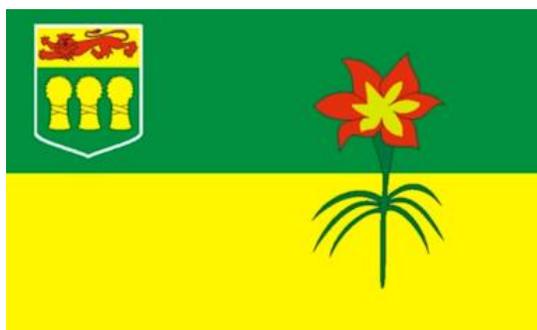


Canadian Genealogy – Saskatchewan Research Resources



Saskatchewan is part of the Prairie region and is the only province with entirely artificial boundaries. It is bordered by the United States to the south, the Northwest Territories to the north and Manitoba and Alberta to the east and west respectively. It was created from the Northwest Territories in 1905 at the same time as Alberta and shares with that province the distinction of having no coast on salt water.

The name, which was first used officially for a district of the Northwest Territories in 1882, is derived from an anglicized version of a Cree word, *kisiskâciwanisîpiy*, meaning “swiftly flowing river.” It is Canada’s fifth largest province in area and sixth in population.

Because the people of Saskatchewan come from so many different ethnic groups, family history researching differs somewhat from other provinces. The history of Saskatchewan prior to 1882 is wrapped in and with that of the Northwest Territories. There were not many inhabitants in the region prior to 1882. Library and Archives Canada lists the 1881 population of the Northwest Territories which included Saskatchewan to be 10,973. That's a rather small population for such a vast area. They do state that enumerators of the 1881 census were not able to fully enumerate the "Aboriginal peoples" of this region.



It was in 1882 that Alberta, Assiniboia, Athabaska, and Saskatchewan were carved out of the Northwest Territories; and that year also saw the beginning of increased immigration from the United States and Europe due to the Canadian Pacific Railway finally reaching Moose Jaw.

Prior to 1885 the population of the region consisted mostly of Indian, Métis, French, and British peoples. Then fueled by the advertisement of the Dominion Lands Act which offered 160 acres of free homestead land for a \$10 registration, Hungarian, Swedish, Germans, and other ethnic groups rapidly began establishing settlements in Saskatchewan. The completion of the railroad in 1890 from Regina to Prince Albert by way of Saskatoon, as well as the availability of homesteading lands, stimulated the migration of Russian settlers as well as French and Ukrainians. Notable groups of English and Welsh also created settlements in Saskatchewan.

Evidence of Aboriginal peoples in Saskatchewan can be traced to at least 10,000 BCE, when hunters followed the migratory herds of bison, leaving behind arrowheads and ashes. The first European explorers, most of them seeking routes for the fur trade, appeared late in the 17th century, and were in time joined by more scientific travellers who expanded knowledge of the area throughout the 19th century.

Actual settlement was preceded in most sections by the establishment in 1873 of the North-West Mounted Police, after which homesteaders, attracted by land that was all but free, poured in at an accelerated rate. The first immigrants settled in areas suited to agriculture in the southern half of Saskatchewan where most residents still live. Towns and villages served as supply depots for farm implements and related service industries.



The number of immigrants who came to Saskatchewan during the 1880s was only a fraction of what was hoped for. Most were part of colonization companies or the attempts by wealthy individuals to establish a colony or village. Even though the railway had been completed the flood of settlers did not arrive, mainly due to world economic conditions and the availability of land in the American west.

Religious History and Church Records

Saskatchewan has always been a predominately Protestant one, with Catholics being the second largest denomination. Throughout the province's history, religious groups have been active in expressing their views on such varied social issues as prohibition, immigration, education and the language used in schools. Religious factors lie behind the division of the province's public schools into Protestant and Roman Catholic systems.



- [The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan](#), a great resource tool for Saskatchewan research in general, has an in depth history of the provinces religious history .
- FamilySearch has an indexed collection of [Catholic Church records](#) that cover the years 1846-1957. They also have a small wiki on Saskatchewan church records.
- The [Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan](#) has some church records among their holdings. Some are original and some are on microfilm. Access can be restricted though. Check the link above for exact rules. Also on the page is the contact information for the various church archives for the province.
- [Catholic Church Records, 1846-1957](#) - Baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, and other records from several Roman Catholic parishes in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. This collection covers church records created 1846-1957, but the content and time period of the records will vary by parish.

- The [Saskatchewan GenWeb](#) has a great page about religious records. It is filled with links not only on finding the records you need, but also on the history of the various religious sects.
- If you have Mennonite ancestors in Saskatchewan, try contacting the [Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies](#). They are a repository for the history and records of the Mennonites in Saskatchewan.

Civil Registration

In Saskatchewan, the Vital Statistics Registry holds records dating from 1895. Few records exist prior to that year.



- [Library and Archives Canada](#) – Listing of civil registration sites to search.
- Family Search - [Index to Saskatchewan Records](#)
- [E Health Saskatchewan](#) – Births registered in Saskatchewan more than 100 years ago; deaths registered in Saskatchewan more than 70 years ago; marriages registered in Saskatchewan more than 75 years ago.

Land Records

In studying the immigration patterns into Saskatchewan, a researcher comes to realize that each time period of immigration and each tract of land tended to identify a certain ethnic or religious group. This means that in order for a researcher to be successful at discovering more about their ancestor, they will first need to identify when and where their ancestor lived in Saskatchewan. It doesn't matter if the ancestor is the first to live in the area or not. Developing a homestead was a fairly long term endeavor and immigrants and families settled in groups; therefore, identifying where and when your ancestor lived in Saskatchewan will likely help you to identify their neighbors and those neighbors will likely be related to your ancestor.

- [Land Grants of Western Canada](#) - Searchable database for Letters Patent issued by the Lands Patent Branch of the Department of the Interior. The records refer to grants issued in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the railway belt of British Columbia, ca 1870-1930.
- [Saskatchewan Homestead Index](#) - a file locator database to the homestead files at the Saskatchewan Archives. It contains 360,000 references to those men and women who, from 1872 to 1930, under the terms of the Dominion Lands Act, took part in the homestead process in the area now known as Saskatchewan. Also included are those who bought or sold North West Métis or South African scrip or received soldier grants after World War One.

- [Family Search Saskatchewan Land Records](#) – Listing of land records in Saskatchewan with an index.
- [Saskatchewan GenWeb Homestead Records](#) – Index to Saskatchewan land records
- [Homestead Forms](#) - Examples of homestead forms available from provincial archives.
- [Canadian Pacific Railway land sales](#)
- [Finding Aid to Prairie Land Records](#) - By Dave Obee
- [Canadian National Railway maps](#) from the early 1900s.
- [Saskatchewan Land Registry](#) - Includes a searchable historic land grant database, including the date of the grant, as well as a modern database of property owners.
- [Saskatchewan Wheat Pool Maps 1924-1984](#) - Includes links to many other geography-related sites and pages.
- [Saskatchewan City and Town Maps](#) - A simple way to find any location in Saskatchewan.
- [Co-ordinate converter](#) - Input the section, township, range and meridian numbers and this handy tool will provide the latitude and longitude.
- [Scandinavian Canadian Land Company](#) - Homesteader index and homestead locations map in the Buchanan area around 1906. From the Kamsack GenWeb.

Census Records

- 1881: [FamilySearch](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- 1891: [FamilySearch](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- 1901: [FamilySearch](#) | [Alberta Genealogical Society](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Automated Genealogy](#) | [FindMyPast](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- 1906: [FamilySearch](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Automated Genealogy](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- 1911: [FamilySearch](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Automated Genealogy](#) | [FindMyPast](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- 1916: [Family Search](#) | [Ancestry.ca](#) | [Library and Archives Canada](#)
1921: [Ancestry.ca](#)
- [Saskatchewan directories on the Internet](#) - online resources to fill in the gaps between census years.

Historic Newspapers

- Regina
 - [The Regina Leader 1887-1890](#)

- [Leader \(Regina\) 1890-1908](#)
 - [The Morning Leader 1901-1930](#)
 - [Regina Leader Post 1930-1987](#)
- Saskatoon
 - [The Saskatoon Phoenix 1902-1928](#)
 - [The Daily Phoenix 1907-1912](#)
 - [The Phoenix \(Saskatoon\) 1906-1988](#) (most of these issues are the Star)
 - [Saskatoon Star-Phoenix 1928-1967](#)
- Newspapers from a variety of sources - [List of digitized newspapers](#)
- [Saskatchewan Historic Newspapers Online](#) - dealing with First World War newspapers first and will expand from there.

Cemeteries

- [Find a Grave Saskatchewan cemeteries](#) - a great finding aid by Bruce Gordon makes searching for burials much easier.
- [Saskatchewan Genealogical Society Burial Index](#) - access is free for members of the society.
- [Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project](#) - transcriptions and photographs from about 1,500 cemeteries.
- [Saskatchewan Cemetery Index](#) Saskatchewan Genealogical Society's inventory of cemeteries. The database contains approximately 3000 cemetery and burial sites
- [Salvador Catholic Cemetery](#) – transcription
- Saskatoon - [Woodlawn Cemetery](#)
- 1888 Pioneer Cemetery, Saskatoon - [Nutana Cemetery](#)- 1888 Pioneer Cemetery
- Bienfait, Saskatchewan - [Bienfait Civic Cemetery](#)
- [Hirsch Community Jewish Cemetery](#)
- Taylorton, Saskatchewan - [Taylorton Cemetery](#)
- Roche Percee, Saskatchewan - [Emmanuel Cemetery](#)
- Estevan, Saskatchewan- [Forest Glen Cemetery](#) ;
- Estevan, Saskatchewan - [Grace "Pioneer" Cemetery](#)
- Estevan, Saskatchewan - [Estevan City Cemetery](#)
- Marienthal Saskatchewan - [St. Cunigundis \(St. Cunigunda\) Catholic Church Cemetery](#)
- Torquay, Saskatchewan - [Torquay Community Cemetery](#)
- Torquay, Saskatchewan - [Mount Green Cemetery](#)

- Landau, Saskatchewan - [St. Joseph Landau Saskatchewan Roman Catholic Cemetery](#)
- [Lloydminster Cemetery Database Search](#) - search 6,400 records by name or burial date or gravesite location.
- [Saskatchewan Mennonite Cemetery Finding Aid](#) - database which will eventually consist of the cemetery name, location, the names of individual grave sites of about 7,000 Mennonite interments, plus the individual positioning of the applicable grave site.

Obituaries

- [Saskatoon Obituary Index 1946 onward](#) - Provided by the Saskatoon Public Library.
- [Saskatoon obituaries](#) - From the Saskatoon Star Phoenix since 2000.
- [Regina obituaries](#) - From the Regina Leader Post since September 2000.

Court Records

- fee-based and free [Court, Probate & Land records online](#)
- Marriage and Divorce
 - Olive Tree Genealogy [index to divorce records](#).
 - [Canada Parliamentary Marriage and Divorces, 1867-1919](#) - From 1867 to 1919, civil divorces in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba were granted by private acts of the Parliament of Canada. This database includes the names of the spouses, places of residence at the time of the marriage and divorce, other marriages (if noted), and dates of marriage and divorce (the date when the act became law) for divorce acts from this period. The original records may include additional information such as other places of residence, occupations, additional court action taken, and number of children (and occasionally their names or genders), if any. The very restrictive grounds for the cost of a divorce made them quite rare; the records are, however, worth obtaining when they apply.
- [Saskatchewan Probate Estate Files, 1887-1931](#) - Index and images of estate files from Saskatchewan judicial districts. The estate records contain loose papers relating to the settlement of estates including such matters as provision for heirs including minor children as well as distribution of funds, land and property. This project was indexed in partnership with the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society.
- [Saskatchewan Provincial Records, 1879-1987](#)
Various documents housed in the Provincial Archives of Saskatchewan, including homesteads, voter lists, pioneer questionnaires, biographies, military and municipal records, teacher registries, township registers, and Henderson Directories.

- [Saskatchewan Judicial District Court Records, 1891-1954](#)
Supreme Court Files, Kings Bench Files, Docket Books and Indexes housed at the Saskatchewan Archives Board in Regina.

Archives

- [University of Saskatchewan Archives](#)
- [University of Saskatchewan Libraries - Special Collections](#)

Genealogical & Historical Societies

- [Saskatchewan Genealogical Society](#) - This society has an extensive library in Regina and branches in all corners of the province. It also has popular seminars every year.
- [Saskatchewan History & Folklore Society](#)
- [La Societe Historique de la Saskatchewan](#)

Military

- [Canadian Military Heritage Project](#) - find out what military records exist for Canada and where they are found online
- Olive Tree index of [fee-based and free military records on line](#).
- [Northwest Resistance Digitized Project](#)
- Northwest Rebellion [Canadian Military Heritage Project](#)
- [Red River Expeditionary Force 1870-1877](#). This site contains a database of soldiers collected from the Militia Units of Quebec and Ontario in early 1870 for service in the Northwest.

Naturalization Records

- [Canadian Naturalization Records](#)

*Sources: Family Search.org; Wikipedia;
Google; Province of Saskatchewan archives
and records; Olive Tree Genealogy; Dave Obee*