

Top Databases & Web Sites for Canadian Genealogy

By Kimberly Powell, About.com Guide

http://genealogy.about.com/od/canada/tp/top_databases.--11.htm

If you're searching for Canadian ancestors online, these databases and Web sites are the best place to start. Best of all, many are free!

1. Library and Archives Canada: Canadian Genealogy Centre

(www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/)

Search for free in a variety of Canadian genealogy resources, including digitized census and passenger lists, land records, naturalization records, passport and other identity papers, and military records. Not all databases are included in the "Ancestors Search," so check out the complete list of available Canadian genealogy databases.

2. inGeneas Database (<http://ingeneas.com/>)

Search Canadian passenger, Canadian immigration, Canadian census, Canadian vital statistic, Canadian land, Canadian military and other miscellaneous Canadian records from the mid-1700s to the early 1900s in this database of indexed records. Searches of the index are free, but some records require payment if you want a full transcription of the record.

3. That's My Family (<http://thatsmyfamily.info/>)

This free search tool makes it possible to search for information on Canadian ancestors across multiple genealogy and family history databases hosted by federal, provincial and territorial archives centers and libraries. Many of the available sources are from the previously mentioned Library and Archives Canada, but there are also sources from genealogical societies and records offices in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Quebec, Nova Scotia and others.

4. Ancestry.com / Ancestry.ca (<http://www.ancestry.ca/>)

Subscription site Ancestry.ca (Canadian records also available through a World Subscription at Ancestry.com) offers numerous databases for Canada genealogy including indexes to the 1901, 1906 and 1911 Canadian census, as well as many province-specific records. One of the largest of their Canadian databases is the Historic Drouin Collection, which contains 37 million French-Canadian names appearing in Quebec records spanning 346 years from 1621 to 1967. All records require a subscription to access, or sign up for a free trial.

5. Genealogical Research Library (<http://www.grl.com/>)

This Canadian "databank" includes over 16 million names of individuals who lived in Canada between the years 1600 and 1900+ in every province and territory of Canada. Over 1 million of these Canadian names include an image of the original source document. The free search feature provides the name and date of the documented event. You'll have to subscribe for full details and access to source documents.

6. Canada GenWeb (<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canwgv/>)

The various province and territory projects under the umbrella of Canada GenWeb offer access to transcribed records, including census records, cemeteries, vital records, land records, wills, and more. While there, don't miss the Canada GenWeb Archives, where you can access some of the contributed files in one location.

7. The Olive Tree Genealogy (<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>)

Scroll down the page to find links to free transcriptions of Canadian genealogical records, including ships' passenger lists and Canadian muster rolls from the American Revolution and War of 1812. Transcribed records are also available for the provinces (especially Ontario), as well as on specific Canadian groups such as Loyalists, Palatines, Mennonites, Huguenots and Walloons, and the Mohawk Nation.

8. Automated Genealogy (<http://automatedgenealogy.com/>)

Access free census indexes for the 1851, 1901, 1906 and 1911 censuses of Canada, linked directly to an image of the original census page on the Web site of Library and Archives Canada. Transcription, proof reading, and linking of these census indexes is all done by volunteers and no registration or payment is required to view the index.

9. Early Canadiana Online (<http://www1.canadiana.org/>)

More than 2.7 million pages of Canada's printed heritage can be accessed online, covering the time of the first European settlers up to the early 20th century. Some of the scanned historical documents can be viewed for free, although a membership is required to access the full collection (individual memberships available). Many libraries and universities throughout Canada offer subscriptions to their patrons, so check their first for free access.

10. Canadian Virtual Wall Memorial (Veterans Affairs Canada) (<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem/Detail&casualty=153009>)

Search this free registry for information about the graves and memorials of more than 116,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders who served valiantly and gave their lives for their country.

11. Immigrants to Canada (<http://jubilation.uwaterloo.ca/~marj/genealogy/thevoyage.html>)

Marj Kohli has amassed a wonderful collection of record extracts documenting immigrants to Canada in the nineteenth century. This includes voyage accounts, lists of ships sailing to Canada, 1800s emigrant handbooks that document life for the Canadian immigrant and government immigration reports.

12. Historical Canadian Directories

(<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canadiandirectories/index-e.html>)

Just so you don't miss this great resource at Library and Archives Canada, I'm highlighting it separately. The Historical Canadian Directories includes Canadian national, provincial and territorial, county, and city directories, primarily from the ninetieth and twentieth centuries. Full-text searching is available, with links to digitized images of the directory pages.