

Finding your Canadian Ancestors

Laverne Lardner Aitchison

Learn a little of the background of Canada to help you look for the records and where to find them. The focus will be on the **Library and Archives of Canada Website**.

CANADIAN GENEALOGY <http://cangenealogy.com/>

Canadian Reference Books:

BOOK: Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide

Authors Dave Obee written with Sherry Irvine. Canada's size and diversity also influence its records, which are similarly varied and at times complex. Finding Your Canadian Ancestors guides you through Canadian genealogical records, first by record type and then according to province. The authors detail both government and ecclesiastical records as well as records related to special groups such as Aboriginals, Acadians, and Loyalists. They give special attention to online resources, including the extensive holdings of Library and Archives Canada.

Available from [Amazon](#).

BOOK: Destination Canada

All about immigration sources, by Dave Obee

2nd edition: includes naturalization and citizenship indexes in the Canada Gazette 1915-1951

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>

- Library and Archives Canada (LAC) new updated databases. LAC is transforming and opening new regional offices in Vancouver, Winnipeg and Halifax to better mirror the services available in Ottawa. Use their [Ask Us A Genealogy Question form](#) on their website for every province and territory in Canada.
- Spring of 2017 LAC will offer in person services to the public from a service desk located within Vancouver Public Library's Central Library Special Collections area on the 7th floor.

Canadian Timeline

<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/catimeln.htm#page>

- 1670 The Hudson Bay Company was given a charter by King Charles II to dominate trade and became a powerful monopoly in British North America
- 1763 after the Seven Years War – during with England expelled 75 percent of Acadia's French population. France ceded nearly all of its North American Colonies to Britain but the two island of Miquelon and Saint-Pierre remained under French control.
- 1791 Constitutional Act separated French-speaking Lower Canada (Quebec) from English-speaking Upper Canada (Ontario).
- 1849 Vancouver Island became a British Colony, and was united with the mainland in 1866.
- 1871 City of Victoria (Vancouver Island) became the provincial capital when British Columbia joined the Canadian Confederation.
- 1982 Canada became a self-governing parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as head of state. (Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau) <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/constitution-act-1982/>
- Where are the geographical records?
<https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/earth-sciences/geography/place-names/search/9170>

Begin Your Research

- Plot your ancestor's locations and travels on a map
 - Cyndislist.com <http://www.cyndislist.com/maps/interactive/>
 - Google.com <http://google.about.com/od/mapsanddirections/fr/mapsrev.htm>
 - Rootsmapper <https://rootsmapper.com/>

Library and Archives Canada where to begin?

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/introduction.aspx>

- Genealogy and Family History
- Most requested records

Vital Statistics Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/vital-statistics-births-marriages-deaths/Pages/births-marriages-deaths.aspx>

- Births
- Marriages
- Deaths
 - BC Vital Statistics – Genealogy Resources for British Columbia
<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/birth-adoption-death-marriage-and-divorce/births/vsa006.pdf>

Census – Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>

- 92-year rule for Canada due to the passing of the Privacy Act. National census began in 1971 and every 10 years after. 1921 is the last census released and is available from Ancestry.ca or Ancestry.com
- Automated Genealogy – <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/> index to Canadian Census 1851/52, 1901, 1906, 1911

Immigration and citizenship

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/Pages/introduction.aspx>

- Library and Archives Canada Updated records
- Ukrainian Immigration for Canada and the US 1891-1930
- Chinese Immigrants 1885-1949
- Porters and Domestic 1899-1949
- Canadian Citizenship Act 1763-1 January 1947 persons born in the provinces and colonies of British North America were all British Subjects. Immigrants from Great Britain and the Commonwealth countries were Not required to be naturalized.
- Check Library and Archives Canada databases for dates and Ethno-Cultural Groups.
- Guide to sending organizations and receiving homes (background information on the various agencies involved in child migration)

Military

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/Pages/military-heritage.aspx>

- Collection of records of the Canadian men and women who have served their country in the military and in the early years of the North West Mounted Police. There are records relating to Loyalists, the War of 1812, the Rebellions, the South African War, the First World War and the Second World War, many of which are featured in databases, research guides and virtual exhibitions. The records include muster rolls, military service files, unit war diaries, medal registers, photographic collections, documentary art and posters, as well as published sources.

United Empire Loyalists (UEL) American colonists who remained loyal to the **BRITISH** crown.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/loyalists/Pages/introduction.aspx>

- Carleton Papers - the Original *British Headquarters Papers, New York, 1774–1783*, also known as the *Carleton Papers*, are preserved at the National Archives in England. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds a microfilm copy of the papers

Land

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/land/Pages/land-records.aspx>

Provincial and Territorial Archives and Libraries

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/links-related-research.aspx#d>

Genealogy Societies

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/links-related-research.aspx#a>

Religious Archives

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/links-related-research.aspx#f>

Other Archives in Canada

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/genealogy/Pages/links-related-research.aspx#c>

- Canadian Archival Information Network
 - Canadian Pacific Railway Archives
 - Glenbow Archives
 - Hudson's Bay Company Archives
 - Maritime History Archive
 - Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

Other Websites

- * CANADIAN GENEALOGY <http://cangenealogy.com/>
- * AUTOMATED GENEALOGY <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com/>
- * INTERMENT.NET <http://www.interment.net/can/index.htm>
- * CANADIANHEADSTONES.COM <http://canadianheadstones.com/>
- * FINDAGRAVE.COM <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi>
- * WORLD ATLAS TIMELINE
<http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/namerica/catimeln.htm#page>

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA (LAC)

Bibliothèque et Archives Canada (BAC) <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/>

Births/Baptisms
Adoption
Church Indexes
Civil Registration
Divorce
Marriages
Parish Registers
Wills (Provincial)
Cemeteries

Provincial

Census Indexes
Census Column Headings
Census Abbreviations
What censuses are available
Enumeration Dates
Newfoundland and Labrador
• after 1916
Voter's Lists
1940 National Registration - \$

Citizenship and Naturalization Records

- [Citizenship Registration Records, 1851-1945](#)
 - [Montreal Circuit Court](#)
- [Home Children - Boards of Guardians](#)
- [Home Children Records](#)
- [Immigrants at Grosse-Île Quarantine Station, 1832-1937](#)
- [Immigrants Before 1865](#)
- [Immigrants from China, 1885-1949](#)
- [Immigrants from the Russian Empire, 1898-1922 \(LI-RA-MA Collection\)](#)
- [Immigrants Sponsored by the Montreal Emigrant Society, 1832](#)
- [Immigrants to Canada, Porters and Domestic Workers 1899-1949](#)
- [Naturalization Records, 1828-1850 -](#)
 - [Upper Canada and Canada West](#)
- [Naturalization Records, 1915-1951](#)
- [Passenger Lists for the Port of Quebec City, 1865-1900](#)
- [Passenger Lists, 1865-1922](#)
- [Passenger Lists and Border Entries, 1925-1935 -](#)
 - [Nominal Indexes](#)
- [Ship Registration, 1787-1966](#)
- [Ukrainian Immigrants, 1891-1930](#)

Canadian Forces before 1914
First World War
Canadian Forces after 1918

- including World War II

British Forces
Loyalists
Military Medals
War Diaries
War Graves
French Regime
German Troops

Federal

Immigration:

- **Terminology and Abbreviations**

Citizenship and Naturalization Records

From 1763 until the Canadian Citizenship Act came into force on January 1, 1947 people who were born in Canada were all British subjects. If you were born in Great Britain or any Commonwealth country you did not need to become naturalized.

Citizenship

- Naturalization Records 1828-1850 – Upper Canada and Canada West
- Citizenship Registration Records, 1851-1945 – Montreal Circuit Court
- Naturalization Records 1915-1951

Passenger lists before 1865

Form 30A, 1919-1924 (Ocean arrivals)
After 1935 - \$

Immigrants from Russian Empire
(L I-RA-MA Collection) 1898-1922

Home Children

Passports

Federal
Provincial and Territorial

Ethnic and Cultural Groups

- Acadian
- Aboriginal
- Blacks
- British
- Chinese
- Danish
- Doukhobor
- Dutch
- East Indian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Icelandic
- Irish
- Italian
- Japanese
- Jews
- Mennonites
- Metis
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Russian
- Scottish
- Swedish
- Ukrainian
- Welsh

Public Services

- Post Offices

Private Companies
 North West Mounted Police
 Police
 Railways
 Merchant Marine
 Clergy
 Teachers
 Medical Personal
 Fur Trade
 Pensions

Municipal
Federal
Provincial
Private

Provincial Land Records

- Western Land Grants
- Loyalists

Land Petitions
 Land Grants to Veterans

Mostly Provincial

Newspapers
 City Directories
 Local Histories
 Family Histories
 Official Publications

Municipal
Provincial

Criminal Records
 Heraldry
 Maps
 Names
 Notarial Records
 Orphanages
 School Records

Municipal
Provincial
Federal

