This outline describes major sources of information about families from Manitoba. As you read this outline, study the Canada Research Outline (34545), which will help you understand terminology and the contents and uses of genealogical records.

RECORDS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

The Family History Library has many of the records described in this outline. Some of the sources described in this outline list the Family History Library's book, microfilm, microfiche, and computer numbers. These are preceded by FHL, the abbreviation for Family History Library. You can use these numbers to locate materials in the library and to order microfilm and microfiche at Family History Centers.

You can use the computer number if you have access to the Family History Library Catalog on computer. The “Computer Number Search” is the fastest way to find a source in the catalog.
RESEARCH STRATEGY

When researching in this province, begin by checking the following records in the order suggested:

1. Vital records
2. Church records
3. Census returns
4. Land records
5. Probate-Court records

ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

Archives and libraries that may be useful include:

- National Archives of Canada

  395 Wellington Street
  Ottawa ON CANADA K1A 0N3
  CANADA
  Telephone: 613-996-7458

- Personnel Records Unit

  Researcher Services Division
  National Archives of Canada
  395 Wellington Street
  Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3
  CANADA

- Crown Lands Registry

  Department of Natural Resources
  1495 St. James Street
  Winnipeg, MB K3H 0W9
  CANADA

- The Registrar

  Land Titles Office
  405 Broadway Avenue
  Winnipeg, MB R3C 3L6
  CANADA
• Attorney General’s Department
210 Woodsworth Building
405 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3L6
CANADA

• Provincial Archives of Manitoba
200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5
CANADA
Telephone: 204-945-3971, 204-945-4233
Fax: 204-948-2008

• Legislative Library of Manitoba
200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5 5AN 318-8965
CANADA
Telephone: 204-945-4330
Fax: 204-948-2008

• Manitoba Council of Archives
P.O. Box 27007
Lombard Concourse
One Lombard Place
Winnipeg, MB R3B 3K1
CANADA

• Rupert’s Land Research Centre
University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9
CANADA

• Court of Queen’s Bench
Main Floor, 408 York Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P9
CANADA
Telephone: 204-945-0344

• Hudson’s Bay Company Archives
200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 1T5
CANADA
Telephone: 204-945-4949
Fax: 204-948-2008
Hudson’s Bay Company Archive’s records are held at the Provincial Archives.

- City of Winnipeg Archives

380 William Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3A 0J1
CANADA
Telephone: 204-986-3060, 204-986-4391

- Vital Statistics

Consumer and Corporate Affairs
254 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B6
CANADA

- Vital Statistics

Manitoba Community Services
104 - 401 York Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0P8
CANADA

- Family History Library

35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA
Most microfilms available at the library can also be distributed to local Family History Centers. A current list of Family History Centers in your area can be obtained from the Family History Library.

**Computer Networks and Bulletin Boards**

Computers with modems can be useful tools for obtaining information from selected archives and libraries. In a way, computer networks themselves serve as a library. The Internet, certain computer bulletin boards, and commercial on-line services help family history researchers:

- Locate other researchers.
- Post queries.
- Send and receive E-mail.
- Search large databases.
- Search computer libraries.
- Join in computer chat and lecture sessions.

You can find computerized research tips and information about ancestors from Manitoba in a variety of sources at local, state, national, and international levels. The list of sources is growing rapidly. Most of the information is available at no cost.
Addresses on the Internet change frequently. As of September 1997, the following sites are important gateways linking you to many more network and bulletin board sites:

- Canada GenWeb
  http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwgw/
  A cooperative effort by many volunteers to list genealogical databases, libraries, bulletin boards, and other resources available on the Internet for each county and province.

- Canadian Genealogy Resources
  http://genealogy.about.com/hobbies/genealogy/msubcanada.htm
  Lists county, provincial, and national sources; personal pages; and publications.

- Roots-L
  A useful list of sites and resources. Includes a large, regularly updated research coordination list.

CENSUS

The pre-1870 censuses of Manitoba (Red River Settlement) list the heads of households and some other information such as, age, religion, country of birth, married or widowed, number of sons and daughters, and agricultural data (for example, the number of livestock, the number of buildings, and the number of acres under cultivation). Almost all of these censuses were taken by the Hudson’s Bay Company. The Hudson’s Bay Company Archives has censuses for the years 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1838, 1840, and 1843, and these are indexed. A microfilm copy for the first two hundred years of this company, 1670–1870, is on deposit at the National Archives of Canada and at the Family History Library.

The Provincial Archives of Manitoba has censuses for the years 1832, 1833, 1838, 1840, 1843, 1846–1847, 1849, and 1856 (incomplete). These censuses are available on microfilm at the National Archives of Canada, the Family History Library, or at local Family History Centers.

The first census with names of each member of the household of Manitoba was taken in 1870. It includes names, ages, places of birth, religion, and citizenship. There is a surname index to this census. Censuses for Manitoba with names of each member of the household were also taken in 1881, 1891, and 1901.

These censuses are available on microfilm at the National Archives of Canada, the Family History Library, Family History Centers, and at many provincial archives and larger public libraries.

The 1885 and 1886 provincial censuses as well as the Canadian censuses from 1901 to the present are not available to the public, although catalogs and finding aids may be available.
Church records should be consulted for birth, death, or marriage information prior to 1882. Civil registration of vital statistics was not generally practiced in Canada until provincial governments took responsibility in the late nineteenth century. The first parish was founded at Red River in 1818 by two Catholic priests. The Church of England (Anglican) began in the same area in 1820. The Methodists were established at Rossville in 1840, and the Presbyterians first arrived in Assiniboin in 1851. Many religious groups such as Baptists, Lutherans, and Mennonites were established in the 1870s as a result of the arrival of large numbers of Germanic and Slavic immigrants. The Congregationalists, Methodists, and some of the Presbyterians were combined in 1925 to form the United Church of Canada.

A few Church of England, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and United Church of Canada registers are available on microfilm at the Provincial Archives. The Church of England registers are indexed to 1900. For a complete list of Church of England, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian registers held by the Provincial Archives see “Genealogical Sources in the Province of Manitoba,” *Genealogical Journal* 8:98.

Copies of various parish registers and other church records may be found in the National Archives of Canada and at the Family History Library.

Many records prior to 1884 as well as most records since then are still located in various parishes and congregations. For more information on the location and availability of these church records, contact Vital Statistics Consumer and Corporate Affairs or contact the appropriate denomination.

**Anglican**

**Diocese of Rupert’s Land**  
935 Nesbitt Bay  
Winnipeg, MB R3T 1W6  
CANADA  
Telephone: 204-453-6130

**Roman Catholic**

**Archdiocese of Winnipeg**  
50 Stafford Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 2V7  
CANADA  
Archdiocese of St. Boniface  
151 Avenue de la Cathédrale  
St. Boniface, MB R2H 0H6  
CANADA
Presbyterian
Archives of the Presbyterian Church
Knox College
59 St. George Street
Toronto, ON M5S 2E6
CANADA

Lutheran
Central Canada Synod
211-2281 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3J 0M1
CANADA

Baptist
Baptist Federation of Canada
91 Queen Street
Box 1298
Brantford, ON N3T 5T6
CANADA

United Church of Canada Archives
Manitoba Conference
University of Winnipeg
515 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9
CANADA
Telephone: 204-783-0708

Orthodox
Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Church
9 St. John’s Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 1G8
CANADA
Telephone: 204-582-8709

Mennonite
Mennonite Heritage Centre
600 Shaftsbury Blvd.
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4
CANADA
Telephone: 204-888-6781

Jewish
Jewish Historical Society
# 404-365 Hargrave Street
Winnipeg MB R3B 2K3
CANADA
Telephone 204-942-4822
Fax 204-942-9299
COLLECTIONS

The Provincial Archives has a large collection of notes, journals, land deeds, and other records of the late 1800s settlers of the province. Published genealogies and family histories, letters, and papers on many Manitoba families can also be found there.

Another collection of published sources useful to genealogists is found at the National Library of Canada, in Ottawa (Ontario). Copies of city directories, local histories, newspapers, and periodicals published by historical and genealogical societies may be available through interinstitutional loan.

DIRECTORIES

Early directories can be useful in locating individuals, tracing their moves, and providing the location of legal descriptions of lands owned by settlers. For Winnipeg, the directories run from 1876 to the present. There are directories for other areas of the province for the period from about 1880 to the present. These are all available at the Provincial Archives.

Many Manitoba directories up to and including 1900 are available on microfiche:

*Pre-1900 Canadian Directories.* Ottawa, Ont.: Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions, 1988. (On 4219 FHL fiche beginning with 6360453. These fiche do not circulate to Family History Centers.)

EMMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

Ships’s lists prior to 1803 are rare. In 1817, the British government required captains to keep passenger lists. Those which have been found from 1817 to 1831 are found in the colonial office and are indexed. Many helpful works and published articles from periodicals can be found in the Provincial and National Archives, and in local libraries and archives.

Records of the Immigration Branch of the Dominion Government, 1873–1953, are available on microfilm at the Provincial Archives. Unfortunately, most are not indexed.

These records include files on agents, passenger manifests, and records of steamship companies. There is a list of the available individual case files.

**Canadian Border Crossing Records**

The United States kept records of people crossing the border from Canada to the United States. These records are called border crossing lists, passenger lists, or manifests. There are two kinds of manifests:
- Manifests of people sailing from Canada to the United States.
- Manifests of people traveling by train from Canada to the United States.

In 1895, Canadian shipping companies agreed to make manifests of passengers traveling to the United States. The Canadian government allowed U.S. immigration officials to inspect those passengers while they were still in Canada. The U.S. immigration officials also inspected train passengers traveling from Canada to the United States. The U.S. officials worked at Canadian seaports and major cities like Québec and Winnipeg. The manifests from every seaport and emigration station in Canada were sent to St. Albans, Vermont.

The Family History Library has copies of both kinds of manifests. Because the manifests were sent to St. Albans, Vermont, most are grouped under *St. Albans District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory*. Despite the name, the manifests are actually from seaports and railroad stations all over Canada and the northern United States, not just Vermont.

**Border Crossing Manifests.** Manifests may include information about name, port or station of entry, date, age, literacy, last residence, previous visits to the United States, and birthplace. The manifests are reproduced in two series:

- *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895-January 1921*. (608 rolls; FHL films 1561087–499; computer number 423848.) Includes records from seaports and railroad stations all over Canada and the northern United States. These manifests provide two types of lists:
  - Traditional passenger lists on U.S. immigration forms.
  - Monthly lists of passengers crossing the border on trains. These lists are divided by month. In each month, the records are grouped by railroad station. (The stations are listed in alphabetical order.) Under the station, the passengers are grouped by railroad company.

- *Manifests of Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific Ports, 1929-1949*. (25 rolls; FHL films 1549387–411; computer number 423848.) These list travelers to the United States from Canadian Pacific seaports only.

**Border Crossing Indexes.** In many cases, index cards were the only records kept of the crossings. These cards are indexed in four publications:

- *Soundex Index to Canadian Border Entries through the St. Albans, Vermont, District, 1895–1924*. (400 rolls; FHL films 1472801–3201; computer number 423848.)

The Soundex is a surname index based on the way a name sounds rather than how it is spelled. Names like Smith and Smyth are filed together.

- *Soundex Index to Entries into the St. Albans, Vermont, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1924–1952*. (98 rolls; FHL films 1570714–811; computer number 423848.)
The records are arranged first by port and then alphabetically by surname. Only from Vermont ports of entry: Alburg, Beecher Falls, Canaan, Highgate Springs, Island Pond, Norton, Richford, St. Albans, and Swanton.


### GENEALOGY

A recent index to many published atlases, biographies, census records (1851–1881), directories, family histories, genealogies, immigration lists, land records, local histories, Loyalist listings, marriage records, native races, naturalizations, and slavery records is:


### HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1670</td>
<td>The Hudson’s Bay Company was given the territory which is now Manitoba.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1682</td>
<td>Fur trade began with the founding of York Factory at the mouths of the Nelson and Hayes Rivers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1738</td>
<td>La Vérendrye established Fort Rouge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1809</td>
<td>Fort Gibraltar was built by the North West Company on today’s site of Winnipeg.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Scottish settlers sponsored by Lord Selkirk settled along the banks of the Red River near Fort Gibraltar.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1813</td>
<td>Fort Douglas was built on the Red River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Seven Oaks massacre of settlers occurred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>The settlement of Manitoba practically ceased for the next fifty years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>The North West and Hudson’s Bay companies were united.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1821</td>
<td>The building of Fort Garry was begun.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Rupert’s Land was bought from the Hudson’s Bay Company and organized into the Northwest Territories. The problems over the terms of this transfer caused the Red River Rebellion under Louis Riel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>The Province of Manitoba was formed, comprising only the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
vicinity of Winnipeg.

1873 Winnipeg was incorporated as a city.

1877 The University of Manitoba was founded.

1881 The original province was enlarged, comprising the southern portion of today’s Manitoba.

1885 Northwest Rebellion occurred.

1886 Canadian Pacific Railway’s main line reached Manitoba.

1912 The Province of Manitoba was enlarged to its present boundaries.

In the late 1800s and the early 1900s, Manitoba’s population grew due to the flood of settlers from Ontario, the British Isles, the Ukraine, Germany, Iceland, and other countries.

**LAND AND PROPERTY**

Land grants in Manitoba prior to 1870 were basically under the control of the Hudson’s Bay Company. These early land records are found in the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives at the Provincial Archives. They cover the years 1811–1833 (Land Register “A”) and about 1830–1871 (Land Register “B”). Some land registration and sales volumes for the years 1823–1862 also exist.

In 1870, jurisdiction over Crown lands was transferred from the Hudson’s Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada. The land was surveyed and sold to homesteaders by the Dominion government until 1930. In that year jurisdiction over land transactions was given to the provincial governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta.

All land transactions following the initial Crown grants from 1871 to 1885 were registered under the “old system.” This system did not provide the titles to property, but only recorded the transactions. In 1885, the Torrens system was adopted. The Torrens system provided the land titles themselves as well as a registry of transactions.

Homestead records are found in the Provincial Archives.

Microfilmed records of land grants prior to 1930 are available through the Crown Lands Registry in Winnipeg.

You may also search original township registers, fiats, and supporting documentation at the Provincial Archives for records of land grants. Subsequent land transfers are registered in the seven local Land Titles Offices throughout the province. For their addresses contact the Registrar at Land Titles Office in Winnipeg (see the ”Archives and Libraries” section of this outline).

To obtain access to land records in Manitoba it is necessary to know the exact legal description of the land. There are three sources that can help in determining this description:
MILITARY RECORDS

Manitoba never really had a militia, nor did it have the need for contingents of the British army to remain on a regular basis. For these reasons, not many military records exist. A few muster rolls, pay lists, and enlistment records for the period 1815–1877 are located at the National Archives of Canada.

Indexes to military records of major conflicts, rebellions and wars can be accessed through the Genealogy Unit of the National Archives (see the “Archives and Libraries” section for the address and telephone number). Copies of specific documentation may be obtained by written request to the Personnel Records Unit, Researcher Services Division of the National Archives of Canada.

World War I (1914-1918)

Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) service records are available through the Personnel Records Unit of the National Archives of Canada (see the “Archives and Libraries” section of this outline for the address). These service records contain detailed information from enlistment to demobilization (discharge). Information may include each person's date and place of birth, address at time of enlistment, name and address of next of kin, marital status, occupation, personal description (eye and hair color, height, weight, distinctive marks or scars), and religion. When requesting information from the Personnel Records Unit, please include the person's name, rank, and regiment (where known).

MUNICIPAL RECORDS

Original and microfilmed copies of municipal records are being gathered by the Provincial Archives. These records should be searched first before approaching the local municipal offices, though the majority of the records still remain within the custody of the local offices. The minutes of the Council of Assiniboia, 1832–1869, are located in several different archives in Manitoba. Records for the city of Winnipeg are held at the City of Winnipeg Archives.

The tax records and assessment rolls are the municipal records of greatest genealogical value. They may contain information on the family members and an indication of the financial position of the family.
Until 1947, British immigrants from England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland automatically became citizens of Canada. They did not need naturalization. Non-British immigrants, however, were required to make oaths of allegiance before receiving land grants. Files containing these oaths and petitions for citizenship covering the years 1817 to 1846 are found at the Provincial Archives.

Records created after 1917 are more detailed than earlier records and are found at:

**Department of Citizenship and Immigration**
Public Rights Administration
300 Slater Street, 3rd floor, section D
Ottawa, ON K1A 1L1
CANADA
Telephone: 888-242-2100 (in Canada only; outside of Canada, write to the above address)

**NEWSPAPERS**

A large collection of provincial newspapers is available at the Legislative Library of Manitoba, located in the same building as the Provincial Archives. The collection includes papers from the major cities of the province.

**PERIODICALS**

Many local periodicals are indexed in:

*[PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)](Ft. Wayne, Ind.: Allen County Public Library Foundation, 1987–). (FHL book 973 D25per; 1847–1985 on fiche 6016863 [set of 40]; 1986–1990 on fiche 6016864 [set of 15]; computer number 658308.) Indexes thousands of family history periodicals. Annual indexes have been published yearly since 1986. For further details, see the PERiodical Source Index Resource Guide (34119).*

**PROBATE RECORDS**

Between 1871 and 1982 wills and probate records were kept only at the Surrogate Registrar’s Office in the courthouse of each judicial district. Since 1982, the following wills and probate records are being transferred to the Provincial Archives:

- Wills and probate records over 20 years old from courthouses outside the city of Winnipeg.
• Wills and probate records over 60 years old from the Eastern Judicial District in Winnipeg.

A central alphabetical index, arranged by year, is maintained at the Winnipeg court office. To have the index searched, you must provide the name of the deceased and the date of death. In 1984 all indexes, wills, and probate files for the period 1882 to 1930 began to be microfilmed for use at the Provincial Archives.

A few wills for the period 1830–1870 can be found in the “private papers” collections of the Provincial Archives. Wills for some of the officers and servants of the Hudson’s Bay Company, 1763–1921 are available on microfilm at the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives, Provincial Archives, and National Archives of Canada. There is an alphabetical index to these wills.

Court records prior to 1870 are small in number. They are located at the Provincial Archives and at the local courts. Post-1870 records are located at the local courthouses. The five judicial districts of Manitoba are as follows:

• Northern District (The Pas)
• Eastern District (Winnipeg and Saint Boniface)
• Western District (Brandon)
• Central District (Portage la Prairie)
• Dauphin District (Dauphin)

For help finding local courthouse records, contact the Court of Queen’s Bench in Winnipeg, or contact the Provincial Archives.

For further information on Manitoba courts contact the Attorney General’s Department in Winnipeg:

Attorney General’s Department
210 Woodsworth Building
405 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3L6
Canada

SCHOOLS

The Provincial Archives has microfilm copies of half yearly attendance returns for the period 1915 to 1965 and is acquiring original or microfilm copies of daily attendance registers, ledgers, cash books, etc. Some early private school records are also held by the Provincial Archives. Records of the Universities of Manitoba, Winnipeg, and Brandon are kept by their respective institutional archives.
The following societies may have useful genealogical information for Manitoba:

- **Saint-Boniface Historical Society**
  
  200 avenue de la Cathédrale  
  P.O. Box 125  
  St. Boniface, MB R2H 3B4  
  CANADA  
  Telephone: 204-233-4888  
  Fax: 231-2562

- **The Société Franco-Manitobaine**
  
  383 Provencher Blvd. Ste. 212  
  Saint-Boniface, MB R2H 0G9  
  CANADA  
  Telephone: 204-233-2556  
  Fax: 204-233-1017

- **Manitoba Genealogical Society**
  
  885 Notre Dame Ave.  
  P.O. Box 2066  
  Winnipeg, MB R3E 0M4  
  CANADA  
  Telephone: 204-944-1153

- **Manitoba Historical Society**
  
  407-167 Lombard Ave.  
  Winnipeg, MB R3B 0T6  
  CANADA  
  Telephone: 204-947-0559  
  Fax: 204-943-1093

- **Mennonite Historical Society of Canada**
  
  Box 720  
  Altona, MB R0G 0B0  
  CANADA  
  Telephone: 204-324-5018  
  Fax: 204-324-1601
VITAL RECORDS

Civil registration of births, deaths, and marriages began in 1882 in Manitoba. Because many individuals in the early years of registration did not comply, the records are somewhat incomplete up to around 1920. Copies of these records are available, with some restrictions, from Vital Statistics, Manitoba Community Services (see the “Archives and Library” section for the address).

All requests must be submitted on forms available from the Manitoba Community Services.

Between 1920 and 1983, divorce records were kept at the King’s Bench court offices of the province. Since 1983, all divorce records over 25 years old from each of the offices outside Winnipeg or 40 years old in the Winnipeg Eastern Judicial District are being transferred to the Provincial Archives. These records are indexed.

FOR FURTHER READING


*Manitoba Pageant,* Winnipeg, Manitoba: Manitoba Historical Society, no. 74, 1979. (FHL book 971.27 H25m.)


**COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The Family History Library welcomes additions and corrections that will improve future editions of this outline. Please send your suggestions to:

Publications Coordination
Family History Library
35 N. West Temple Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84150-3400
USA

We appreciate the archivists, librarians, and others who have reviewed this outline and shared helpful information.