

At the Provincial Archives of Alberta, there are a wide variety of materials to assist with your research. **Be sure to bring any information you have already gathered to build on what you already know.** This will make it easier to conduct research and locate additional information.

Genealogical Research at the Provincial Archives of Alberta

How can I find my relatives?

If your relatives came from a small town in Alberta, local history books (located in the Provincial Archives of Alberta Reference Library) are a good place to start. A print catalogue in the Reference Library lists all of the local history books by location. For families from larger centres, check the *Henderson's Directories*, which may contain information about where a family member lived and worked. If you do not know where in Alberta your ancestors lived there are many online resources that may contain useful information. Please visit the *Search Your Genealogy* page on the Provincial Archives of Alberta website.

How can I find information about a birth, marriage or death?

The Provincial Archives of Alberta is able to provide access to vital statistics records if they are open to the public under the genealogy section of the Vital Statistics Act. The following records are available for researchers:

- Birth records older than 120 years
- Stillbirth records older than 75 years
- Marriage records older than 75 years
- Death records older than 50 years

More recent records may be available through a registry agent, subject to eligibility. Adoption records are not held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

If researching an available record, begin by searching the indexes for vital statistics (which can be searched online via the Provincial Archives of Alberta website). Once a registration number is found, please request the record using our online request form.



A.3201
Portrait from the Burgess Photo Studio, Edmonton, Alberta, 1920s.

What other resources are available at the Provincial Archives of Alberta to assist in my research?

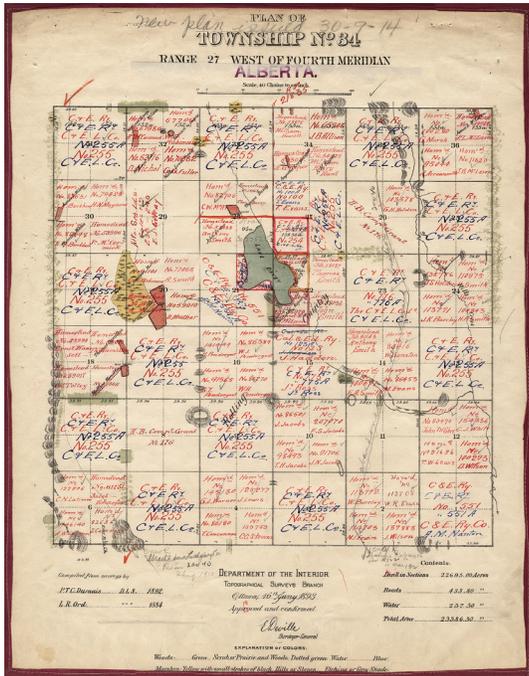
Probates

Probate records are court records that include a person's will. These documents can provide additional information about known relatives or new information about unknown relatives. Court records are organized by court district, so if possible try to narrow down a region or district in advance of your search.

Divorce

Divorce records are also court records and are organized by court district, much like probate records. These documents can also provide previously unknown information or build on details already known.

The Provincial Archives of Alberta has limited holdings for probate and divorce records with the most recent being from before 1975. There is a finding aid for each court district in the Reading Room.



GR2004.0214/1958.
Township map for Township 34, Range 27,
West of the 4th Meridian.

Homesteads

Homestead application files identify when an individual applied, received and worked a section of land through the historic Dominion Lands Branch homestead process. These records are often used in applications for the Alberta Century Farm and Ranch Award. Documents relating to the application and patent process typically include a legal description of the land as well as details about the applicant, including age, place of birth, former place of residence and date of entry on to the land. Marital status is indicated but the spouse is not usually named. Minor children are rarely identified. If the applicant was not a Canadian citizen at the time of application, naturalization documents may be included as only Canadian citizens or British subjects could receive homestead titles.

Church Records

The Provincial Archives of Alberta holds some Anglican Church of Canada (Edmonton and Athabasca dioceses), United Church of Canada, Lutheran, Evangelical Lutheran and Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate records, which are organized by denomination. There are privacy restrictions for most sacramental registers held at the Provincial Archives. The Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate sacramental registers are in the custody of the diocese responsible for those records.

There are a number of other genealogical resources located at the Provincial Archives of Alberta including:

Census of Canada

Copies of this federal document (up to 1916) are on microfilm and can be viewed in the Sandra Thomson Reading Room. The 1921 federal census is online through the Ancestry website and the 1926 prairie census is online through the Family Search website.

Passenger lists

Microfilm copies of some of these federal documents (1865 to 1919) are available and can be viewed in the Sandra Thomson Reading Room. These are arranged by port of arrival.

Local newspapers

The Provincial Archives of Alberta houses a large collection of newspapers that often provide useful genealogical information, especially when an obituary can be found.

Proof of Age documents

Proof of age documents may include birth certificates, naturalization certificates, marriage certificates and passports. Finding aids for these documents are available in the Sandra Thomson Reading Room. These records can be requested during hours of retrieval.

It is also worth checking the card catalogues in the Reading Room as well as our online catalogue.



A7393
Trimble family, February 3, 1898.

contact us for more information

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