

∞ Métis Genealogical Resources ∞

This guide is intended for newcomers to the field of Métis genealogical research. So as not to overwhelm budding genealogists, we've tried to include only the most helpful and commonly used resources, but please keep in mind that there is a LOT more out there than appears on this list. Please consult library staff for additional assistance in finding genealogical resources not listed here.

All items, unless marked by a box, are available at the Gabriel Dumont Institute Library in Regina or on the Internet. LAST UPDATED AUGUST, 2014.

Bibliographies and General Guides to Conducting Genealogical Research

Devine, Heather. *The People Who Own Themselves: Aboriginal Ethnogenesis in a Canadian Family, 1660-1900*. Calgary: U of Calgary P., 2004.

CALL NUMBER: 971. 004 97 D23 P28

SUMMARY: Although the main text of this book focuses on the history and genealogy of the Desjarlais family, the appendices (pages 211-237) and the bibliography of primary sources (p. 297-301) should be required reading for anyone conducting genealogical research on Métis ancestors. Devine does a good job of introducing the sources available to researchers tracing their Métis ancestors. She also discusses the reliability of various sources, as well as the importance of consulting primary sources to get the most trustworthy information possible.

Fleury, Rose, with Ron Jobin and Tammy Vallee. *Métis Genealogy : Finding your Roots, a How-To Book*. Saskatoon , SK : Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2010.

CALL NUMBER: (REF) 929. 107 207 12 F46 M23

SUMMARY: Provides a Métis-specific introduction to genealogical research, helpful tips on getting started, and includes reproducible worksheets for keeping track of your research.

Hanowski, Laura M., ed. *Tracing Your Aboriginal Ancestors in the Prairie Provinces: A Guide to the Records and How to Use Them*. Regina, SK: Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, 2006.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 107 207 12 T69 T69

SUMMARY: This is an indispensable guide for individuals who are new to genealogical research, or for those who have exhausted the avenues already known to them and are in need of new places to look. Hanowski leads the reader through the basics of genealogical research and then introduces the specific resources available to the individual who is tracing his/her First Nations or Métis ancestry. Clearly written and very thorough, Chapter 10 is

particularly relevant for Métis people and Chapter 1 is an excellent introduction for individuals conducting genealogical research for the first time. (You may also be interested in consulting Hanowski's *Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors*. Call Number: REF 929. 107 207 124 T69 T69)

Métis. Genealogy and Family History. 2011. Library and Archives Canada. 21 Aug. 2014

<<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-905.004-e.html>>.

SUMMARY: This site provides a brief overview of sources available for researching Métis genealogy, including a link to the Metis Scrip Records database where some scrip applications have been digitized and are available for viewing online.

Specific Secondary Resources for Métis Genealogy

Barkwell, Lawrence J., ed. *Women of the Metis Nation*. Winnipeg, MB: Louis Riel Institute, 2010.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 004 970 092 2 W55 W55

DATE RANGE: 18th to 20th centuries.

SUMMARY: Provides short biographies of notable Métis women, both historical and contemporary. Use the footnotes to follow the information back to its original sources.

Barkwell, Lawrence J. Veterans and Families of the 1885 Northwest Resistance. Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2011.

CALL NUMBER: 971. 054 B14 V21

DATE RANGE: 19TH century.

SUMMARY: This work is valuable for the fascinating background and anecdotal information it provides about participants in the 1885 Resistance. Take a good look at the extensive footnotes, which should be carefully examined in order to follow the information back to its original sources.

Carter, Lorna. *The Female Metis Genealogy*. Rev. ed. Armstrong, B.C.: The Author, 1999.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 271 274 C14 F25

DATE RANGE: Late 18th century, 19TH century.

SUMMARY: Using Sprague and Morin's seminal works as her basis, Carter has compiled a document which allows researchers to locate their female ancestors without having to know the names of the men in their lives. Best used in conjunction with the Sprague and Morin works on which it is based.

Elliot, Noel Montgomery, ed. *The Western Canadians, 1600-1900: An Alphabetized Directory of the People, Places, and Vital Dates*. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994.

CALL NUMBER: ARCHER REFERENCE CS 88 C265 W47 1994

DATE RANGE: 17th century to 20th century.

SUMMARY : This three-volume set contains a list of names of people who lived in Saskatchewan and points west and north as well as references to the primary sources from which the information was taken. While these books won't give you all the information you need about a certain individual, they can direct you to the primary sources you need to consult to find more information.

For residents of Manitoba, see

Elliot, Noel Montgomery, ed. *The Central Canadians, 1600-1900: An Alphabetized Directory of the People, Places, and Vital Dates*. Toronto: Genealogical Research Library, 1994.

CALL NUMBER: ARCHER REFERENCE CS 88 06 C43 1994

Jetté, René. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec*. Montreal: Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 1983.

CALL NUMBER: REF 292. 2 J26 D33

DATE RANGE: early 17th century to mid 18th century.

SUMMARY : With material drawn primarily from parish registers kept by Catholic clergy between the years 1621 and 1730, this resource attempts to record the births, marriages, and burials in all families which were established in or immigrated to what later became the province of Quebec during the period in question. Although the resource excludes information on members of First Nations and African-American populations who did not marry into European families (apparently due to the incompleteness of entries concerning these populations in the parish registries), this resource is still useful because it sometimes lists additional sources of information; researchers are also able to narrow down which parish registers they should be checking for original documents based on the places where births, marriages, and burials took place. (See also Tanguay's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes* below.)

Métis National Council Historical Online Database. Métis National Council. 21 Aug. 2014

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

DATE RANGE: 18th century to 20th century.

SUMMARY: This is a web-based database which contains genealogical information taken from a variety of censuses and scrip applications. The database is searchable by family name, date, or location, and includes many resources useful to individuals tracing their

genealogy, including family tree software. It also provides links, where available, to scans of the original documents from which the information in the databases was taken.

Morin, Gail. *Censuses of the Red River Settlement: An Index to the Censuses for the Years 1827; 1828; 1829; 1830; 1831; 1832; 1833; 1835; 1838; 1840 and 1843*. Pawtucket, Rhode Island: Quintin Publications, 1998.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 371 27 M53 C25

DATE RANGE: early to mid 19th century

SUMMARY: In this book, Morin collects in one easy-to-use index all of the information contained in the Red River Censuses from 1827 to 1843, including references to the page numbers of the original documents to facilitate double-checking by researchers (the original documents are housed at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives in Winnipeg). Morin notes some difficulties with the original records, including illegibility and variations among the spellings of names from year to year, so caution should be used when consulting both this resource and the original census documents.

Morin, Gail. *First Métis Families of Quebec*. Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield, 2012.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 371 4 M53 F35

DATE RANGE: 17th century~

SUMMARY: Although seven volumes are planned, only the first is currently available. It follows the 56 original Métis families of Quebec for three generations. Future volumes will focus on specific families. Bibliographical references to source material are included, and should be followed back to their sources for verification.

Morin, Gail. *Manitoba Scrip*. Pawtucket, Rhode Island: Quintin Publications, 1996.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 712 M53 M17

DATE RANGE: 19th century.

SUMMARY: In this book, Morin collects in one easy-to-use index some of the information about births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths which is included in the Manitoba scrip applications, including references to the microfilm reel numbers which contain the original documents. Since the publication of this book, Library and Archives Canada has digitized many of the scrip affidavits; you may actually be able to find scanned copies of the affidavits indexed in Morin's book by searching the following the instructions at the link below:

Métis Scrip Records: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/metis-scrip/005005-1000-e.html>

Morin, Gail. *Métis Families: A Genealogical Compendium*. Pawtucket, Rhode Island: Quintin Publications, 2001.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 271 274 M53 M22 2001 v.1-6; searchable digital version also available (on CD-ROM shelved at the same call number)

DATE RANGE: late 18th century; 19th century; some 20th century.

SUMMARY: This set of books (5 volumes and an index; an earlier, 1996 edition is in two volumes) are the paper form of a database compiled to gather in one place information from a variety of primary sources on both sides of the Canada/U.S. border including censuses, church registers, Hudson's Bay Company papers, archival collections, scrip applications, etc. Morin's books are useful because she cites the sources of her information, allowing researchers to go back to the original documents and confirm information. As with all projects of this size, there are errors in these works, but they are an excellent -- perhaps the best -- place to start looking.

Morin, Gail. *1900 Scrip*. Pawtucket, R.I.: Quintin Publications, 1998-99.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 202 M53 N37 v. 1-2

DATE RANGE: 1886-1902, 1906.

SUMMARY: Contains a transcription of the information contained in scrip applications made between 1886-1902 and in 1906. Organized alphabetically by name, references to the primary sources are also provided.

Morin, Gail. *Qu'Apelle Mission [Lebret, Saskatchewan] Book One: 1868-1880 Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials*. S.I.: Quintin Publications, 2006.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 243 M53 Q75

DATE RANGE: 1868-1880.

SUMMARY: Lists births, marriages, and burials which were recorded in the parish register at Lebret between 1868 and 1880. See also Morin's *St. Francois Xavier* for many of the same families.

Morin, Gail and Rose Rozyk. *St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, Book One 1834-1870: Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials*. Orange Park, FL: Quintin Publications, 2003.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 27 M53 S72 (on CD-ROM)

DATE RANGE: 1834-1870.

SUMMARY: This searchable CD-ROM contains the pdf of the original print work, which lists births, marriages, and burials recorded in the parish register at SFX between 1834 and 1870. See also Morin's *Qu'Apelle Mission [Lebret, Saskatchewan]* for many of the same families.

Sprague, D.N. and R. P. Frye, comps. *The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation*. Winnipeg, Manitoba: Pemmican Publications, 1983

CALL NUMBER: (REF) 971. 271 274 S62 G25

DATE RANGE: late 18th century; 19th century

SUMMARY: Sprague and Frye collect, in convenient tabular form, information taken from a variety of primary sources including censuses, parish registers, data collected by the Government of Canada, and records kept by the Hudson's Bay Company. Taken together, the tables in this book paint a picture of the residents of the Red River Settlement between 1820 and 1900—kinship, size of family, land holdings, employment with the HBC, and so on. As with all information taken from secondary sources, however, errors do creep in, and even Sprague and Frye acknowledge that "information in the tables must be used cautiously and critically" (9).

Tanguay, Cyprien. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles canadiennes depuis la fondation de la colonie jusqu'à nos jours*. Montreal : Éditions Élysée, 1975.

CALL NUMBER: ARCHER CS 81 T3 1975 (book); also available on microfiche/film.

DATE RANGE: 17th century; 18th century

SUMMARY: The oldest published genealogical dictionary concerning New France, these books cover the years 1608-1760. Although the resource has been criticized for some fundamental shortcomings, including failure to indicate sources, failure to distinguish between birth and baptism dates, failure to distinguish between death and burial dates, failure to include unmarried/unconnected individuals, and failure to include certain parish registries, it is still worth consulting -- especially in conjunction with Jetté's *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec* (see above), which is a more recent attempt to address some of Tanguay's shortcomings.

May also be consulted online here: <http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/dicoGenealogie/index.html>

Archives, Societies, Libraries

Glenbow Museum (<http://www.glenbow.org/collections/archives/genealogy/>)

SUMMARY: Although very little of the genealogical material held at the Glenbow Library and Archives is available online and much of what they have to offer is not microfilmed and can only be viewed in the reading room in Calgary, there are a few finding aids available online so you can see whether or not it's worth making the trip. Laura Hanowski also provides a useful summary of Métis resources available at the Glenbow on pages 122-124 of her book (see above). A printable pedigree chart for organizing your research is also available on the Glenbow website.

Hudson's Bay Company Archives (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/>)

SUMMARY: If your ancestors worked for the Hudson's Bay Company or the North West Company you may be able to find information about them in the HBC Archives including their birthplace, age, salary, and job title. If you're really lucky, you may even find performance reviews or photographs. Like the resources at the Glenbow, very few of the resources available at the Hudson's Bay Company are searchable online—you need to visit the archives in person to do research.

Prairie History Room, Regina Public Library (<http://www.reginalibrary.ca/prairiehistory/index.html>)

SUMMARY: The Prairie History Room at the Regina Public Library contains many resources useful to people doing genealogical research, including censuses on microfilm, marriage and obituary indexes to a variety of newspapers (primarily the larger ones), indexes to passenger lists of ships, an extensive collection of local histories as well as bibliographies to help you find them, and microfilmed copies of Métis scrip records from 1870 to 1901 for people who are unable to locate the scanned copies online. Anyone may use the resources in the Prairie History Room but materials cannot be borrowed. Photocopies are permitted. The room is open the same hours as the Regina Public Library's Central branch, and is staffed by very knowledgeable and helpful people.

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society (www.saskgenealogy.com/)

SUMMARY: This library, located at 110-1514 11th Avenue in Regina, contains everything from hard-to-find family and local histories to obituaries dating from the late 1800s to small-town newspapers on microfilm to the Saskatchewan Residents Index, which is a database containing the names of millions of Saskatchewan residents taken from a variety of sources including local histories and cemetery records. Although you must be a member to use some of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society's resources, others are freely available to anyone who comes in during opening hours (M-F 10 AM-4:30 PM). Student memberships are \$25-30 per year.

MN-S Genealogical and Archival Centre (<http://www.mn-s.ca/pages/genealogical-and-archival-centre.html>)

SUMMARY: Located in Saskatoon, this centre contains a variety of Métis-specific genealogical resources, including local histories, maps, cemetery records, and microfilm of newspapers, church, scrip, and census records (check their online catalogue for specific resources). The centre is also developing an online database, which has an ever-growing number of digital records available (<http://historical.mn-s.ca/>). Visits to the centre are by appointment only; contact info may be found on the website above.

Online Resources

Census and Enumerations. Canadian Genealogy Centre. 2011. Library and Archives Canada. 21 Aug. 2014 <<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html>>.

SUMMARY: Censuses are an indispensable source of genealogical information. Library and Archives Canada provides this very useful overview of censuses indexed and available online. Some of them are searchable by place; others are searchable by name. For censuses (1901, 1906, 1911, among others) which have been digitized, it is even possible to view the scanned copies of the pages online. Once you have determined the page number you need, often in a name index such as that available at the *Automated Genealogy: Indices to Canadian Censuses* webpage (<http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>), you can then go back to the digitized copies of the census and look at that page online. Links to the censuses available on the Library and Archives Canada website are located here: <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>

Le Centre du patrimoine. La Société historique de Saint-Boniface. 21 Aug. 2014 <<http://shsb.mb.ca/en/>>.

SUMMARY: Provides a number of links of interest to the genealogical researcher including a searchable database of voyageur contracts:

http://shsb.mb.ca/en/Voyageurs_database

Although there is an abbreviated English companion site, the majority of material of interest, including the voyageur contracts, is in French.

Other Useful Resources

Local Histories

Once you know the names of communities where your ancestors have lived, you may be able to find a local history which contains additional information about your family. The Gabriel Dumont Institute Library has a small collection of local histories, and the Prairie History Room at the Regina Public Library has a much more extensive collection, as does the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society. Ask library staff for help finding these histories. The Saskatchewan Residents Index housed at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society provides an index to the names in many of these local histories.

Family Histories

Some Métis families have whole books written on their genealogy and history and you may be lucky enough to be a member of one of these families. Ask library staff for help finding such books.

Online Search Engines

You can sometimes find a lot of information just by typing a name into a search engine like Google. **Just as with any of the other resources listed here, however, it's up to you to judge whether or not the information you find is reliable and accurate.** Ask yourself who is providing the information, whether they provide their sources, and whether or not the information can be verified in some other source, preferably a primary source. If you can't answer all of these questions to your satisfaction, then you should not use the information.

Ancestry.ca

This is a commercial genealogical database which many students find helpful, especially when getting started. It provides access to census, marriage, birth, and death records, as well as passenger lists for ships -- all in one place, and including digitized copies of original documents in many cases. While a 3-month subscription for an individual would cost about \$45, the Regina Public Library provides free access to this database from any library computer in all of their 9 branches. In addition, anyone with a library card can access **Heritage Quest Online** through the Regina Public Library. This database contains, among other things, digitized copies of local histories (the content is heavily American, however).

Familysearch.org

This is a free genealogical database (although there are some limitations on access if you don't set up an account). It is constantly growing, and contains a wide variety of information, including censuses, death and burial records, birth and baptism records, marriage records, and more.

Relatives

Talk to your relatives! Get dates and names and places to help you get started, and later on ask for the stories and reminiscences that will make the names come alive.

Tips for the Serious Researcher:

- Always try to get any information you're planning to rely on from primary documents.
- Take detailed notes about where you found a certain piece of information so that you can find it again when you need to.

-Keep a list of what you have looked for and the places you have looked for it, even if you don't find anything. This will take a bit more time initially, but after you've been at this a while and all the sources start to blur together, it will save you a lot of frustration.

-**Think critically about the information you find - especially information you find through Google searches--to see if it makes sense.** The name may match perfectly, but if the dates tell you that your great-great-great-grandmother gave birth to your great-great-grandfather when she was 6 years old, you can be fairly confident you haven't found the right information yet.

Questions?

Come to library staff with any questions you may have.

