

BCGS Canadian Prairies GENEALOGICAL Coffee Chat: April 29, 2021

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THE PRAIRIES – MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN/ALBERTA

The British Columbia Genealogical Society – Home - <https://www.bcgs.ca/>

BCGS Library Catalogue – website: Click on icon to take you to the Library Search page. The library has a collection of Provincial research books and journals on the shelves. For example: Vermilion Town Cemetery (**Alberta** Road Map Location I7) Alberta Genealogical Society; 16 Cemeteries in the Oyen, Acadia Valley, Lovernia (**Sask.**) Area; An Index of Marriage and Death Notices from **Manitoba** Newspapers 1859-1881.

MAJOR CANADIAN ONLINE RESOURCES

Library and Archives Canada (LAC): <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>

Western Land Grants 1870 – 1930.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/western-land-grants/001007-130-e.html> While searching for a surname LAC took me to the page with an “Item Number” which then took me to a map showing the area in which the land grant was located.

Automated Genealogy: <http://automatedgenealogy.com/> – Census records transcribed 1916 Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, 1911 Canada, 1906 Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta , 1901 Canada, 1851 Canada partial.

Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1926. This census includes Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1926/Pages/default.aspx>

CANGENEALOGY: <http://www.cangenealogy.com/> Dave Obee’s web page which is a comprehensive listing of sites for all the provinces of Canada. Dave Obee has an extensive list of online Western Canadian Directories for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. Directories are extremely useful for placing an ancestor in a given place at a given time. He also has a book entitled BACK TO THE LAND – finding farms on the Canadian Prairies.

Cyndi’s List – Home page - A comprehensive, categorized & cross-referenced list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online. <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

Cyndi’s List – **Canada:** <http://www.cyndislist.com/canada/maps/> Homestead Maps

Commonwealth War Graves Commission: <https://www.cwgc.org/>

Our databases record the details and commemoration location of every Commonwealth casualty from the First and Second World Wars. You can also explore the CWGC Archive, which holds over 10,000 items from the Commission's past including personal correspondence, maintenance and tour reports, staff records, photographs and press cuttings.

IMAGES OF PRAIRIE TOWNS: <http://www.prairie-towns.com/index.html>

This is a great site, see what your home town used to look like way back when.

You can now visit "old **Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba or B.C**" without leaving your chair!

Click on the town you want and original photos appear for certain

years. Sometimes all the photos load but other times you have to use the back arrow to go out of the picture or town!

Online Death Indexes & Records for Canada: <http://www.deathindexes.com/canada.html>

This website lists each Province and the available databases for deaths. Some of the death index sites will also include births and marriages such as the BC Archives website. There are also sites for **Cemeteries, Cemetery Finding Aids** and various other helpful suggestions for search.

Peel's Prairie Provinces: University of Alberta <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>

Add this free website to your list of essential resources for tracing your prairie ancestors.

Created by the University of Alberta, Peel's Prairie Provinces documents western Canadian history and the culture of the Canadian prairies through digitized newspapers, photos and more. Featured collections here include **Peel's Prairie Postcards**, containing more than 15,000 images; the **Magee Photographs** Collection; and **Henderson's Directories** listing residents and businesses of various cities and regions as far back as 1905. You can keyword-search the collection of 100-plus digitized historical newspapers dating from 1871 to 2013.

The website also gives you access to the **Peel Maps** collection and the **Peel Bibliography**, a collection of digitized books in English, French, Ukrainian and other languages. You can search both of these collections using keywords, subject, author or title.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES ie: Look for a genealogical society encompassing the area in which you are researching. Libraries and Museums.

OTHER MAJOR ONLINE RESOURCES

Ancestry: <https://www.ancestry.com/> or access through www.ancestry.ca/ Subscription required.

Family Search: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sometimes referred to as the LDS or the Mormon Church <https://www.familysearch.org/>

My Heritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/> MyHeritage is an online genealogy platform with web, mobile, and software products and services that was first developed and popularized by the Israeli company MyHeritage in 2003. Wikipedia

Find My Past: <https://www.findmypast.com/>

Find a Grave: www.findagrave.com/ Free. The BCGS contributes to this site.

RootsWeb's World Connect Project: My Many Roots and Branches.
<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>

ALBERTA

BMD's

Births: [1870-1898](#) Marriages: [1870-1943](#) Deaths: [1870-1968](#) | Ancestry also carries these indexes. Very confusing. I tried FamilySearch which took me to Ancestry where I found the index. Records must be requested through the Provincial Archives of Alberta

Provincial Archives of Alberta: <https://provincialarchives.alberta.ca/>

The Search feature took me a page where I simply entered 'genealogy' which brought up a number of choices – 'Search Your Genealogy' found Birth, Marriage and Death Records; - Indexes only. Births: 1870 – 1901, Marriages: 1870 – 1946, Deaths: 1870 – 1971 as well as Indigenous Deaths, Overseas Deaths and Stillbirth Indexes. **Payment required.** One member noted that the cost of the documents are effectively the cost of mailing. Very reasonable.

The Provincial Archives page takes you to the Alberta Genealogical Society

Alberta Homestead Index <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/alberta-homestead-index>

Alberta Newspaper Indexes <https://www.abgenealogy.ca/newspaper-indexes>

Need to set up an AGS account to access any of these search features.

The Alberta Genealogical Society appreciates the financial support given by the **Government of Alberta** through the **Heritage Division** and **City of Edmonton** through the **Edmonton Heritage Council**.

The Archives are CLOSED

The following information highlights the advantages of using the online AGS Alberta Homestead Index over the database of the *Library and Archives Canada (LAC) Land Grants of Western Canada, 1870-1930* › or the recent addition to the *Ancestry website, Alberta, Canada, Homestead Records, 1870-1930* ›.

The University of Alberta: *Has a website regarding settlers from Bukovina.*

<https://sites.ualberta.ca/~german/AlbertaHistory/Bukovinians.htm> The Bukovina was a region in southeastern Europe, located on the eastern slopes of the Carpathian Mountains. It belonged to the Ottoman Empire until 1775 when it was annexed by Austria, and was then administered together with Galicia until 1850 when it became a crown land in the Austrian monarchy. In 1915, the Bukovina was occupied by Russia, and until its partition in 1944 it changed hands several times between the Soviet Union and Rumania. Since then, the northern part has belonged to Ukraine and the southern part to Rumania.

Glenbow Museum, Calgary, Alberta <https://www.glenbow.org/>

SASKATCHEWAN

Birth, marriage and death records

http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx

Births: Vital statistics to 1908 Deaths: Vital Statistics to 1917 (old dates – and may not be updated yet: see below. Using a name in the search box took me directly to three items using that surname.

Births (more than 100 years ago)

Deaths (more than 70 years ago)

Marriages (more than 75 years ago.) Not yet available. Work on this index will commence after the index of deaths has been completed.

Library and Archives Canada: Saskatchewan: Genealogy resources

Are you researching ancestors who lived in Saskatchewan? On this page, you will find information about records held at Library and Archives Canada and the provincial archives. There are also links to online resources and to other institutions, societies and government agencies.

- Civil registration (birth, marriage and death records)
 - Adoption and divorce
- Courts and criminal records
- Land records
- Wills and estate records
- Other resources

<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/land-grants-western-canada-1870-1930/Pages/search.aspx>

Saskatchewan Genealogical Society: The society is working to have more Births, Deaths and Marriages records released. Requests are replied to with “no time soon”. The SGS is located at Suite 110, 1514 Eleventh Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 0H2 www.saskgenealogy.com

Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan: <https://www.saskarchives.com/using-archives/family-history-research>

This site has list of records for genealogy research, Land, BMD's, Church and Court records, etc and gives information on how to access the records.

Saskatchewan Probate Estate Files, 1887-1931 Photographed by Family Search

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1918293>

Saskatchewan Homestead Index: www.saskhomesteads.com/ The Saskatchewan Homestead Index is a file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives

MANITOBA

Land Grants of Western Canada, 1870-1930; Library and Archives Canada
<https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/Pages/land-records.aspx>

Archives of Manitoba – Research from a Distance:
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/research/index.html>

Hudson's Bay Company Archives – Archives of Manitoba -
<https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html>

Manitoba Church Records 1800–1959, Family Search
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1992433>

LAC (Library & Archives Canada) Manitoba – <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Search/Pages/results.aspx?k=,manitoba>

Manitoba Online Genealogy Records:
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Manitoba_Online_Genealogy_Records

Archdiocese of Winnipeg – Catholic - <https://www.archwinnipeg.ca/>

Manitoba Genealogical Records Online:
<http://www.genealogysearch.org/canada/manitoba.html>

Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency <http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>

The Manitoba Genealogical Society Inc. (MGS) | Manitoba ... <https://mbgenealogy.com/>

University of Manitoba: Manitoba Local Histories:
https://digitalcollections.lib.umanitoba.ca/islandora/object/uofm%3Amanitobia_books

Waghorn's Guide: Winnipeg 1894 – 1900
https://www.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.8_04859

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