

THE ANISHAINAABE



TRACING YOUR ANCESTRAL LINE

Genealogical Resources at the Sault Ste.
Marie Public Library



When tracing native ancestry there are a number of resources which are available at the Sault Ste. Marie Public Library as well as other resources which can be ordered in through the Library's interlibrary loan service. While it may be necessary to eventually consult the records held by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (RG 10) or records held by the Archives of Ontario, a great deal of your preliminary research can be undertaken at the Library.

Records used in tracing an ancestral line will depend on band affiliation, whether the ancestor had federal Indian status, the band location, the government agency associated with that band and the denomination involved with the band.

The Indian Act divides all natives into two major groups - **Status Indians** and **Non-status Indians** which includes Metis peoples. Status Indians are divided into two sections, **Treaty Indians** who have signed a treaty with the British or Canadian Government and **Registered Indians** who have not signed a treaty but who are considered as status Indians by the government. Both these groups are registered and careful records are kept of their descendants by the Department of Indian Affairs.

Non status Indians and **Metis** are people of Indian ancestry who do not have or who have lost their federal Indian status, usually through marriage (an Indian woman who married a "non - Indian" lost her Indian status as did her children) Generally ancestry for non status Indians is approached in the same way as for any non native until band affiliation is established.

STEPS IN TRACING YOUR ANCESTRY

1. The Family

Start with your own family and obtain as much information as possible including copies of birth certificates, marriage certificates and obituaries. Consult genealogical manuals such as [Access to Ancestry](#) (R929.1072 ; Page 141) to set up an ancestral chart. Consult the following resources at the Library:

- Cemetery Transcriptions - the Library holds transcriptions for many of the cemeteries in the Algoma area. Microfilm copies of other cemetery transcriptions are available and can be ordered in from the Archives of Ontario through the Library's interlibrary loan service.
- Indexes to Birth, Marriage and Death Notices - The Sault Star, Bruce Mines

Spectator, North Shore Sentinel and Pembroke Observer have been indexed for various years.

- Census Records - Generally native peoples were enumerated in census returns. The Library holds microfilm copies of census records for the Algoma area and other parts of Ontario. The 1861, 1871 and 1881 census for Algoma have been indexed by name. Microfilm copies of census records not held by the Library can be ordered from the National Archives of Canada through interlibrary loan.
- Birth, Marriage and Death Records- Compulsory registration of births, marriages and deaths came into effect in 1869 in Ontario. Microfilm copies of registration are available for loan through the Archives of Ontario. Earlier records which are included in church and county registers are also available. For later records you must write to: The Office of the Registrar General, P.O. Box 4600, 189 Red river Road, Thunder Bay, P7B 1Z2. For Records from other provinces consult [Access to Ancestry](#)
- [Wesleyan Baptismal Records](#) (R929.3713 Wes)

- Land records - the Library has a microform copy of Archives of Ontario Index to Land Records.

The Library has a number of books which may be of some assistance to you, including:

- [The Penetanguishene List of Drummond Islanders 1815 - 1829](#) (R929.377491 Gid)
- [Sugar Island Sampler](#) (R977.491 Arb)
- [Islands of the Manitou](#) (R977.491 Ash)
- [Superior's East Shore : Mamainse to Gargantua](#) (R971.3132 Ste)

Band History

Check with the band office and obtain any information they may have pertaining to the ancestral line that you are researching. Study the historical background of the band that the ancestral line you are researching is associated with. This historical background should include naming customs and kinship systems, the migration of the band, the government agencies and treaties involved with the band and the church involved with the band. Such information will help in you locate where records are held.

The Library has a number of books which may be of assistance to you including:

- [Missionary Work Among the Ojebway Indians](#) , by E.F.Wilson (R971.3 Chi)
- [The Jesuit Relations](#) (R971.0162 Jes)
- [Indian Treaties and Surrenders](#) 3 vol.(R970.5 Ind)
- [Akwasasne to Wunnumin Lake - Profiles of Aboriginal Communities in Ontario](#) , (R306.08997 Akw)
- [Kitchi-Gami: Life Among the Lake Superior Ojibway](#), (R970.3 Chi)
- [History of the Ojibway Nation](#), (R970.3 Chi War)
- [Local History of Garden River Student Project 1977](#) (R970.3 Chi)

Church Records

Many denominations were active in converting native bands. Study the historical background of the band being researched to determine which of those denominations should be consulted. The Library holds [The Guide to the Holdings of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario Records of the Anglican Church of Canada](#) (R016.283713 Gui) . Note that pages 25 -26 cover records for Sault Ste. Marie, check the index for records for other areas. For other denominations consult [The Directory of Canadian Archives](#) (R025.1714 Dir) for addresses of archives.

Government Agencies

Search the records of the government agency that was associated with the band or group you are researching. The records of the **Indian Affairs Department** (RG 10) hold the greatest number of records including Treaty Annuity Pay Lists which are a valuable genealogical resource. A copy of [Records Relating to Indian Affairs RG 10](#) is available at the reference desk. Treaty Annuity Pay Lists up to 1899 are open and a microfilm copy may be obtained on interlibrary loan through the National Archives of Canada. Note the band, location of the band and the date of the list you wish to consult on the loan form. After 1885 access to these records is restricted by the Access to Information and Privacy Acts. In order to obtain information after this date fill out the form "Application for a Search of Treaty or Interest Paylists" which is available at the Reference Desk.

Records of Metis families of the prairie provinces can be found in "Half Breed Script Files" of the Department of the Interior (RG 15). These may include detailed statements of the family's history and replies to questionnaires. For other records held by the National Archives of Canada consult the guide to the

[Government Archives Division](#) located at Index Table 4.

The Archives of Ontario also holds a number of records which could assist you in genealogical research. Check the index of [Aboriginal Peoples in the Archives : A Guide to the Sources in the Archives of Ontario](#) located on Index Table 4. There are entries under " Sault Ste. Marie" , "Garden River" as well as the names of other locations.

Other Sources

- Hudson Bay Company Archives (a guide is available at the reference desk)
- Sault Ste. Marie Public Library Local History Index (ask at the Reference Desk)

United States

If your research leads you to the United States, consult the book [Ethnic Genealogy](#) (R929.1072 Eth) , Chapter 7, for assistance and [A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy](#) .

