

## Metis Genealogy

IN many documents and provinces, people of Metis ancestry may, or may not, have been documented. They may be listed as the ethnic background of their father (eg Scottish, Irish), and 'half breed' was a common term. Also watch for mother listed as "Indian woman", or simply as "Mary- unknown) or for 'Irish half-breed'. Language can be critically important in your research – try to think in terms of the times when that person was alive, and how official documents may have described them.

Today, organizations representing Metis people in Canada and each province have differing criteria about who qualifies as a Metis person (Source: Library and Archives Canada)

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples defines Metis as *"individuals who have Aboriginal and non-aboriginal ancestry, self-identify themselves as Metis and are accepted by a Metis community as Metis"* ([www.abo-peoples.org](http://www.abo-peoples.org))

- The Metis Nation Council defines Metis as *"a person who self-identifies as Metis, is of historic Metis Nation ancestry (can be traced to the Red River settlement), is from other Aboriginal peoples, and is accepted by the Metis Nation"* ([www.metisnation.ca](http://www.metisnation.ca)) Metis National Council: <http://metisnationdatabase.ualberta.ca.MNC/>
- Metis Provincial Council of BC: [www.mpcbc.bc.ca](http://www.mpcbc.bc.ca)
- Fraser Valley Metis Association: [www.fvma.ca/citizenship.html](http://www.fvma.ca/citizenship.html)
- Fraser Valley Metis Nation: [www.fraservalleymetisnation.com](http://www.fraservalleymetisnation.com)
- [facebook.com/groups/metisfamilyresources](https://www.facebook.com/groups/metisfamilyresources). These are usually facebook sites set up by a group or individual. Search facebook by family name for people you are researching. Many sites are open only to members; they may ask you to answer some questions before admitting you as a member.
- <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/ancestors-search>. Library & Archives Canada, all Census data 1770 to 1891 Lower Canada, Canada East, Canada West, Manitoba, Northwest Provinces and Prairie provinces. Marriage Bonds 1779 to 1858 Search by family name in Collections.
- <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/discover/land/land-grants-western-canada-1870-1930/Pages/list.aspx...> Scrip (land claims) records on microfilm
- <http://www.redriverancestry.ca/ancestors.php>
- <http://www.lordselkirk.ca/settler-biographies/>
- <https://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/biographical/>
- <https://searcharchives.ucalgary.ca/gail-morins-metis-genealogical-collection>
- General research support: <http://generousgenealogists.com/>
- <http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Category:Métis>
- Cloverdale library: [www.surreylibraries.ca/programs-services/4818.aspx](http://www.surreylibraries.ca/programs-services/4818.aspx)
- <https://www.glenbow.org/collections/search/findingAids/archhtm>
- [www.glenbow.org/collections/archives/genealogy](http://www.glenbow.org/collections/archives/genealogy)
- <http://sunsite.ualberta.ca/Projects/MNC>

Thesis papers involving Canada N8vs/Metis of Eastern Canada very well researched with genealogical info

1. [http://habitantheritage.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/metis\\_Families\\_-\\_Part\\_1\\_-\\_A\\_-\\_B.179160234.pdf](http://habitantheritage.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/metis_Families_-_Part_1_-_A_-_B.179160234.pdf)

2. [http://habitantheritage.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/Couc\\_-\\_Sources\\_Compiled\\_2014.228140631.pdf](http://habitantheritage.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Couc_-_Sources_Compiled_2014.228140631.pdf)

3. <https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/thesescanada/vol2/002/MR93167.pdf>

\*\*Written in French- so someone who can translate to English really should try to help with this if they can, simple words translated wrong can make a huge difference in meanings.

**LAND RECORDS** may apply to some individuals from a variety of European countries whose descendants may later be identified as Metis.

Library and Archives Canada has digitized Land records in three collections, all searchable by the petitioner's name:

- [Land Petitions of Lower Canada, \(1764-1841\)](#)
- [Land Petitions of Upper Canada, \(1763-1865\)](#)
- [Land Boards of Upper Canada, \(1765-1804\)](#)

To access them, click on the Discover the Collection tab on the LAC homepage, then choose Browse by Topic, then Land Records

**Généalogie Québec**, "The Genealogical Site of French America," is a must for researching French-Canadian ancestry, possibly including Metis ancestors

- The online home of the Drouin Institute, available in both English and French—most of the records here are in French. You can research the 47 million images and files with an annual, monthly or 24-hour-access subscription.
  - Collections include the LAFRANCE database of Quebec baptisms (1621-1861), marriages (1621-1915), deaths (1621-1861) and Protestant marriages (1760-1849).
  - the Drouin Collection of parish records for New Brunswick, Ontario, Québec, Acadia and the USA (1621-1876); and Quebec census, cemetery and notary records.

You can search by individual or by couple. Search results for an individual may include baptisms, marriages and burials. Search results for couples may include the marriage and burials of both the husband and wife, plus the baptisms, marriages and burials of all their children

### **Bibliothèque et Archives Nationales du Québec (BAnQ)**

BAnQ website is in French. Click on the English link in the upper right corner for the translated English version.

- To find their main genealogy page, first select Services then on the right-hand side is that National Archives (Archives Nationales) and the last item in that list is Genealogy ([Généalogie](#)).
- Under the heading In French Only is the link Genealogy and Family History. Clicking here takes you to the [Généalogie et histoire familiale](#) page, which is in French—but if you do all this in the Google Chrome web browser, you'll still be able to view a translated version.
- Enter an ancestor's last name (Nom in French) and first name (Prénom) in the search boxes and click the Search button (Chercher). You can have Chrome translate your search results, but note the names of people and places in French, as Chrome will attempt to translate them into English equivalents.

This [provincial archives and library of Québec](#) has 12 research facilities in the province that preserve heritage materials from or related to Québec. It also has free online offerings, including:

- the Iris [catalog](#) listing BAnQ's holdings of genealogical dictionaries, maps, family and local monographs, and more
- [le Dictionnaire Tanguay](#) (Cyprien Tanguay's Genealogical Dictionary of French Canadian Families)
- [Quebec journals and newspapers](#)
- civil and court records including [les Archives des notaires du Québec](#) (archives of public notaries, including guardianship and trusteeship records) from its origins to 1933
- [les Registres de l'état civil du Québec](#) (civil registrations, including baptisms, marriages and burials) from 1900 to 1913
- Other databases include cemetery, coroner, and prison records.

As in all genealogy research, persistence may be needed. Check various kinds of records – institutional, nation or band, community based archives, societies and non-profits, and – sometimes most important – individuals who may have knowledge or suggestions.