

# Saskatchewan

## Research Outline

### Table of Contents

Records Of The Family History Library  
Research Strategy  
Archives And Libraries  
Cemeteries  
Census  
Church Records  
Court Records  
Directories  
Emigration And Immigration  
Genealogy  
History  
Land And Property  
Military Records  
Municipal Records  
Naturalization And Citizenship  
Newspapers  
Periodicals  
Probate Records  
Schools  
Societies  
Vital Records  
For Further Reading  
Comments And Suggestions

This outline describes major sources of information about families from Saskatchewan. 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

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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

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

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

## ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES

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The Saskatchewan Archives Board has two locations.

- For southern locations:

Saskatchewan Archives Board, Regina Office  
University of Regina  
Regina, SK S7N 0W0  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-787-4066, 306-787-4068, or  
306-664-5832  
Fax: 306-787-1975

- For northern locations:

Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Office  
Murray Memorial Building  
University of Saskatchewan, 3 Campus Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5A4  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-933-5832  
Fax: 306-933-7305

Other archives and libraries that may be useful include:

- National Archives of Canada

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

- Personnel Records Unit

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

- Registrar of Estates and Wills, Regina Courthouse

2425 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-787-5382

- Statistics Canada

R.H. Coats Bldg., Tunney's Pasture  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0T6  
CANADA  
Telephone: 1-800-263-1136  
Fax: 1-800-363-7629

- 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 its Family History Centers. A current list of Family History Centers in your area can be obtained from the Family History Library.

- Association of Canadian Archivists

Box 2596, Stn. D  
Ottawa, ON K1P 5W6  
CANADA  
Telephone: 613-443-0251  
Fax: 613-443-0261

### **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 Saskatchewan 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.cam.org/~beaur/gen/cdgenweb.html>

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://www.iosphere.net/~jholwell/cangene/gene.html>

Lists county, provincial, and national sources; personal pages; and publications.

- Roots-L

<http://www.rootsweb.com/roots-l/canada.html>

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

## CEMETERIES

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There are many listings of the cemetery records compiled by the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society published in its magazine *Bulletin*. Most of these listings are indexed.

## CENSUS

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The first census was taken in 1881 when Saskatchewan was still a part of the Northwest Territories. These records were taken again in 1891 and 1901. Only the 1881 census is available at the National Archives of Canada and on microfilm at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. A special National Canadian War Registration Census was taken in 1940 during World War II (see the "Military Records" section of this outline).

## CHURCH RECORDS

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Local churches and regional and national church archives may have the following types of records: minutes of meetings, correspondence, records of church-affiliated organizations, and records of baptisms, marriages, and burials.

The Saskatchewan Archives Board is the repository for the following church records: Diocese of Qu'Appelle Archives (Anglican), Diocese of Saskatoon Archives (Anglican), Saskatchewan Conference of the United Church of Canada (which includes the Congregational Methodist Church

and part of the Presbyterian churches which were combined in 1925), and microfilm copies of some other church records. Access to baptismal, marriage and death records is subject to permission of the donors.

Listed below are addresses for some of the major denominations in Saskatchewan.

### **Anglican**

The Archivist, Trevor J. D. Powell  
Diocese of Qu'Appelle Archives  
1501 College Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 1B8  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-787-4066  
Fax: 306-787-1975

Mr. Douglas Bocking  
Diocese of Saskatoon Archives  
P.O. Box 1965  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3S5  
CANADA

Diocese of Saskatchewan Archives  
P.O. Box 1088  
2030 - 2nd Avenue West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5S6  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-763-2455  
Fax: 306-764-5172

### **Baptist**

Canadian Baptist Archives  
McMaster Divinity College  
Hamilton, ON L8S 4K1  
CANADA

### **Catholic**

Regina Archdiocese  
2522 Retallack Street  
Regina, SK S4T 2L3  
CANADA

Gravelbourg Diocese  
Suppressed to Regina and Saskatchewan Diocese

Prince Albert Diocese  
1415 - 4th Avenue West  
Prince Albert, SK S6V 5H1  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-763-2778

Saskatoon Diocese  
106 - 5th Avenue North  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 2N7  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-242-7831

### **Lutheran**

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada—  
Saskatchewan Synod  
707-601 Spadina Crescent East  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G8  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-244-2474

Manitoba-Saskatchewan District  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
1927 Grant Drive  
Regina, SK S4S 4V6  
CANADA

Archives of the Central Canada Synod Lutheran Church in America  
c/o Lutheran Theological Seminary  
114 Seminary Crescent  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X3  
CANADA

### **Mennonite**

Centre for Mennonite Brethren  
Studies in Canada  
169 Riverton Avenue Ste. 3  
Winnipeg, MB R2L 2E5  
CANADA  
Telephone: 204-669-6575

Mennonite Heritage Centre Archives  
600 Shaftesbury Boulevard  
Winnipeg, MB R3P 0M4  
CANADA  
Telephone: 204-888-6781

**Presbyterian**

Clerk of the Synod of Saskatchewan  
Presbyterian Church in Canada  
c/o First Presbyterian Church  
2127 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2V1  
CANADA

**Ukrainian Greek Catholic**

Saskatoon Diocese  
Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church  
866 Saskatchewan Crescent East  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0L4  
CANADA

**Ukrainian Greek Orthodox**

Consistory of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada  
9 St. Johns Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R2W 1G8  
CANADA  
Telephone: 204-586-3093

**United Church of Canada**

Saskatchewan Conference  
United Church of Canada  
St. Andrew's College Library  
1121 College Drive  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W3  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-966-8983

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the National Archives of Canada have some microfilm copies of original parish registers and transcripts, many of which are indexed.

**COURT RECORDS**

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The fifteen judicial courthouses in Saskatchewan are located at the following places: Assiniboia, Battleford, Estevan, Humboldt, Kerrobert, Melfort, Melville, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, Weyburn, Wynyard, and Yorkton. Current records are available through these courthouses.

Most court records prior to 1931 are under the jurisdiction of the Saskatchewan Archives Board. You should direct inquiries for early records to the archives. You may also send inquiries to the Registrar of Estates and Wills, Regina Courthouse (see the "Archives and Libraries" section for addresses). Court records are filed by court of jurisdiction. They are sequentially numbered for each year and then indexed under the name of the plaintiff and the name of the defendant.

## DIRECTORIES

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Henderson's city and business directories date back to 1885. The Regina office has a large collection of telephone directories back to 1905.

Many Saskatchewan 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.)

## EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

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### 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 each passenger's name, port or station of entry, date of entry, 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.) Travel 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.)
- *St. Albans District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory: Records of Arrivals through Small Ports in Vermont, 1895-1924.* (6 rolls; FHL films 1430987-92.) 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.
- *Detroit District Manifest Records of Aliens Arriving from Foreign Contiguous Territory: Arrivals at Detroit, Michigan, 1906-1954.* (117 rolls; FHL films 1490449-565; computer number 432703.) Only from Michigan ports of entry: Bay City, Detroit, Port Huron, and Sault Ste. Marie.

## GENEALOGY

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A recent index to many published biographies, census records (1881-1891), directories (to 1913), genealogies, local histories, and vital records in newspapers is:

Elliot, Noel Montgomery, ed. *The Western Canadians, 1600-1900: An Alphabetized Directory of the People, Places, and Vital Dates.* 3 vols. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994. (FHL book 971 D22w.) Indexes about 300,000 names from various sources for the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Yukon (also includes Alaska). Sources are listed at the end of each volume.

## HISTORY

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This information can help you determine significant culture, ecclesiastical, and political events in the history of Saskatchewan. Changes in geographical boundaries and ownership of land are especially important in determining where to search for the records of your ancestors.

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| 1670 | Today's Saskatchewan was a part of the territory given to the Hudson's Bay Company. The early history of this province was linked closely to the fur trade. |
| 1774 | Cumberland House, the first trading post, is established by the Hudson's Bay  |

	Company.
1821	North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company are united.
1870	Rupert's Land bought from the Hudson's Bay Company and organized into the Northwest Territories.
1875	The territories are organized under the government.
1882	The southern region of the Northwest Territories was divided into four districts; two were named Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. They covered the southern half of today's Saskatchewan.
1882	North West Mounted Police headquartered at Regina.
1885	Northwest Rebellion outbreak.
1885	The Canadian Pacific Railroad was completed. Many immigrants began to settle in southern Saskatchewan.
1899	More than seven thousand Doukhobors from the Crimea immigrated into southern Saskatchewan.
1905	The Province of Saskatchewan was formed.
1907	University of Saskatchewan is founded in Saskatoon.

## LAND AND PROPERTY

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Records of land grants to homesteaders provide the names of all homesteaders in the province and incidental information such as the number of children and dates of land entry. A name index to entries prior to 1930 has been compiled. This index is available at the Saskatchewan Provincial Archives, Saskatoon Office. Microfilm copies are also available at the Regina Office and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. (See the "Archives and Libraries" section for addresses.)

For access to land grants since 1930, it is necessary to know the legal description of the land. For further information, contact the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Office. A microfilm copy of the main documents for the homestead records is available at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Regina Office and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The original records are at the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Office.

Historical abstracts and copies of land records and patents for grants are available from the land titles offices. All correspondence should be directed to the registrar at the land title office in the appropriate location: Battleford, Humboldt, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon, Swift Current, and Yorkton.

## MILITARY RECORDS

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### World War I (1914-1918) and World War II (1939- 1945)

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).

The Saskatchewan Archives Board has lists of Saskatchewan volunteers and reservists (1914-1915), the nominal rolls of battalions of the Canadian Expeditionary Force and a list of soldiers from Saskatchewan who died in World War II.

A special National Canadian War Register Census was taken in 1940 during World War II. It is available from Statistics Canada, in Ottawa (see the "Archives and Libraries" section of this outline.) Requests for copies of specific records may be sent to the Personnel Records Unit, Researcher Service Division of the National Archives of Canada.

## **MUNICIPAL RECORDS**

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Local municipal records include council minutes, correspondence, assessment and tax rolls, bylaws, and financial statements. For local records, contact the municipal office. In some cases local municipal records have been deposited with the Saskatchewan Archives Board. Early records of the Department of Municipal Affairs are in the Saskatchewan Archives Board, Saskatoon Office. They include municipal corporation files, which in turn may include the original petition for establishment, inspection files, financial statements for municipalities, and community planning branch records.

## **NATURALIZATION AND CITIZENSHIP**

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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**

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The Saskatchewan Archives Board has weekly newspapers dating from 1878, and their collection is complete from 1943. These newspapers may contain information concerning births, marriages, and deaths. For events occurring prior to 1888, they may be the only source of information. The archives have a selective index to obituaries (1930-1965).

The Saskatchewan Genealogical Society has an extensive index to birth, marriage and death notices from provincial newspapers. The society is also developing an obituary index. Other old newspapers can be found in Saskatchewan Provincial or Legislative Libraries, or in local archives. Many of these are also indexed.

## PERIODICALS

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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

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There is no central repository for probate records in Saskatchewan. The province is divided into fifteen judicial districts (see the "Court Records" section of this outline). Original wills and records of estates are filed with the clerk of the court of the judicial district, from whom certified copies may be obtained. A central index of all grants made in wills is filed with the Registrar of Estates and Wills, Regina Courthouse (see the "Archives and Libraries" section for the address).

## SCHOOLS

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The Saskatchewan Archives Board has many published local histories and microfilm copies of approximately one thousand school district histories compiled in 1955, which often contain biographical sketches of local pioneers and lists of settlers, school teachers, clergy, and others. In addition, the archives have replies to questionnaires which were circulated to Saskatchewan pioneers. Many of these include family information and accounts of pioneering efforts.

## SOCIETIES

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Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Library  
P.O. Box 1894  
1870 Lorne Street, 2nd Floor, Room 201  
Regina, SK S4P 2L7  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-780-9207  
Fax: 306-781-6021

Saskatchewan History and Folklore Society  
P.O. Box 1238  
1860 Lorne Street

Regina, SK S4P 2L7  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-780-9204  
Fax: 306-781-6021

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia  
Regina and District Chapter  
P.O. Box 188  
Pilot Butte, SK S0G 3Z0  
CANADA

Museums Association of Saskatchewan  
1808 Smith Street  
Regina, SK S4P 2N3  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-780-9279  
Fax: 306-359-6758

## VITAL RECORDS

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Some births, marriages, and deaths were registered as early as 1878. Since 1920 there has been complete registration of births, marriages, deaths, and divorces. There is a complete index for these records. These records and indexes are available at the locations listed below:

Division of Vital Statistics  
Department of Health  
T. C. Douglas Building  
3475 Albert Street  
Regina, SK S4S 6X6  
CANADA  
Telephone: 306-787-3168

Vital Statistics Unit  
Department of Health  
1919 Rose Street  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7  
CANADA

There is a fee for obtaining vital records. The Division of Vital Statistics can give you the exact cost.

## FOR FURTHER READING

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Archer, J. H. *Saskatchewan; A History*. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1980.

Black, Norman F. *History of Saskatchewan and the Old North West*. 2nd ed. Regina: North West Historical, 1913. (FHL film 1697656 item 7.)

Bracken, Susan, ed. *Canadian Almanac & Directory 1984*. Toronto: Copp Clark Pitman Ltd., 1984. (FHL book 971 E4ca.)

The Canadiana Company Limited, a subsidiary of The Grolier Society of Canada Limited. *Encyclopedia Canadiana*. Ottawa, 1957. (FHL book 030.71 En19.)

*Guide des Sources Historiques des Francophones aux Archives de la Saskatchewan*. Reference Series No. 1, Regina: Les Archives de la Saskatchewan, 1983. (FHL book 971.24 F23g.)

Hande, D'Arcy. *Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan*. Reference Series No. 2, Regina and Saskatoon: Saskatchewan Archives Board, 1983. (FHL book 971.24 H27e 1985.)

Hawkes, John. *The Story of Saskatchewan and Its People*. Chicago: S. J. Carke Publishing Co., 1924. (FHL films 0172190-0172191.)

Jonasson, Eric. *The Canadian Genealogical Handbook*. 2nd ed. Winnipeg: Wheatfield Press, 1978. (FHL book 971 D27j.)

Turner, A. R. "Sources of Genealogists in Saskatchewan Archives." *Families*. Waterloo, Ontario: Ontario Genealogical Society, 1971-. Vol. 10, no. 1 (Winter 1971). (FHL book 971.3 B2f.)

The United Church of Canada. *Yearbook 1984*. Toronto: 1984. (FHL book 971 K25y.)

*Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*. 12th ed. Ottawa, Ontario: National Archives of Canada, 1997. (FHL book 971 D27k.)

*1996 Corpus Almanac & Canadian Sourcebook*. Don Mills, Ontario: Mary Mancini, 1996. (FHL book 971 B5c 1996.)

*Family History News—the Newsletter for Genealogical and Historical Researchers*. Oshawa, Ontario: Parr's Publishing, 1995-. (FHL book 971 D25f.)

## COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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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.