

## Canadian Resources and Repositories

### 1. Government resources

**National - Library and Archives Canada** - note that website redesign is in progress and URLs may change

Genealogy and Family History homepage is found at

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

Portal to resources/holdings on LAC website and introduction/links to genealogical resources

Not all records indexed, but complete holdings of census and ship records, among others

**Provincial** – Vital records indexes, online ordering, depending on province

2. FamilySearch.org - free – coverage varies – see Family Search Wiki for collection details
3. Ancestry.com (subscription required) - Canada has its own edition (Ancestry.ca); also part of Ancestry.com World Explorer Plus membership, Ancestry Library and Ancestry FHL editions
4. Databases and Archives – Jewish and general
5. Public and university libraries, historical newspapers, historical and genealogy societies, local histories

## Immigration

*FamilySearch.org* - Canada Passenger Lists, 1881-1922 – indexed by passenger name – includes images

*Ancestry.com* – *Canadian Ship Records Holdings and Border Crossings*

### 1. **Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935**

See Ancestry database description for complete holdings – ports and dates

*NOTE THAT THERE IS A COVERAGE GAP FOR QUEBEC PORTS BETWEEN JULY 1908 and MAY 1919*

### 2. **Canada, Ocean Arrivals (Form 30A), 1919-1924**

### 3. **Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1956** (including, but not limited to, St. Albans, VT) – part of Ancestry.com US Collection

### 4. **Detroit Border Crossings and Passenger and Crew Lists, 1905-1957** – US Collection

### 5. **Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935** – Ancestry.ca and international editions

*LAC - Canadian Ship Records – Passenger Lists, 1865-1922* - The lists are organized by port and date of arrival. This database provides access to passenger lists for the following ports: Québec (1865-1921), Halifax (1881-1922), Saint John (1900-1922), North Sydney (1906-1922), Vancouver (1905-1922), Victoria (1905-1922), New York (1906-1922), Eastern American coast (1905-1922)

Search passenger lists by ship name, date of arrival, shipping line:

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/immigration-records/passenger-lists/passenger-lists-1865-1922/Pages/search.aspx> (select advanced search options)

Ship details for British steamship lines are found on UK outbound passenger lists: Ancestry.com - **UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960** and Findmypast.com - **Passenger Lists leaving UK 1890-1960**.

## Naturalization

- Records between 1854-1917 - only a card index survives, with minimal information
- LAC website has digitized copies of the Canadian Naturalization Index (1915-1951), including information on how to obtain the actual records:  
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/citizenship-naturalization-records/naturalized-records-1915-1951/Pages/introduction.aspx>
- LAC has searchable database of Citizenship Registration Records for the Montreal Circuit Court (1851-1945), with digitized copies of records:  
<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/citizenship-naturalization-records/citizenship-montreal-1851-1945/Pages/introduction.aspx>

**Census** - By law, census records remain private for 92 years.

*Library and Archives Canada*

- LAC holds copies of census enumerations held every 10 years, beginning in 1851, through 1911 and enumerations of the Prairie Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta) which were taken in 1906 and 1916; 1921 census is found on Ancestry.ca.
- Census enumerations may be searched individually (census by census) by name. Introductory pages for each census also describe record field details:

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

*FamilySearch.org* - Canadian census records are indexed and transcribed but only has images for 1842 and prior. There is no index for 1911.

*Ancestry.com* - Holds fully indexed census records, 1851-1921 and 1906 and 1916

Ancestry also has blank forms for selected years:

<http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/canadacensus.aspx>

**Census Substitute**

Jewish Colonization Association individual farm settler reports from Western Canada and Quebec (1906-1951) - Available on Canadian Jewish Heritage Network genealogy search page:

<http://www.cjhn.ca/en/family-history/genealogy-search.aspx>

**1940 National Registration Records**

See <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/SitePages/022-911.007-e.aspx> for information on how to order these records from Statistics Canada. Note that records will not exist for Canadians who served in the armed forces in World War II. They are not subject to census privacy restrictions.

**City Directories**

Montreal – 1842-1999:

- *Annuaire Lovell de Montréal et sa banlieue* [Lovell Directories of Montreal and its Suburbs] Available at <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/index.html> or access through Steve Morse's one-step website <http://www.stevemorse.org>
- After finding correct page click "Affichage plein écran" to display the full screen view

Toronto – 1900-1922

- Toronto city directories 1900-1922 available on Toronto Public Library's website, with earlier directories from 1833 available through the Internet Archive – see list:

<http://wherethestorytakesme.ca/toronto-city-directories/>

Western Canada:

- University of Alberta's Peel's Prairie Provinces collection includes a series of digitized Henderson's city directories: <http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/henderson.html> Edmonton, Alberta 1908-1953; Calgary, Alberta 1910-1953; Lethbridge, Alberta – covers 18 years between 1914 and 1953 – not every year; Winnipeg, Manitoba – coverage is spotty; Brandon, Manitoba 1906-1955 every other year; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – multiple collections, 1910-1919, 1920-1925, 1961-1979 and others
- Vancouver Public Library website has scanned city directories for Vancouver, Victoria and other cities, covering 1860-1955 - <http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php>

If unable to find digitized city directories for a specific city via internet search, check public library websites for city directory holdings and submit lookup request via web, email or phone.

**Voter Lists** - Ancestry.com database - Canada, Voters Lists, 1935-1980 – indexed by name, listed by address

### **Vital Records**

- **British Columbia** - British Columbia Archives genealogy databases link to digitized images of more than 700,000 scanned and indexed documents: Birth (1854-1903), Marriage (1872-1937), Death registrations (1872-1992) - <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch> BC vital records are also indexed and found on FamilySearch - British Columbia Birth Registrations, 1854-1903, British Columbia Marriage Registrations, 1859-1932, British Columbia Death Registrations, 1872-1986
- **Manitoba** - Genealogy searches – indexes: Births (more than 100 years ago), Marriages (more than 80 years ago), Deaths (more than 70 years ago) - <http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>
- **Saskatchewan** - Vital Statistics Genealogy Index – work in progress  
Searches: [http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://genealogy.ehealthsask.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx) Orders – select “Genealogical Photocopy”: <http://www.ehealthsask.ca/vitalstats/Pages/default.aspx>
- **Quebec** - Strict privacy laws – records after 1899 sealed for genealogical access  
Substitute: **Drouin Institute microfilms of Quebec vital records** – available from JGS Montreal or Ancestry.com.
- Ancestry.com has selected collections, including Ontario Marriages, 1801-1928 and the Drouin Collection covering Quebec vital and church records through 1941
- FamilySearch has a large collection of vital records (BMD and probate)– browse the FamilySearch Wiki – use keywords “[Province] Online Genealogy Records” for details by province

### **Burials, Obituaries and Probate**

JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)

Jewishdata.com – subscription site, but free access as member benefit for some JGSs

Ancestry.com and Drouin Institute (<https://www.genealogiequebec.com/en/avis-deces>) obituaries

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada indexes obituaries through contemporary times

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network has Yiddish obituaries from the *Keneder Adler* (1908-1932) and St. John, New Brunswick burials and obituaries

FamilySearch – Saskatchewan, Probate Estate Files, 1887-1931 and British Columbia Wills, 1861-1981

### **Military Records**

Library and Archives Canada holds various records: Searchable database of First World War Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), Casualty records – World War I and II, War diaries

Obtaining records for service after 1919 (including WWII service) - use application form – Unless you are an immediate family member, must provide proof of death at least 20 years – headstone photo is acceptable; “Genealogy package” provides copies of selected military service documents:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/022/f2/022-909.007-e.pdf>

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network - Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces

## **Archival Collections**

Library and Archives Canada Photo Collections - <http://thediscoverblog.com/2012/01/17/how-to-find-photographs-online/>

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada - <http://www.jhcwc.org/index.php>

Publications and exhibits of interest to those with ancestors in Western Canada

Archives includes database of over 14,000 news stories and over 29,000 articles; photos, oral history tapes, family trees, etc.

Archival search is free – there is a charge for copies and translations of Yiddish articles

Canadian Jewish Heritage Network - <http://www.cjhn.ca/en>

Genealogy Database includes: JCA individual farm settler reports from Western Canada and Quebec (1906-1951); Yiddish obituaries from Montreal's daily *Keneder Adler* (1908-1932; Hebrew Sick Benefit Association of Montreal membership listings 1897-1945; Saint John, New Brunswick Jewish Residents, Businesses, Burials & Obituaries 1863-1999; Jewish Immigrant Aid Services client name lists from 1922-1952 – records available from CJCCC National Archives -

<http://www.cjccc.ca/en/cjccc-national-archives/>

JewishGen Canada Database - <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Canada/>

Front-ends multiple collections, both JewishGen (JGFF, JOWBR, Memorial Plaques Database, Jewish General Hospital Database) and external (Canadian Jewish Heritage Network)

## **Other Sources**

Local genealogy societies – general and Jewish

Publications of local historical societies – general and Jewish

Our Roots – Canadian local histories online – keyword search for “Jews” - <http://www.ourroots.ca/>

Google newspaper archives - [https://news.google.com/news/advanced\\_news\\_search?as\\_drrb=a](https://news.google.com/news/advanced_news_search?as_drrb=a)

List of all Google newspapers, including Canadian: <http://news.google.com/newspapers>

Canada online historical newspaper links - <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/1/post/2014/04/canada-online-historical-newspaper-links.html#.U2AkyldU8b>

JewishGen InfoFile on Canada

## **Keeping Current**

Subscribe to blogs/newsletters of genealogical interest to stay up to date on changes.

- Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter - <http://blog.eogn.com/>
- Library and Archives Canada - <http://thediscoverblog.com/>
- JewishGen - <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/>
- Ancestry.com - <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/>
- FamilySearch - <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/> and FamilySearch Wiki (good starting point – not necessarily comprehensive, esp. for Jewish sources)

Periodically review list of new records on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch

Do periodic searches on towns/city directories and review provincial websites for vital records updates

For further reading:

- Abella, Irving, *A Coat of Many Colours; Two Centuries of Jewish Life in Canada* (Toronto: Key Porter Books, c1999)
- Gutkin, Harry, *Journey Into Our Heritage; the Story of the Jewish People in the Canadian West* (Toronto: Lester & Orpen Dennys, c1980)