

Canadian Genealogy – Alberta Research Resources



Alberta Joined The Confederation of Canada in 1905. According to the book *“In Search of Your Canadian Roots- Tracing Your Family Tree in Canada”* by Angus Baxter the area that is now Alberta was originally a part of the land granted to the Hudson’s Bay Company. Then the Hudson’s Bay Company sold the land to the Canadian government in 1870 and it became known as the Northwest Territory.

In 1882 the Northwest Territory was divided into four administrative divisions, one of which was Alberta. It wasn't until the mid 1880's when the railway came through that the area began to draw increased numbers of settlers. Edmonton especially boomed during the Klondike gold rush in 1898. Many of the early Calgary, Alberta settlers were from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). The population of Alberta increased from 30,000 in 1895 to 185,000 in 1906 and was considered the fastest-growing area in the West.

Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths began in 1870 when Alberta was part of the Northwest Territory. The records are incomplete during these years.

Also birth, marriage and death records after 1905 must be obtained through the [Department of Vital Statistics](#).

Civil Registration records from 1898 to 1905 are held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta and are available to the public with these restrictions:

- Births - after 100 years
- Marriages - after 75 years
- Deaths - after 50 years



The physical address of the Provincial Archives of Alberta is:

8555 Roper Road

Edmonton, AB

T6E 5W1

<http://culture.alberta.ca/paa/>

Transcripts of records can be obtained for a small fee.

The publication *“Alberta Formerly the Northwest Territories Index to Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths 1870 to 1905”* found at the Vancouver Public Library, Edmonton Library, or the Provincial Archives of Alberta lists about 30,000 births prior to 1906. The names of parents and spouses, gender, event date, age, and place can be obtained from the publication, as well as, the archival box, file and registration number of the record of your ancestor which can be used to apply for a transcript of the Civil Registration.

Alberta Cemeteries



Since Alberta vital records cannot be accessed over the internet many genealogy societies and other genealogists have posted online newspaper and cemetery records as a substitute for these records.

[The Alberta Genealogical Society](#) has over 700,000 names indexed. These names are mainly from burials in Alberta cemeteries, compiled from grave marker inscriptions. This name list represents only a little over half the cemeteries in Alberta. The list does not include the major cemeteries in Edmonton and Calgary. Some of these names have been compiled from births, marriages and deaths in newspapers, or certain local history books. A few of these cemeteries are located across the border on the Saskatchewan side, or in the Peace River Block of British Columbia. You need to request by email a [computer name search](#). The Society requests donations of \$2.00 per page plus postage to print a report of the names found.

[The Albert Family Histories Society](#) has an online searchable database of 168,565 cemetery records from various sites in Alberta and an alphabetical database of [Calgary Crematorium Records 1937-1979](#).

[The City of Edmonton](#) provides an online search to over 60,000 graves that they have indexed.

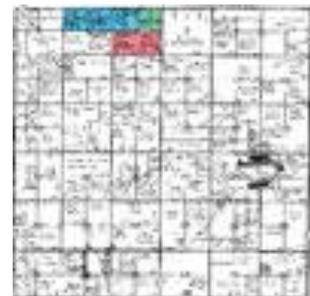
There are several other sites that have posted cemetery records. The following list is only a sampling:

- [CanadaGenWeb.org](#) has indexed numerous tombstone inscriptions and provides this alphabetical surname index for those Alberta cemetery inscriptions it has extracted. An image of the tombstone is provided.
- [The Alberta GenWeb Digital Archive](#) has posted indexes to numerous Alberta records including several cemeteries and [numerous obituaries](#).

Land Records

[The Alberta Genealogical Society](#) has these searchable land databases on their site:

- [Index to Applications for Alberta Land Patents - 1885 to 1897](#)
- [Index to Alberta Homestead Records - 1870 to 1930](#)
- [Index to Alberta Homestead Records - post 1930](#)
- [Index to Selected Alberta History Books](#)



Alberta Obituaries

- [Grande Prairie & District Branch -Alberta Genealogical Society Obituary Indexes 1917-2010.](#)
- [Index to Obituaries of persons from Brooks area](#)
- [Index to Obituaries of persons from Lethbridge Herald](#)
- [Southern Alberta Cemetery Listings](#)

[Click this link](#) for the Searchable Indexes of Calgary Newspaper Births, Deaths, and Marriages at the Alberta Family Histories Society website. The collection includes:



- 1883-1899 Births, Marriages, Deaths, Calgary area newspapers
- 1900 Births, Marriages, Deaths, Calgary area newspapers
- 1901 Births, Marriages, Deaths, Calgary, The Albertan
- 1902 Births, Marriages, Deaths, Calgary, The Albertan
- 1903... Births, Marriages, Deaths, Calgary area newspapers - Planned; Volunteers Needed
- 1989 Births, Deaths, Calgary Herald
- 1992 Births, Deaths, Calgary Herald
- 1994 Births, Deaths, Marriages, Calgary Herald
- 1997 (May-December) Births, Deaths, Calgary Herald
- Turner Valley Oilfields clippings

Searching the index is free. Fees apply to obtain a copy of the record or article. See [Publications For Sale](#) for more details.

Alberta City Directories

- [Edmonton, Alberta Online Historical Directories](#) are available from 1878
- [Calgary, Alberta Online Historical Directories](#) are available from 1884
- [Henderson's Lethbridge city directory. Calgary: Henderson Directories Alberta, 1910-1953.](#)

Things to Remember:

- Most of Canada's records are created and maintained at the provincial level.
- Alberta civil registrations are NOT available online.
- The best sources for online Alberta genealogical resources are the genealogical and historical societies. Links to these societies can be found [by clicking here.](#)

Source: [MyTrees.com](#)