A Guide to Researching Genealogy
At the Cloverdale Library

Updated June 2017

Saskatchewan

Photo: Eatonia, Sask., Railway Station, Pre-1940
Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
This guide is intended to point you in the direction of major resources for Saskatchewan Genealogy. Please feel free to ask staff for further assistance.

General Research Guides

Print

GEN 929.1072 TRA 2006

The Western 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 WES 1994

People places: Saskatchewan and its names.
Barry, Bill. Regina: Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina, 1997.
GEN 917.124 BAR 1997

Changes of Name: The Saskatchewan Gazette 1917-1950.
GEN 929.37124 HAN 1993

Online

Saskatchewan Archives Board:  http://www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/family-history-research
  •  Guide to exploring family history in Saskatchewan

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.

A list of resources within Ancestry, relevant to Saskatchewan can be found by conducting a search by location:
  1)  Click TWICE on the Search Tab
  2)  Under “Explore by Location” choose Saskatchewan

Ancestry includes, for example:

Canadian Census records from 1881-1921 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 Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan 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 Saskatchewan joined Confederation in 1905; prior to that it was part of the Northwest Territories. The first Canadian census covering the area that is now Saskatchewan was taken in 1881.

- **1881**: LDS Family History website: [www.familysearch.org](http://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 Library
  - Includes the Prairie Provinces Censuses (Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan) of 1906 & 1916.
  - 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)
  - 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 Saskatchewan:

- **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. This census is fully indexed can be searched by surname and browsed geographically.

- **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/1911.aspx](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/Pages/1911.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 copies of *Catalogue of census returns on microfilm, 1901*
  which 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 Saskatchewan as part of the Territories for 1881 and 1891. 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, including Saskatchewan/Northwest Territories. You can find a list of
these indexes at Cloverdale Library by doing a general keyword search of the library catalogue using the
words “SASKATCHEWAN 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)

**General Information about Census Records**

**Vital Records**

Civil registration in Saskatchewan began in 1878 for marriages and in 1888 for births and deaths, although few records
exist prior to 1895. Privacy laws restrict public access to these records, as follows:

- **Births:** after 100 years have passed since the event
- **Marriages:** after 75 years
- **Deaths:** after 70 years

Immediate family may bypass privacy restrictions by applying for a copy of a birth, marriage or death registration directly
to the Information Services Corp. of Saskatchewan, Vital Statistics Registry at:
https://www.ehealthsask.ca/Pages/default.aspx

Remember to request a photocopy of the *registration* document as this carries the most information.

**Searchable database:**
http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx
  - Search by name for births of more than 100 years ago and deaths prior to 1917. Death records will be updated as
    they become available.
  - Marriage records will be made available after the death records have been completed.

**Print**

**International Vital Records Handbook.**
[This volume contains forms for requesting certificates].
GEN 929.1 KEM 2013

**Births, deaths, marriages from Regina newspapers.**
GEN 929.37124 BIR
Church Records

As with vital statistics records, churches may limit access to their parish registers on the basis of an individual’s privacy. Go to Saskatchewan Archives website: http://www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/family-history-research/church-records for contact information for church archives and general information about locating church records.

Microfilm
Cloverdale Library has a few Western Canadian Parish Records on microfilm. They are listed in the library’s guide, Canadian Family History Resources, under Parish and Vital Records on page 5-88.

Print
[List parish registers held by the National Archives, which are available on interlibrary loan].
GEN 016.929371 NAT 1987

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

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

Cemetery Records

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

Online
  • Church and cemetery transcriptions for Saskatchewan

City of Saskatoon: Woodlawn Cemetery:
http://www.saskatoon.ca/DEPARTMENTS/Infrastructure%20Services/Parks/Woodlawn%20Cemetery/Alphabetical%20Listings/Pages/Alphabetical%20Listings.aspx

Mary’s Genealogy Treasures: www.telusplanet.net/public/mtoll/sask.htm
  • Links to cemeteries and transcriptions of records for Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Genealogy Society:
  • Searchable list of cemeteries and dates of burials at each cemetery
  • Contact SGS for individual burials

Saskatchewan Mennonite Cemetery Finding Aid: http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~skmhss/

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.

Online Newspapers: http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/canadasa.htm


Wills and Estate Records

Saskatchewan’s jurisdiction began with Confederation in 1906. Probate records created before 1958 are in the Surrogate Court nearest to the residence of the deceased: http://www.sasklawcourts.ca/index.php/home/court-of-queen-s-bench/wills-and-estates Since 1958, wills can be probated at any one of the judicial centres in the province. Probated wills are also filed with the Surrogate Registrar at the Regina Court House:

Registrar of Courts
Wills and Estates Registry
Local Registrar’s Office
Court House
2425 Victoria Avenue
Regina, SK S4P 4W6
Phone: (306) 787-5223
Fax: (306) 787-7217

Print
Researching Canadian Wills & Estates.
GEN 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 - searchable by name. Transcriptions of records.
• Border Crossings from Canada to US: 1895-1956 - searchable by name, location, with digital images of records.

Library & Archives Canada: http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/Pages/introduction.aspx
• Home page for information on passenger lists and links to resources for ship’s passenger lists (ocean arrivals) as well as border entries.

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. For an online version of the Guide go to: www.surreylibraries.ca and follow the links to Services >Family History > Canadian Family History Resources.
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**
Ancestry Library Edition includes *Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935* that covers border entries into Saskatchewan at various locations along the US border. Ancestry also has *Border Crossings from Canada to the U.S., 1895-1956*.

The Ancestry database also includes *Form 30* records: from 1919 to 1924. During this time, the federal government required that individual forms be completed and submitted when crossing the border into 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 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](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 3-52 to 3-54 of the library’s guide:
Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library:
www.surreylibraries.ca >Services>Family History>Canadian Family History Resources.

**Directories**

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

GEN 917.124 WRI
Geographical Resources

Land Records

With the acquisition of Rupert’s Land 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 patents issued for these lands which are indexed in the Western Land Grants database at Library & Archives Canada. The actual homestead applications and files relating to the grants were transferred to the provincial archives.

Land titles: Local government records are often incomplete and the only source of information may be the Land Titles Office of the Information Services Corp. of Saskatchewan (ISC). The land titles registry is a chronological filing of documents relating to a particular piece of land and therefore the documents for that piece of land are not necessarily filed together. See the ISC website for access to digitized documents: (you must create an account first) https://www.isc.ca/LandTitles/FindTitle/Pages/default.aspx

Homestead Records: Search the Saskatchewan Homestead Index (1872-1930) by name or by land location: www.saskhomesteads.com/ Includes those who bought or sold North West Métis or South African scrip or received soldier grants after World War One. Microfilm copies of the files are held at the Regina office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board:

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1665, Regina, SK, S4P 3C6

Street address:
3303 Hillsdale Street, Regina SK
Phone: 306-787-4068
Fax: 306-787-1197
Email: info.regina@archives.gov.sk.ca

The microfilms are also available at Family History Centres of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Examples of the forms that you might find in a homestead file are shown at: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~skwheat/homestead/homestead-forms.html

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

- Database of records of agricultural land sales by Canadian Pacific Railway to settlers in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan from 1881-1927.
- Searchable by name and location.

- Search Letters Patent records by name or location.
- These records contain only the name of the grantee, description of the land and the date granted.
- More detailed files are held at the Regina office of the Saskatchewan Archives Board: www.saskarchives.com

Print:
Researching Canadian Land Records.
GEN 929.1072 MUR

Obee, Dave (ed.) Victoria: Published by Dave Obee, 2001.
GEN 929.3712 OBE 2001
Place Names

Online:
The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan: Place Names: esask.uregina.ca/entry/place_names.html

Print:

Atlases & Maps:
Online:

Print:
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.

Hudson’s Bay Company Indexes

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 Saskatchewan 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 on the Internet at: http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/resource/filmlist.html

Microfilm
Cloverdale 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.

Print
Biographical resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives, Vol. 1.

Empire of the Bay: An Illustrated History of the Hudson’s Bay Company.
Newman, Peter Charles. Markham, Ontario: Viking, 1989. GEN 971.201 NEW

Biographical Resources

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

Print
Search the library catalogue under the subject: SASKATCHEWAN – 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.
Peel, Bruce Braden. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1973. GEN 971.2 PEE 1973

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 Saskatchewan. To see if the library has a history of a particular town or area, look in the library catalogue using “Subject browse” and terms: Saskatchewan – History. For example, a search using the terms: Schools – Saskatchewan – History calls up the following book:

Called to a Place: the story of Guernsey and surrounding school districts.
GEN 971.242 SNI 1980

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 Saskatchewan. The Indian Agencies enumerated on this microfilm include: Touchwood Agency (Wishart, Fishing Lake, Nut Lake); Moose Mountain Agency (Percy, Carlisle); Crooked Lake Agency (Broadview).

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 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.

Saskatchewan Archives –Métis and First nation resources
http://www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/family-history-research/first-nations-and-metis-records
Microfilm
Section 7 of the library’s Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library describes the microfilms that we have at Cloverdale for Métis scrip records. Ask the information desk staff for assistance.

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.
GEN 929.108997071 ROB 2008

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

GEN 929.37127 SPR 1983

First Nations

Online
Indian Tribes of Saskatchewan: www.nanations.com/canada/saka.htm
  • Links to websites and contact information

Native American Tribes of Saskatchewan: www.native-languages.org/saskatchewan.htm

Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre: www.sicc.sk.ca/

Print
Search the library catalogue under subject: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES – PRAIRIE PROVINCES or INDIGENOUS PEOPLES -SASKATCHEWAN. Following is one of the books you will find in our collection:

The people: a Historical guide to the First Nations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.
Ward, Donald B. Saskatoon: Fifth House, 1995.
GEN 971.200497 WAR 1995

Military Records

Print
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.
GEN 929.371 IND 1999
Microfilm
See Section 9 of the library’s Canadian Family History Resources: A Guide to the Materials Held at Cloverdale Library which describes Canadian military records on microfilm available at the library.

Online
Veterans Affairs Canada: http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=collections/books
Search the Books of Remembrance for names of Canadians who fought and died in the wars

Soldiers of the First World War: http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/Pages/introduction.aspx Digital images of war diaries of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, searchable by unit name and date


Commonwealth War Graves Commission: http://www.cwgc.org/

Canadian Virtual War Memorial: http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca/

Royal Canadian Armored Corps Battle Honors: http://regimentalrogue.com/battlehonours/rcac.htm

Canadian Military Heritage Project: http://www.rootsweb.com/~canmil/

Other Internet Resources for Saskatchewan


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

Genealogy Links: Saskatchewan: www.genealogylinks.net/canada/saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Archives Board: http://www.saskarchives.com

Saskatchewan Gen Web: http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/
  • Doukhobor genealogy: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cansk/Saskatchewan/ethnic/doukhobor-saskatchewan.html

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society: http://www.saskgenealogy.com/

Ukraine Genealogy: www.infoukes.com/genealogy