

∞Métis Genealogical Resources∞

This guide is intended for newcomers to Métis genealogical research. We've included only the most helpful and commonly used resources, so please remember that this is not an exhaustive 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 JULY 2022.

Bibliographies and General Guides to Conducting Genealogical Research

Devine, Heather. *The People Who Own Themselves: Aboriginal Ethnogenesis in a Canadian Family, 1660-1900*. 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 (p. 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*. 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.

"Genealogy and Family History." *Discover the Collection*. Library and Archives Canada, 7 Apr. 2022.
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/pages/introduction.aspx>. Accessed 11 July 2022.

SUMMARY: Provides a generic overview of how to conduct genealogical research, as well as a link to the "Ancestors Search" page (<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/ancestors-search.aspx>) on the Library and Archives Canada website, which provides a clickable checklist of the genealogical databases available through LAC. Although neither of these pages are Métis-specific, they're useful as an introduction to genealogical research and as a source of possible places to look when you get stuck.

Hanowski, Laura M., ed. *Tracing Your Aboriginal Ancestors in the Prairie Provinces: A Guide to the Records and How to Use Them*. 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 those tracing their 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." *Discover the Collection*. Library and Archives Canada, 22 Jan. 2021, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/metis/Pages/metis-genealogy.aspx>. Accessed 11 July 2022.

SUMMARY: This site provides a brief overview of sources available for researching Métis genealogy, including a link to instructions for finding Scrip records in the LAC database (some scrip applications have been digitized and are available for viewing online).

Specific Secondary Resources for Métis Genealogy

Barkwell, Lawrence J., editor. *Women of the Metis Nation*. 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*. Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2011.

CALL NUMBER: REF 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. 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.

Cyr, A. Brian. *Metis Veterans of Manitoba*. Manitoba Metis Federation, [2010].

CALL NUMBER: 940. 481 71 C91 M28 v.1

DATE RANGE: 20th century.

SUMMARY: Includes photos and brief biographies of Métis veterans from Manitoba who fought in the first and second World Wars, as well as the Korean War. Check the index of names for easy reference.

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

CALL NUMBER: ARCHER REFERENCE CS 88 06 C43 1994

Gagné, Peter J. *French Canadians of the West : A Biographical Dictionary of French Canadians and French Métis of the Western United States and Canada*. Quintin Publications, 2000.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 371 2 G16 F61

DATE RANGE: 17th century to 19th century.

SUMMARY: An expanded translation on CD-ROM of the *Dictionnaire Historique des Canadiens et des Métis Français de l'Ouest* by A.G. Morice, this is a selective (i.e. not exhaustive) biographical dictionary of "the facts and deeds or simply the names of those who played a part in the establishment of French-Canadian interests in the Northwest." It includes over 600 biographies of men (aside from a few exceptions, women are mentioned only as notes in their fathers' or husbands' entries) that Morice judges to have been worthy of inclusion. Contains footnotes and a glossary.

Jetté, René. *Dictionnaire généalogique des familles du Québec*. 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.)

Littlejohn, Cathy. *Métis Soldiers of Saskatchewan, 1914-1953*. Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2012.

CALL NUMBER: 940. 481 71 L31 M27

DATE RANGE: 20th century.

SUMMARY: Provides an overview of Métis participation in armed conflicts between 1914 and 1953, as well as a listing of 1,757 Métis veterans in an appendix. Although detailed information and photographs of specific veterans are included throughout the volume, the lack of an index makes it difficult to locate names within the text.

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*. 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, and can also be found in digitized form in the **Frontier Life** database – see the entry for this database in the **Online Resources** section of this guide). Morin notes some difficulties with the original

records, including illegibility and variations among the spellings of names from year to year, so use caution and critical thinking when consulting both this resource and the original census documents.

Morin, Gail. *Chippewa Half-Breeds of Lake Superior*. Rev. ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 977. 5 M53 C33 2016

DATE RANGE: 1854.

SUMMARY: A alphabetized transcription of the applications for Half-Breed Scrip issued by the United States Government to the Chippewas of Lake Superior in 1854. Quality and quantity of detail provided varies. The full text of Morin's transcription source (House Executive Document 193, 42d Congress, 2d session) may be found here: https://archive.org/details/cihm_39318 .

Morin, Gail. *Company Men*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016- .

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 274 M53 C55 v.1-

DATE RANGE: 18th and 19th century, some 20th century.

SUMMARY: Family histories of significant figures in Hudson's Bay Company history, these volumes contain the "witnessed events and notes for baptisms, marriages, burials, employment history, scrip applications, censuses, treaties, annuity payments, etc." This series is not recommended for those who know nothing about their family history, but it can be a rich source of information for researchers who have discovered connections to one of the specific fur-trade families selected by Morin to be included in this series. Bibliographical references to source material are included, and should be followed back to their sources for verification.

Morin, Gail. *1870 Manitoba Census*. 2nd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 371 27 M53 E35 2016

DATE RANGE: 1870.

SUMMARY: In this work, Morin transcribes and alphabetizes the Manitoba census of 1870, including references to the page numbers of the original documents to facilitate double-checking by researchers (you can also view digitized images of the census on the Library and Archives Canada website here <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1870/Pages/about-census.aspx> .)

Morin, Gail. *Manitoba Scrip*. 2nd ed., Clearfield, 2015.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 712 M53 M17 2015

DATE RANGE: 19th century.

SUMMARY: In this second edition, 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 the first edition 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 following the instructions at this link: <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/metis-scrip/005005-1000-e.html> or by using **Canadiana Héritage** (see the entry for this collection in the **Online Resources** section of this guide).

Morin, Gail. *Métis Families*. 3rd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 271 274 M53 M22 2016 v.1-11

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

SUMMARY: This set of books (11 volumes; an earlier 2001 edition has 5 volumes and an index, while the 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 Index*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 202 M53 N37 2016

DATE RANGE: 1886-1902, 1906.

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

Morin, Gail. *North West Half-Breed Scrip, 1885*. Quintin Publications, 1997.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 202 M53 N58

DATE RANGE: 1885.

SUMMARY: A transcription of scrip applications made to the North-West Half-Breed Commission between April 19, 1885 and August 28, 1885. Listed alphabetically by last name of the applicant, the transcriptions include information about family members, places lived, property, etc., and include references to the original documents, which should be consulted wherever possible.

Morin, Gail. Various Parish Registers and Censuses.

SUMMARY: Gail Morin has transcribed the contents of censuses and parish registers (births, marriages, burials, first communions, and confirmations, etc.) from various Métis/Michif communities. They are listed below with their respective call numbers and date ranges.

Morin, Gail. *Assumption Parish, Pembina, North Dakota 1848-1896: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials*. 2nd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 978. 4 M53 A76 2016

DATE RANGE: 1848-1896.

Morin, Gail, compiler. *Census of the Turtle Mountain Reservation, Belcourt, North Dakota, taken by J.E. Balmer on 1 January 1937*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 978. 4 M53 C25

DATE RANGE: 1937.

Morin, Gail. *1857-1892 St. Norbert Register*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 201 M53 E37

DATE RANGE: 1857-1892.

Morin, Gail. *Hudson Bay Company Marriages, 1820-1851*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 201 M53 H71

DATE RANGE: 1820-51.

Morin, Gail. *Lac La Biche, Alberta: Baptisms, Marriages and Burial 1853-1884*. 2nd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 23 M53 L14 2016

DATE RANGE: 1853-1884.

Morin, Gail. *Our Lady of Sacred Heart, Olga, North Dakota: Births, Marriages and Deaths 1882-1919*. Rev. ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 978. 4 M53 O74 2016

DATE RANGE: 1882-1919.

Morin, Gail. *Qu'Appelle Mission, Lebret, Saskatchewan: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, First Communion and Confirmations*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 243 M53 Q75 2016 Bk.1-2

DATE RANGE: 1868-1887.

Morin, Gail. *St. Boniface, Manitoba (save[d] from the fire) 1825-1834: baptisms, marriages and burials*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 201 M53 S71

DATE RANGE: 1825-34.

Morin, Gail. *St. Francois Xavier, Manitoba, 1834-1900: Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials Index*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 27 M53 S72 2017

DATE RANGE: 1834-1900.

Morin, Gail. *St. Ignace Parish of Willow Bunch, Saskatchewan 1882-1910: Baptisms, Marriages and Burials*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 243 M53 B15 2016

DATE RANGE: 1882-1910.

Morin, Gail. *St. Joachim, Fort Auguste (Fort Edmonton): Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1858-1890*. 2nd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 971. 23 M53 S74 2016

DATE RANGE: 1858-1890.

Morin, Gail. *St. Joseph Parish, Leroy, North Dakota: Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials*. 2nd ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 978. 4 M53 S74 2016

DATE RANGE: 1870-1932.

Morin, Gail. *Turtle Mountain Chippewa Pembina Band 1865-1892*. Rev. ed., CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016.

CALL NUMBER: REF 978. 4 M53 T75 2015

DATE RANGE: 1865-1892.

Sprague, D.N. and R. P. Frye, compilers. *The Genealogy of the First Metis Nation*. 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*. Éditions Élysée, 1975.

CALL NUMBER: REF 929. 371 4 T11 T12 (on CD-ROM).

Also available at ARCHER CS 81 T3 1975 (book); on microfiche/film at Archer; digitally from *Canadiana Online*.

DATE RANGE: 17th century; 18th century.

SUMMARY: The oldest published genealogical dictionary concerning New France, this work covers the years 1608-1760. Although the resource has been criticized for some fundamental shortcomings, including failures to indicate sources; distinguish between birth/baptism dates and death/burial dates; include unmarried/unconnected individuals; and 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 digitally using *Canadiana Online*: <https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.24483>

Archives, Societies, Libraries

Glenbow Library and Archives (<https://glenbow.ucalgary.ca/>)

SUMMARY: Although very little of the genealogical material held at the Glenbow Library and Archives is available online and much of what is on offer is not microfilmed and can only be viewed in the reading room in Calgary, there are finding aids available online to help you judge whether it's worth a trip. Laura Hanowski provides a useful summary of Métis resources available at the Glenbow on pages 122-124 of her book (see above).

Hudson's Bay Company Archives (<https://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. Only some of the resources available at the Hudson's Bay Company are available online—you need to visit the archives in person to do research and view documents which haven't been digitized. If you are planning a visit, however, you can maximize your time at the Archives by searching the Biographical Information Sheets and the Name Indexes in advance of your visit (see the links under "HBCA Research" on the page linked to above).

Prairie History Room, Regina Public Library (<https://www.reginalibrary.ca/services/prairie-history>)

SUMMARY: The Prairie History Room at the Regina Public Library contains useful resources, including censuses on microfilm (including some from First Nations reserves), marriage and obituary indexes to a variety of newspapers, 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. 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.

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 SGS's resources (like the databases), others are freely available to anyone who visits. A day-pass for access to the databases is available for \$10; those planning a visit are encouraged to call and check opening hours, as the library is closed every third Monday.

Online Resources

“Censuses.” *Library and Archives Canada*, 23 Dec. 2021, <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>. Accessed 12 July 2022.

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, 1921, 1926, among others) which have been digitized, it is possible to view the scanned originals online.

Le Centre du patrimoine. La Société historique de Saint-Boniface, 2020, <https://shsb.mb.ca/the-centre-du-patrimoine-and-services/?lang=en> . Accessed 12 July 2022.

SUMMARY: Provides a number of links of interest to the genealogical researcher including a searchable database of voyageur contracts (see the guide here for instructions on how to search the voyageurs database: https://shsb.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Guide_voyageur_database.pdf). Although there is an abbreviated English companion site, the majority of material of interest is in French.

Canadiana Héritage. Canadian Research Knowledge Network, 2022, <https://heritage.canadiana.ca/> . Accessed 12 July 2022. (Also available from the “A-Z Database List” tab in the GDI Library catalogue <https://tinyurl.com/gdilib>).

DATE RANGE: 17th -20th century.

SUMMARY: Includes digitizations of many historical documents of interest to genealogical researchers, including parish registers, census returns, scrip affidavits, Department of Indian Affairs records, and ships’ passenger lists. While it’s not possible to search for specific names in this database, it is useful for finding digitized originals of primary sources when you’ve used a secondary source to pinpoint the location of the information you’re seeking in one of the aforementioned documents.

Frontier Life. Adam Matthew Digital, 2022. (Available from the “A-Z Database List” tab in the GDI Library catalogue <https://tinyurl.com/gdilib>).

SUMMARY: Available on-site in any GDI library/office (and with a GDI Library card off-site), this database includes a wealth of digitized primary sources that previously were unavailable unless you were on-site at various archives. While the collection contains diaries, correspondence, censuses, photos, maps, and various other documents from worldwide sites of European colonization, Métis genealogists will be particularly interested in the Red River Censuses and HBC records (post journals, account books, etc.) which have been digitized and included in the database.

Hall, Norma J. *Mothers of the Resistance 1869-1870: Red River Métis Genealogies*. [2016], <https://resistancemothers.wordpress.com/>. Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 18th -20th century.

SUMMARY: Focusing on the families of Red River women, this site is a work in progress providing a variety of information about members of select families, including journal entries, biographies, links to biographical sheets at the HBC Archives, as well as dates of births, deaths, marriages, and other notable events. Unfortunately, it is not an exhaustive listing of Red River families, nor are sources provided for all of the information – especially dates -- presented. Information from this site should be used with caution and verified elsewhere in primary documents wherever possible.

Local Histories. University of Calgary, n.d., <https://digitalcollections.ucalgary.ca/Browse/Collections/Local-Histories> . Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 18th-20th century.

SUMMARY: Includes digitized copies of close to 6,000 books “describing the history of Canadian small towns, rural areas, and large cities.” The digitized books are keyword searchable, and while this is not an exhaustive collection, it does provide a useful supplement to *Manitoba Local Histories* mentioned below, as well as the previously mentioned physical copies of local histories available at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society and the RPL’s Prairie History Room.

Macdougall, Brenda, et al., researchers. *Digital Archives Database Project*. <http://dadp.ok.ubc.ca> . Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 17th-20th century.

SUMMARY: A by-product of research projects undertaken by Brenda Macdougall, Nicole St-Onge, Michael Evans, Chris Andersen, and Ramon Lawrence, this database collects “transcriptions of Protestant and Catholic sacramental registers, census data, and fur trade records that document the lives and experiences of a variety of peoples in contact with the institutions that created the original documents.” A complete listing of historical records which have been transcribed for inclusion in the database may be found here: <http://dadp.ok.ubc.ca/summary>. In most cases, only transcriptions and references to the original documents, not the documents themselves, are provided. The researchers also caution that, “while users may find material relating to Metis individuals within the databases, they should understand that DAD is not a Metis-specific archive.”

Manitoba Local Histories. University of Manitoba Library, 2020, <https://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/local-histories> Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 19th century to 20th century.

SUMMARY: Over 800 local histories from Manitoba have been digitized, and their full text made searchable by keyword. The full-text of a variety of historical Manitoba newspapers is also searchable within the same interface. Includes photographs and maps along with textual information.

Métis National Council Historical Database. University of Alberta, 2020, <https://www.metisnationdatabase.ca/> . Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 19th century to 20th century.

SUMMARY: A “web-interfaced database that contains textual information extracted from a variety of archival documents relevant to the historical Métis Nation,” including the 1901 census, and scrip applications (Northwest “Half-breed” Scrip, Manitoba Act Affidavits). The database is searchable by name, birth/death date, and location, and includes digitized copies of original documents. A tutorial is available here: <https://maplab.omeka.net/>

Sinclair, Warren. *Metis Genealogy Collection*. 1997-1999, Glenbow Library and Archives, <https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/warren-sinclairs-metis-genealogy-collection> . Accessed 12 July 2022.

DATE RANGE: 18th and 19th centuries; minimal 20th century.

SUMMARY: Available in hard copy in the reading rooms of the Glenbow in Calgary and the HBC Archives in Winnipeg, this footnoted collection of 450 short biographies of Métis people and 910 descendency tables has been digitized, but you must sign a privacy waiver before you can access the digital files – contact archives@ucalgary.ca for more information.

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 GDI Library has a small collection of Saskatchewan local histories, while the Prairie History Room at the Regina Public Library Central Branch and the Saskatchewan

Genealogical Society both have much more extensive collections. The Saskatchewan Residents Index housed at the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society provides an index to the names in many of these local histories. A wide selection of Manitoba local histories has also been digitized and made searchable online (see the “Manitoba Local Histories” entry in the Online Resources section) while the University of Calgary has also digitized local histories from across Canada (see the “Local Histories” entry in the aforementioned Online Resources section).

Online Search Engines/Social Media

You can sometimes find a lot of information just by typing a name into a search engine like Google, or by posting a question to a Facebook group devoted to genealogy. **Just as with any of the other resources listed here, however, you must 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/Heritage Quest

These are commercial genealogical databases which many genealogists find useful, especially when getting started. They provide 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 monthly subscriptions for individuals start at \$15, the Regina Public Library provides free access to **Ancestry.ca** from any computer connected to RPL wifi in any of their 9 branches. In addition, anyone with a library card can access **Heritage Quest Online** through the Regina Public Library’s website. 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 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 ask for the stories and reminiscences that will make the names come alive.

Tips for the Serious Researcher:

- Always try to trace your information back to primary sources.
- 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 where, even if you don’t find anything. This will save you from retracing your steps after you’ve been researching for a while and the sources start to blur together.
- **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’ve not yet found the right information.

Questions?

Come to library staff with any questions you may have.

