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html>

## **Border Entry Records**

#### Online

Ancestry Library Edition includes **Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935** that covers border entries into Prince Edward Island.

##### **Library & Archives Canada:**

- General information about Border Entry records  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-908.005-e.html>.

#### 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 Prince Edward Island and the corresponding film numbers, check section 3-43 in the library’s guide: **Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at the Cloverdale Library**.



## Directories

Check online at:

<http://www.islandregister.com/directories.html>

**McAlpine's Maritime Provinces Directory: 1870-1871**

<http://www.ourroots.ca/e/toc.aspx?id=1278>

## Geographical Sources

### Gazetteers:

Check our bookshelves in GEN 917.17 for a Gazetteer of Prince Edward Island.

### Atlases & Maps:

Check the atlas stand for a binder of miscellaneous maps from various provinces including P.E.I.

### Land Records:

The P.E.I Archives holds the records for crown land grants, applications for homesteads and purchases of crown lands. The records can be searched for you but copies will only be issued for legal or court purposes.

Check the P.E.I Land Record Database regarding government and non- government land records:  
[Prince Edward Island Land Record Database](#)

GEN 929.1072 MUR

**Researching Canadian Land Records.** By Sharon L. Murphy. Toronto: Heritage Productions. 2001.

## Local Histories

The library has a few local histories for P.E.I. towns.

For example:

**971.7 ARS 1989**

**The Island Acadians: 1720-1980.** By Georges Arsenault. Charlottetown, PEI: Ragweed Press, 1989.

Check out the other histories in the section **971.7** in the genealogy section.

## Biographical Resources

Online

**Our Roots:** <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

- Search digital library for Canadian biographies

### Print

Do a general keyword search of the library catalogue for **Prince Edward Island 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:

#### **Dictionary of Canadian biography.**

Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1966.  
GEN 920 DIC

#### **Twenty-first-century Irvings.**

Sawler, Harvey. Halifax: Nimbus Pub, 2007.  
BIOG 338.09227151 IRV

## **First nations and Métis Nation**

### **First Nations**

#### Print

#### **Records of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs at the National Archives of Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research.**

Russell, Bill.  
Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998.  
929.1089 RUS 1998

#### Online

First Nations genealogy can be challenging, whether for interest about personal roots, or for the purpose of obtaining status. A good place to begin might be the research guides available at Library and Archives Canada and other governmental agencies, as well as Aboriginal websites for Prince Edward Island.

**Aboriginal Canada: First Nations Directory Atlantic**

<http://www.johnco.com/firstnation/dirfnpei.htm>

**Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada: Atlantic Region**

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100016942/1100100016946>

**Library and Archives Canada: Canadian Genealogy Centre – Aboriginal Research**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-607.002.01.01-e.html>

**Mi'kmaw Bands in Prince Edward Island**

<http://www.cbu.ca/mrc/pecouncils>

**Mi'kmaq Bands in Prince Edward Island**

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

**Using census records to find aboriginal ancestry:**

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.

Indexes for the census of 1881 allow you to search by “ethnic origin” which is one way to help establish First Nations ancestry:

- **1881** Index at the Library and Archives Canada site:  
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/001049-100.01-e.php> [use the term “Indian” beside “Origin”]

Cloverdale Library owns microfilm number T-6554 covering the 1901 Native census returns for a number of provinces. See page 11-1 of **Canadian Genealogical Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library** for more information on how to search census records.

#### Print

#### **Records of the Federal Department of Indian Affairs at the National Archives of Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research.**

Russell, Bill.

Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998.

929.1089 RUS 1998

### **Métis Nation**

#### Online

#### **Métis National Council Historic Online Database**

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

#### Print

Listed below are a few of the books you can find by doing a subject search of the library’s catalogue using the terms: METIS – GENEALOGY:

#### **Discover your Métis Ancestry: a beginner’s guide.**

Roberts, John. Toronto: Ontario Genealogical Society, 2008.

929.108997071 ORB 2008

#### **Métis Families: A Genealogical Compendium.**

Morin, Gail. Pawtucket, R.I.: Quinton Publications, 2001.

929.37127 MOR 2001

## **Military Records**

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

929.371 IND 1999

**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.

Other titles to check:

971.024 LOY 1983

**The Loyal Americans: the military role of the Loyalist Provincial Corps and their settlement in British North America, 1775-1784.** By Robert S.Allen. Ottawa, Canada: National Museum of Man: National Museums of Canada, 1983.

Online:

Search the veteran affairs **Books of Remembrance** for names of Canadians who fought in wars and died either during or after them:

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/books>

**Soldiers of the First World War:**

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/first-world-war-1914-1918-cef/Pages/canadian-expeditionary-force.aspx>

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission:**

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

**Canadian Virtual War Memorial:**

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

**Canadian Military Heritage Project:**

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~canmil/>

## **Newsletters**

**Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society Newsletter**

This periodical provides invaluable family history information about PEI, informative articles about how to research in certain areas, some cemetery transcriptions and other pertinent information.

It is available in the periodical section at Cloverdale Library.

## **Internet**

**The Island Register:** [The Island Register - P.E.I. \(Prince Edward Island\) Genealogy](#) is an important website devoted to Prince Edward Island genealogical sources and information. The Island Register site includes a number of online databases and indexes. The site includes an incredible set of guides and online help for researchers.

**PEI records in the holdings of the LDS Family History Centre**

<http://www.islandregister.com/fhc/fhcindex.html>

**The Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes:** <http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/gim/> Is a non-profit organization organized in 1983 to encourage and promote the professionalism of genealogists through a certification and registration program

**University of Prince Edward Island:** <http://www.upei.ca/~library/> The Robertson Library at the University of Prince Edward Island houses various special collections, including the Prince Edward Island Collection.

**Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society:** [Prince Edward Island Genealogical Society](http://www.pei-genealogy.com/)

Note: Genealogical Society volunteers have transcribed the entire 1891 and 1901 censuses and have developed databases, and printed volumes for each Lot, which contain complete census information. The indexes are owned by the P.E.I. Genealogical Society and are provided online for research purposes only at: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/cca/census>

**Prince Edward Island Data Base Projects by Rootsweb**

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mvreid/pei/peidbidx.html>

**PEI Museum and Heritage Foundation**

<http://www.peimuseum.com/index.php3?number=1043035&lang=E>

Legislative documents online have biographies of PEI MLA's from 1873-1993.

Public archives and records office have online exhibits for various PEI historic events or periods. Also has references for further archival study.

## **CD-Rom Collection**

- **Drouin Dictionnaire:** National des Canadiens Francais 1608-1760.
- **PRDH** (Le Programme de recherche en démographie historique)  
(The Research Program in Historical Demography): Baptismal, marriage & burial certificates in Catholic parishes pre-1800.
- **Roman Catholic Marriage Records for Counties:** Argenteuil (1839-1960); Arthabaska (1840-1925); Brome (1851-1941); Compton (1858-1944).
- **The Tanguay Collection:** – listings of French Canadian Families in the 1870s.