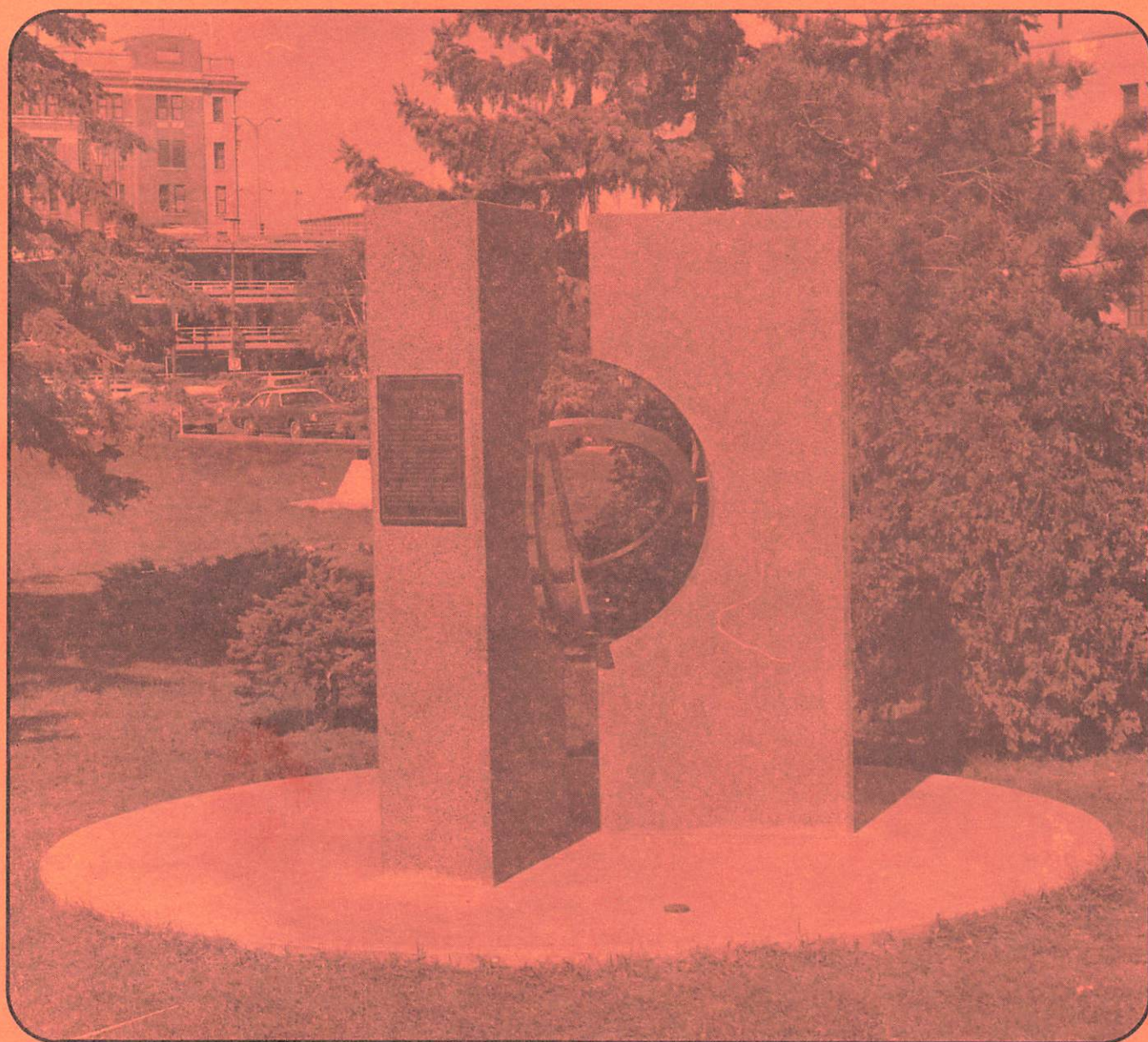


generations

The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

VOLUME 5, NO. 4 WINTER, 1980



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The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

VOLUME 5**WINTER, 1980****NUMBER 4**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GUIDE TO THE HOLDINGS OF THE PUBLIC RECORDS DIVISION, PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF CANADA Part 2	65
TINY PROBLEMS: GENEALOGICAL SOURCES IN ANDORRA by Stefan Jonasson	80

COVER: 1980 is the centennial year of the Association of Manitoba Land Surveyors, the first society of its kind in Canada. It is often said that the laying of the familiar grid system of land surveys led, in part, to the rapid settlement of Western Canada that followed its completion. This monument to surveying in the future stands in Memorial Park, Winnipeg. Photograph courtesy of Eric Jonasson.

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Guide to the Holdings of the Public Records Division, Public Archives of Canada

Part 2

RG 47 DOMINION-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES, 1927-1971, 7.8 m.

Records of several Conferences consisting of agendas, records of proceedings, correspondence and submissions, research papers, reports and clippings. Refer to the Inventory for a list of the Conferences.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: For further information, see Inventory.

Consult: Marcel Caya, Glenn Wright

RG 48 DOMINION OBSERVATORIES, 1904-1963, 9.9 m.

Records of the Dominion Observatories Branch, of the former Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, and more particularly records of the Administration and Seismology Divisions. The records consist of work reports estimates, scientific correspondence, astronomical data, reports of astronomical societies, etc, relating to astronomy, stellar physics, seismology, gravity, geomagnetism, and similar sciences. Also included is material on Arctic sovereignty.

Access: "Restricted". Applications for use should be directed to the appropriate division chief.

Finding Aids: File lists, inventory.

Consult: Bill Oppen

RG 49 DEFENCE PRODUCTION, 1948-1967, 151.5 m.

Central registry files, 1948-1967; registry files relating to the construction of frigates, tanker supply vessels and destroyer escort, 1951-1966; plan of operations for the War Supplies agency, 1961-1963; file on mobilization logistics planning, 1951-1955; departmental manuals and directives, 1963-1966; annual report of the Canadian Arsenal organization of the department and its relationship to the Department of Industry, 1951-1966.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Lists of files.

Consult: Marcel Caya / Glenn Wright

RG 50 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE COMMISSION, 1935-1966, 29.7 m.

Records concerning the organization, application, function, and procedures of the Unemployment Insurance Commission. The records consist of correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, data sheets and reports. There are also files relating to the Great Lakes Seamen's Security regulations, 1951-1957; and series of U.I.C. coverage files, 1941-1963.

Access: "No access without authorization from the Commission."

Finding Aids: File lists, inventory.

Consult: Peter Gillis & John Smart

RG 51 INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, 1923, 5 cm.

Consists of a manual containing a summary of the waterways problem within the jurisdiction of the Commission a review of questions affecting Canada and the United States relating to navigation and drainage and other common problems.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: None

Consult: J.W. O'Brien

RG 52 ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY, 1919-1969, 1.75 m.

Consists of central registry files relating to the visits of high ranking official, 1957-1958; records management manual, 1969; file relating to Governor General Massey's tour, 1955-1956; fifty-two plans showing proposed schemes for the seaway, 1919-1936; files relating to the official opening in June 1959, 1956-1964.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: File lists are available

Consult: Brian Hallett

RG 53 NATIONAL FILM BOARD, 1939-1969, 1.43 m.

Minutes and estimates of the Board, 1939-1943; draft report and working papers of a research project undertaken by McGill University at Expo 67.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: None

Consult: Joanne Poulin

RG 54 COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY, 1880-1960, 27 m.

Comptroller of the Treasury's files dealing with plans for the operation of a Treasury Service in the event of war, 1938-1939; central registry files, 1880-1961, 1932-1951; Salary Deduction Act files, 1932-1938; National Health and Welfare Treasury Office records, 1946-1960; National Defence Treasury office records, 1946-; diary of the Canadian Overseas Treasury Officer, 1939-1941; journals of the Comptroller, 1932-1946. Files before 1931 were inherited from the Auditor General then in charge of pre-auditing payments.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: Lists of files

Consult: Marcel Caya/ Glenn Wright

RG 55 TREASURY BOARD, 1868-1971, 289.2 m.

Records consisting of Treasury Board minutes, 1868-1971; records and submissions, 1931-1965; outgoing correspondence, 1868-1923; central registry files, 1916-1917; departmental estimates, 1920-1964; and special subject files, 1870-1958.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: Lists of files.

Consult: Marcel Caya / Glenn Wright

RG 56 CENTRAL MORTGAGE & HOUSING, 1938-1967, 5.7 m.

Records of the Central Mortgage Bank (1938-1945) dealing with the establishment and organization of the Bank, provincial legislation, Urban Renewal Agreement, appraisal by Soldier Settlement Board, etc. Administrative files of C.M.H.C. (1942-1964) covering Conferences on Community Planning, Home Extension Loans, and meetings of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. There is also material relating to all aspects of the Ajax Development Project, 1943-1967.

Access: 30 year rule. Samples of Joint Loan mortgages under Dominion and National Housing Acts are restricted, (1935-1969).

Finding Aids: Shelf list.

Consult: Peter Gillis & John Smart

RG 57 EMERGENCY MEASURES ORGANIZATION, 1953-1967, 5.7 m.

Central registry files relating to NATO, civil defence committees, and to the E.M.O. financial assistance programme to provinces and municipalities.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Shelf list

Consult: Peter Gillis & John Smart

RG 58 AUDITOR GENERAL, 1827-1881, 1.5 m.

Letters to the Civil Secretary, Lower Canada, 1827-1829; remarks of the Inspector General on public accounts, Upper Canada, 1832-1840; letters received, 1856-1882; letterbooks 1855-1878; outlying Provinces Branch letterbooks, 1870-1881; registrar of free banks letterbook, 1854-1870; minutes of the Board of Audit, 1855-1867.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: See Inventory

Consult: Marcel Caya / Glenn Wright

RG 59 ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES COMMISSION, 1964-1966, 1.1 m.

Reports and papers relating to the work of the commission in every province of Canada except Ontario and Nova Scotia.

Access: Restricted, 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: A list of documents has been prepared.

Consult: Jim Whalen

RG 60 ATOMIC ENERGY CONTROL BOARD, 1946-1955, 1.3 m.

Draft minutes of Board meetings: copies of technical papers presented at meetings of various institutes and associations; reports from the Chalk River Office; a sample of requests for information on matters relating to mining.

Access: 30 year rule. Classified files

Finding Aids: Shelf list

Consult: Bill Oppen.

RG 61 ALLIED WAR SUPPLIES CORPORATION, 1940-1946, 1.3 m.

Includes a 2 volume history of the Corporation from July 1940 to December 31, 1943, prepared by John R. Leslie, Secretary Treasurer; special summary records for each of the projects administered by the A.W.S.C., 1940-1946; operational files dealing with the production of ammonia-ammonium nitrate.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: List of files available.

Consult: Marcel Caya/ Glenn Wright

RG 62 INDUSTRY, 1954-1964, 3.6 m.

Ship subsidy files relating to the applications of the owners for benefits under the Canadian Vessels Construction Assistance Act (13 Geo VI, Chap. 11).

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Card index

Consult: Sandra Bell

RG 63 CANADA COUNCIL, 1957-1967, 63 m.

Files of applications for grants arranged alphabetically by year and award category.

Access: Closed except to authorized personnel of the Canada Council

Finding Aids: List of files available.

Consult: Joanne Poulin

RG 64 WARTIME PRICES AND TRADE BOARD, 1939-1951, 176 m.

Records of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board and Associated companies including administration and office histories, 1941-1949; Secretary's division records, 1939-1948; Chairman's records 1939-1950; materials relating to various Foods and other Administrations, 1939-1951; records of the Commodity Prices Stabilization corporation consisting of working papers, 1944-1951; minutes and by-laws, 1941-1949; various monthly statements and reports, 1941-1951; office and solicitor's files, 1941-1949; and the records of the Wartime Food Corporation, 1941-1950; Canada Wool Board, 1942-1947; Wartime Salvage Limited, 1942-1943; Canada Sugar Stabilization Corporation, 1940-1950.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Computer Print Out Index

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 65 CANADIAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION, 1944-1961, 6 m.

Minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors and of the staff of the Corporation; minutes and correspondence of the Pricing Committee; records relating to the export of goods and supplies to China and selected files which reflect general aspects of the Corporation's work including correspondence, memoranda, reports, administration files and files relating to arrangements for the export of supplies.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Shelf list

Consult: Tom Hillman

RG 66 NATIONAL HARBOURS BOARD, 1936-1965, 4.2 m.

Central registry files, 1936-1960, dealing with the acquisition of lease of harbour property or equipment; cash book and balance sheets, 1962-1965; and collective bargaining agreements.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Inventory

Consult: Brian Hallett

RG 67 EXPORT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 1944-1970, 5.4 m.

Records of the E.D.C. and its predecessor, the Export Credits Insurance Corporation, 1944-1969. Holdings contain Corporation files, 1944-1970; Berne Union files 1946-1969; and samples of Credit Approval Files, 1946-1956; Claims files, 1946-1947; General Inquiry files, 1945-1956, and Policy files, 1945-1963.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aid: Shelf list

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 68 REGISTRAR GENERAL, 1763-1974, 85.5 m.

Registers containing copies of documents issued under the various seals of Canada created by the Provincial Secretary and the Secretary of State in their capacity as registrar. Included are proclamations, commissions, warrants and pardons, bonds, letters patents, land documents, licences, writs, exemptions, etc. Original of some of these documents are also available, 1763-1974; letterbooks, registers, returns, receipts and correspondence of the office, 1796-1964; and Warrants authorizing the use of the Great Seal, 1901-1955.

Access: Permission to obtain copies of documents for legal purposes must be obtained from the Registrar's Office.

Finding Aids: Indexes, Registers and lists of files are available.

Consult: Jim Whalen

RG 69 CENTENNIAL COMMISSION, 1963-1967, 390 m.

Records consisting of scripts, historical material, brochures and newspaper clippings of the Executive Committee, the Sub-Committee, the Administration and the Branches.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: List of files available

Consult: Joanne Poulin

RG 70 AIR CANADA, 1936-1967, 4.2 m., 7 reels.

Records of Air Canada and its predecessors consisting of: correspondence files of H.J. Symington, President Trans-Canada Airlines, 1941-1948; annual reports, 1937-1966; minute book and ledger of T.C.A. (Atlantic) Ltd., 1946-1953; employees publications, 1939-1967.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: List of files available

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 71 EXPO 67, 1867-1967, 1.2 m., 71 reels.

Manual relating to the filing system used in the planning and administration of the Exhibition; copies of the building code and of regulations governing building, sanitation, communications, safety, insurance, etc; promotional material books containing the signature of distinguished visitors; honours, awards and designs; a catalogue for the 1867 Paris World Exposition. On microfilm plans of the pavilions of Expo 67.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: See inventory. The bulk of Expo 67 records are controlled by the Montreal regional office of the Dept. of Industry, Trade and Commerce. Other records are controlled by a M. Bergeron in Montreal, phone 183-9-341-4114.

Consult: Tom Hillman

RG 72 CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EXHIBITION COMMISSION, 1875-1967, 63 m.

Consists of files, plans, newspaper clippings, registers of visitors relating to Canadian participation in international fairs and exhibitions, 1875-1964; correspondence documents and other materials relating to the Centennial Train and Caravans, 1967.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: Lists of files available

Consult: Sandra Bell

RG 73 SOLICITOR GENERAL, 1874-1970, 26.1 m.

Correspondence relating to penal institutions, reports of the Warden's Annual Conference; annual reports; reports on inspections and the findings of study groups; policy directives and division staff instructions of the Penitentiary Branch and National Parole Board Operational Procedures Manual.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: List of files; card index

Consult: Jim Whalen

RG 74 EXTERNAL AID OFFICE, 1955-1958, .6 m.

Samples of construction contract files relating to the Warsak Hydro-Electric Project in Pakistan under the Colombo Plan.

Access: Open

Finding Aid: None

Consult: J.W. O'Brien

RG 75 ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF CANADA, 1960-1968, 20.1 m.

Records, research reports, press releases, and administrative files of the Economic Council of Canada and its predecessor, the National Productivity Council, 1960-1965.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Partial Shelf list on the inventory guide.

Consult: Tom Hillman

RG 76 IMMIGRATION BRANCH, 1865-1969, 137.4 m., 111 reels.

Records of policy and operations of the Immigration Branch since 1873. Files relate to ethnic groups, immigration propaganda, Canadian immigration agents, statistics, health, colonization schemes and companies, bonuses and subsidies, legislation, undesirable aliens, refugees, etc. Passenger lists for all ships landing at Quebec-Montreal and Halifax from 1865 to 1900 are available on microfilm.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Shelf list. Special finding aids for Passenger list by name of ship, port and date of embarkation, port and date of arrival. Chronological index of organized parties of juvenile immigrants to Canada from the U.K. between 1870 and 1899.

Consult: Bryan Corbett, Terry Cook

RG 77 NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, 1922-1970, 46 m.

These records consist of central registry files, 1922-1970; laboratory notebooks, 1939-1951; patents, 1924-1948; Presidential office files, 1939-1941; and Atomic Energy files, 1942-1947.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: Lists of files available.

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 78 NORTHERN ONTARIO PIPELINE, 1954-1967, 5.3 m.

Records, contracts, and procedures relating to the financing, designing, constructing, leasing, and selling, by the Crown Corporation, of the Northern Ontario section of the eventual Trans Canada Pipeline. There is also considerable material on the "Pipeline issue" as a whole.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Inventory, file list

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 79 TARIFF BOARD, 1910-1967, 35.1 m.

Consists of tariff board references, 1933-1967; and general correspondence and reports from various countries, 1910-1959.

Access: Records less than 20 years old are closed.

Finding Aids: List of files

Consult: Carl Vincent

RG 80 BOARD OF GRAIN COMMISSIONERS, 1912-1962, 4.5 m.

Records relating to the inspection, weighing, storage and transportation of grain, the Grain Act, the sites and operation of elevators; and personnel files.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: File list.

Consult: Peter Gillis

RG 81 DOMINION COAL BOARD, 1922-1970, 15 m.

Records relating to the operation of the Board and primarily to the functions, duties and responsibilities of its predecessor, the Dominion Fuel Board. Material relates to coal supply, production, and markets.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Shelf lists

Consult: Peter Gillis.

RG 82 IMMIGRATION APPEAL BOARD, 1956-1968, 1.8 m.

Samples of individual appeal cases relating to deportation, illustrating the procedures of the Board.

Access: Closed

Finding Aids: Shelf list

Consult: Bryan Corbett, Terry Cook

RG 83 DEFENSE CONSTRUCTION LIMITED, 1951-1960, 13.5 m.

Files, ledgers, sketches, etc. relating to the construction of the mid-Canada early warning line, 1951-1960; correspondence on the acquisition of steel for defence projects, 1951-1952; financial records relating to the construction of the Pinetree warning line, 1951-1959; records of Wartime Housing Limited, 1941-1951; construction progress claims files concerning the E.A.S.E. project at Carp. Ont., 1959-1960, and the agreements which led to the formation of Defence Construction Limited and Defence Construction (1951). Limited, 1950-1951.

Access: 30 year rule

Finding Aids: Lists of files.

Consult: Marcel Caya / Glenn Wright

RG 84 NATIONAL PARKS BRANCH, 1890-1971, 56.7 m.

Records relating to the administration of Dominion and National Parks. Files also contain manuscripts of Historic Sites research activity, correspondence of R.B. Bennett (1912-1921), and Canadian Wildlife Service, 1905-1950.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Card index for Parks' records. Shelf list for Historic Sites manuscripts. Partial computer listing.

Consult: Bill Oppen and Peter Gillis.

RG 85 NORTHERN ADMINISTRATION BRANCH, 1890-1971, 300 m.

Central Registry subject files, 1881-1967; local records Ft. Smith, 1947-1949; the Dept's ledger and filing card system, 1930-1950; James Brodie, representative of Mackenzie South District on the N.W.T. Council, 1936-1959; Northern Administration & Land Branch, 1890-1969; oil and numeral exploration permits, 1951-1964; Arctic Division, 1954-1969; individual case files, 1934-1961; Resources & Economic Development Branch, 1897-1970; R.C.M.P. patrol files, 1908-1944; H.B.C. trading post sites and licences, 1927-8; Yukon and N.W.T. mining files, 1898-1950; Northern Co-ordination and Research Centre, 1918-1971; and Indian-Eskimo Economic Development Branch, 1965-1968.

Access: 30 year rule. Requests for access to individual case files (20 series) must be approved by an archivist in the Resource Records section of the Public Records Division.

Finding Aids: Card index, inventory, file list,
Computer index

Consult: Bill Oppen and Peter Gillis.

RG 86 MINES BRANCH, 1886-1965, 12.9 m.

Records relating to the mining industry and associated activities such as roads, exploration, special wartime production, and research.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Index cards, shelf list.

Consult: Bill Oppen and Peter Gillis.

RG 87 MINERAL RESOURCES BRANCH, 1885-1961, 32.4 m.

Records relating to the development of the mineral industry including exploratory drilling, financial assistance, etc. All mining statistics before 1920 (when the Dominion Bureau of Statistics assumed the function) are documented. Other material relates to mining regulations, the Imperial Economic conference of 1932, Tar-sand research, the Alaska Highway, and Abasand Oils Ltd. Series are central registry files (1885-1961) and Deputy Minister's Office (1925-1960).

Access: Open, except records of the NATO Committee reports on Civil Emergency planning, Petroleum planning, North Atlantic Treaty Council, Canadian Territorial Waters, and Reports from Canadian Embassies. For all these, the 30 year rule applies.

Finding Aids: Shelf and file lists.

Consult: Bill Oppen and Peter Gillis.

RG 88 SURVEYS & MAPPING BRANCH, 1869-1969, 76.8 m.

Records include correspondence of the Director, 1933-1950; Hydrographic & Map Service, 1939-1950; Board of Examiners for Dominion Land Surveyors, 1872-1964; Geodetic Survey of Canada, 1921-1943; Engineering and construction Service, 1935-1955; Tourist Roads in P.E.I.; 1938-1940; Engineering and Water Resources Branch, 1947-1952; Legal Surveys Division, 1869-1969; Survey General's Office, 1879-1952; Marine Sciences Directorate: Hydrographic file, 1884-5; and the Astronomical Branch, 1881-1929. There is material on the Alaska Highway, Japanese work camps, Arctic sovereignty, the Quebec boundary, and Columbia River Project.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Card Index, shelf lists

Consult: Bill Oppen

RG 89 WATER RESOURCES BRANCH, 1881-1964, 41.3 m.

Inland Waters Branch registry files, 1881-1948; Saskatchewan River - Buffalo Pound Lake project, 1950-2; letter registers, 1890-1950; Letterbooks of Hydrographic Survey of Dept. of Naval Service, 1916-1920; Irrigation and Water Power, 1894-1951; Water Power Rights, 1901-1944; Marine Sciences Branch, 1883-1964 (including tidal records & ship's logs). Records also concern drainage, navigation, flood warning and control, dams, and domestic water supply.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Card index, shelf list.

Consult: Bill Oppen and Peter Gillis.

RG 90 NATIONAL BATTLEFIELDS COMMISSION, 1907-1969, .6 m., 1 reel.

Brief history of the Commission; list of subscriptions received for the tercentenary celebration; list of members and official of the Commission, 1908-1969; Commission's brochure; first report of the Quebec Landmark Commission, 1907; minutes of procedures of the Commission, 1908-1961; purchase of land agreements, 1908-1920.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: See inventory

Consult: Peter Gillis and Bill Oppen

RG 91 YUKON TERRITORIAL RECORDS, 1894-1951, 155 reels.

Copies of records in the Yukon Territorial Archives. Series include registry files, 1894-1951; subject files 1897-1949; applications for Town lots in Dawson, 1898; liquor licences, 1898-1901; marriage licences, 1901-1915; Commissioner's Office letterbooks, 1899-1902; Gold Commissioner's Office letterbooks, 1899-1924; Comptroller's Office letterbooks, 1899-1902; and registers & indexes, 1898-1908.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Shelf lists in inventory.

Consult: Peter Gillis and Bill Oppen

RG 92 GEOGRAPHICAL BRANCH, 1945-1968, 9.6 m.

Central Registry files created in the Geographical Branch of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and its successor, the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The records concern such subjects as urban geography, port studies, terrain analysis, area economic surveys, hydrology, administration of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, and numerous Branch scientific publications.

Access: Open

Finding Aid: Shelf list in inventory.

Consult: Bill Oppen

RG 93 ATMOSPHERIC ENVIRONMENT SERVICE, 1840-1955, 11.3 m.

Numbered correspondence of the Canadian Meteorological Service accompanied by Registrars and Indices; correspondence of various Directors (1880-1955) and dealing with the Quebec Observatory.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Shelf list

Consult: Brian Hallett

RG 95 CORPORATION BRANCH, 1867-1959, 375 m.

Records of the Corporations Branch, consisting of files of companies chartered under the Federal Companies Act which have surrendered their charters.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aid: File list from PARC

Consult: Tom Hillman

RG 96 NORTHERN CANADA POWER COMMISSION, 1898-1966, .6 m.

Records of the Northern Light, Power, and Coal Co. Ltd. and its three subsidiaries: the Dawson Electric Light and Power Company Limited, 1898-1966; the Dawson City Water and Power Company Limited, 1900-1966; and the Yukon Telephone Syndicate Limited, 1900-1966. The Records include minute books, by-laws mortgage debentures, contracts, etc.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: Inventory

Consult: Peter Gillis

RG 97 COMMUNICATIONS, 1904-1973, 38.1 m.

Refined World Map data transmitted by the Alouette I and II, and Isis I Satellites, 1962-1971; records of the Royal Commission on Broadcasting and various other conferences and commissions, 1919-1947; files submissions, studies of "Telecommission"; registry files covering a wide range of activities of the Department and its predecessors, 1904-1973.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Lists of files

Consult: Brian Hallett

RG 99 NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD, 1930-1963, .2 m.

Applications and correspondence concerning the export of crude oil and petroleum products from Canada, 1930-1963.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: File list.

Consult: Bill Oppen.

RG 100 CANADIAN RADIO-TELEVISION COMMISSION, 1959-1973, 37 reels.

Records of public hearings of the Canadian Radio-Television Commission and its predecessor, the Board of Broadcast Governors.

Access: Open

Finding Aids: Microfilm shelf list. Table contents on each reel of microfilm

Consult: Brian Hallett

RG 102 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, 1971-1973, 1.1 m.

Consists of correspondence, 1971-1973; inter-ministry memoranda, 1971-1972; and some subject files, 1972.

Access: 30 year rule.

Finding Aids: None

Consult: Carl Vincent

Tiny Problems: Genealogical Sources in Andorra

by Stefan Jonasson

In 1978, the tiny Principality of Andorra commemorated its 700th year of nationhood. Since 1278, when the Count of Foix in France and the Bishop of the See of Urgel in Spain became Suzerains, or co-princes, of Andorra, this nation of 30,000 has somehow maintained its political independence.

Today, the Suzerains are the Bishop of Urgel and the President of France, who now holds the authority of the Count of Foix. The actual governing of Andorra is in the hands of an elected council.

Andorrans speak Catalan, a unique and richly endowed romance language. French and Spanish are also spoken to a lesser degree.

Being well sheltered from the rest of Europe, sandwiched between France and Spain, away from military conflicts, Andorra has managed to preserve many of its written records, including those of genealogical importance.

ARCHIVES

The Andorran archives contains a substantial collection when one considers the small size of Andorra. Most records of archival nature are held at:

Archives Nationales (Servei D'Arxius)
Assessoria Pedagògica del M.I. Consell General
Casa de la Valle
Andorra la Vella, Andorra.

Some Andorran records, including those relating to the Count of Foix, are maintained at:

Archives nationales de France
60 rue des Francs-Bourgeois
Paris 3, France.

An extensive collection of records also exists at:

Archives de Seo de Urgel
Section d'Andorra
Urgel, Spain.

Finally, one small set of records is maintained in the Segreto Archives of the Vatican.

VITAL RECORDS

Birth, marriage and death records may be obtained by writing the mayor, or Alcalde, of the municipality in question. The six municipalities in Andorra are Andorra la Vella, Canillo, Encamp, La Massana, Ordino and Sant Julia. No provision for civil divorce exists in Andorra, thus no divorce records are maintained by municipal authorities. Census are sometimes taken on an irregular basis by municipal authorities in Andorra.

CHURCH RECORDS

The Roman Catholic Church maintains baptismal, marriage and death records in each of the six ecclesiastical districts, which roughly correspond to the municipal divisions. These records may be obtained by contacting the parish priest in each district. Church decrees of divorce may be obtained by writing the Bishop of Urgel in Urgel, Spain.