

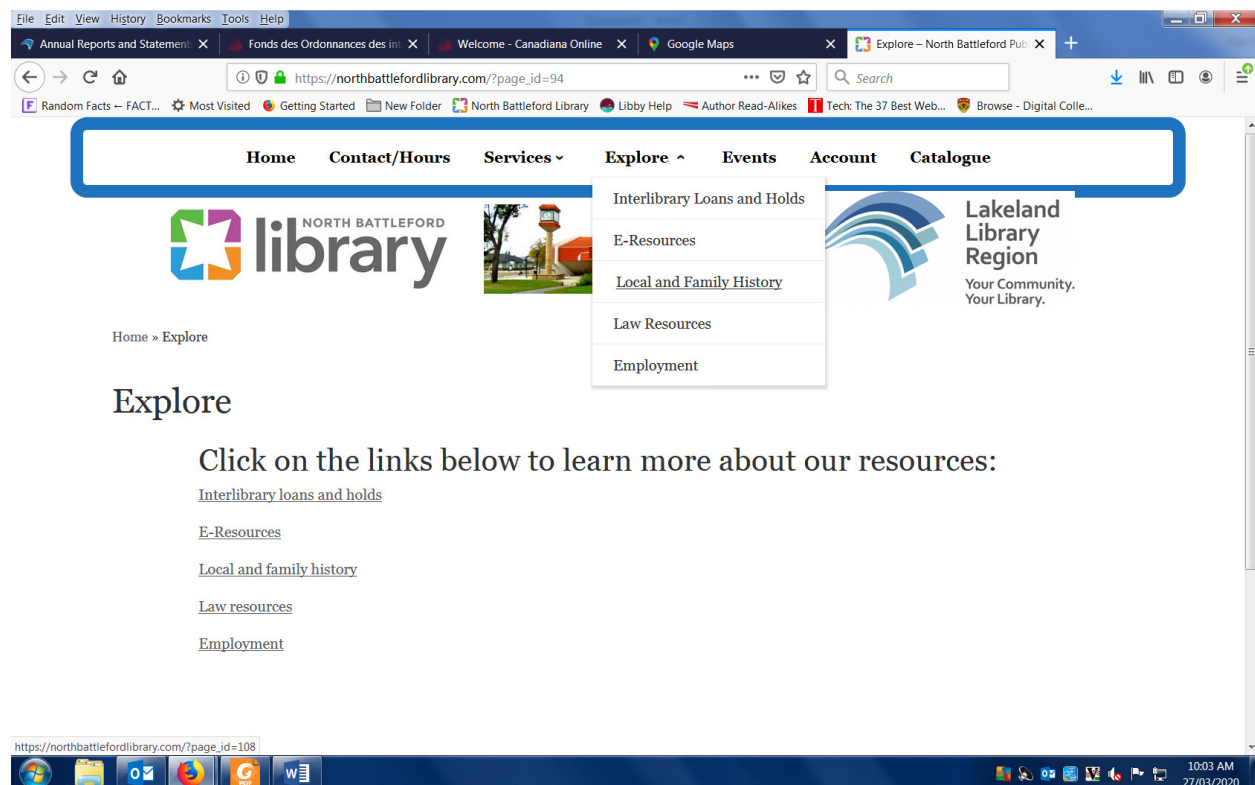
A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO DOING GENEALOGICAL and LOCAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH AT THE LIBRARY

Many of our patrons are interested in researching the history of their own family, and/or local history. We have prepared the present brief introductory guide to the electronic, print, and microform resources that we have at our disposal. It is not in any way conclusive or comprehensive, so if you have any further questions or would like assistance in accessing some of the resources described below, please do not hesitate to contact us at ref.desk@lakeland.lib.sk.ca or call us at 306-445-3206.

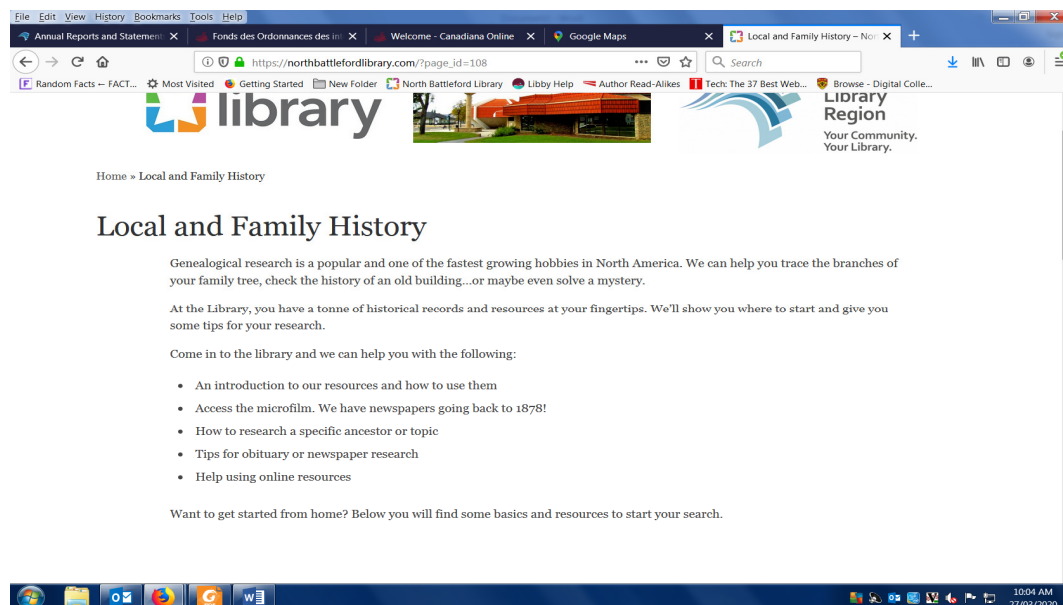
The first step is really to talk to your own immediate relatives to try to obtain as much information as possible as to family names, relations, and vital facts such as birth, marriage, and death dates and places. Write it all down as your starting notes, always keeping in mind that sometimes people misremember things or names have multiple spellings. You do not want to be rigid or exact in your search strategy, but should make allowances for small variations in birth dates or name spellings—particularly since in the old days some immigrants to North America would anglicize their names. (Example: Wilhelm becomes William).

Now that you have your initial notes jotted down from family sources, let's take a look at e-resources that you can access at home. To do so, go onto our branch's website at www.northbattlefordlibrary.com

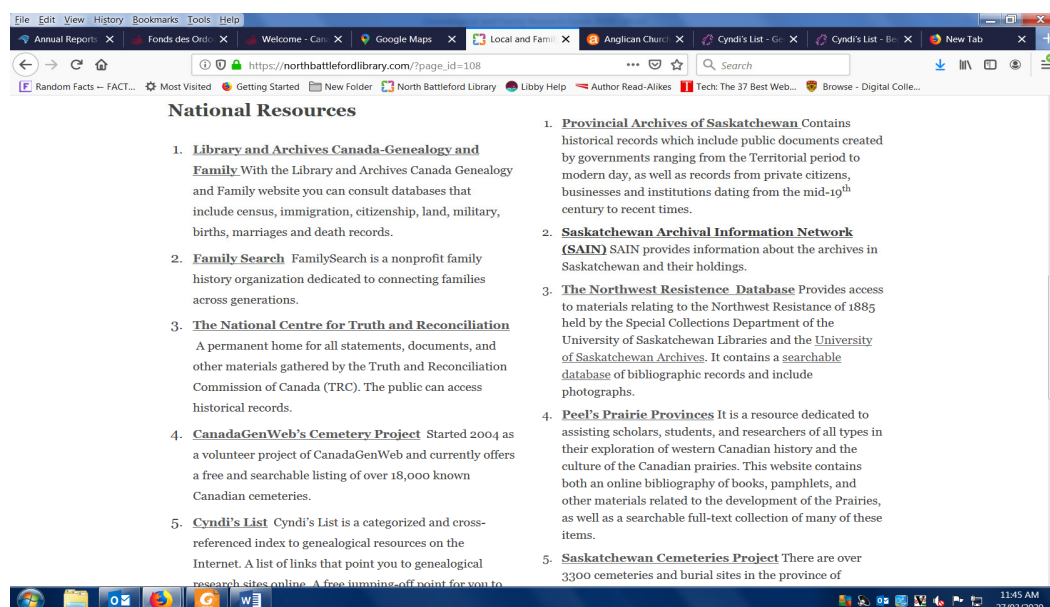
Then, click on the tab called **EXPLORE**, and you will find “**Local and Family History**” on the drop down menu, as seen below:



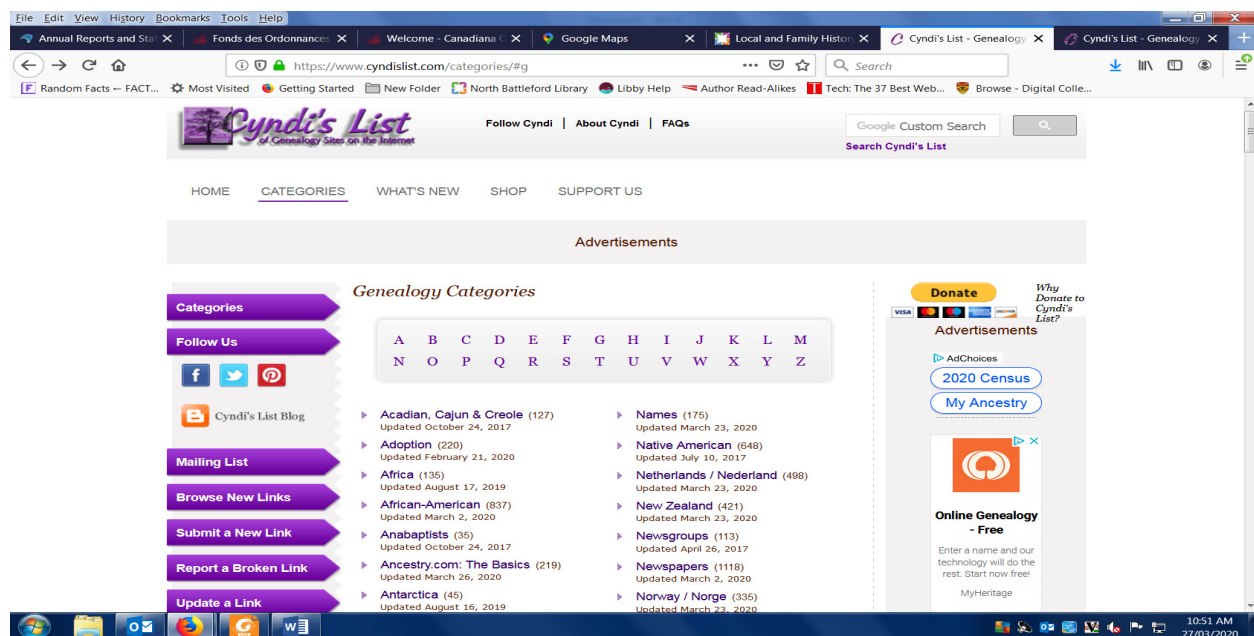
Go ahead and click on “**Local and Family History**” to bring up the next page:



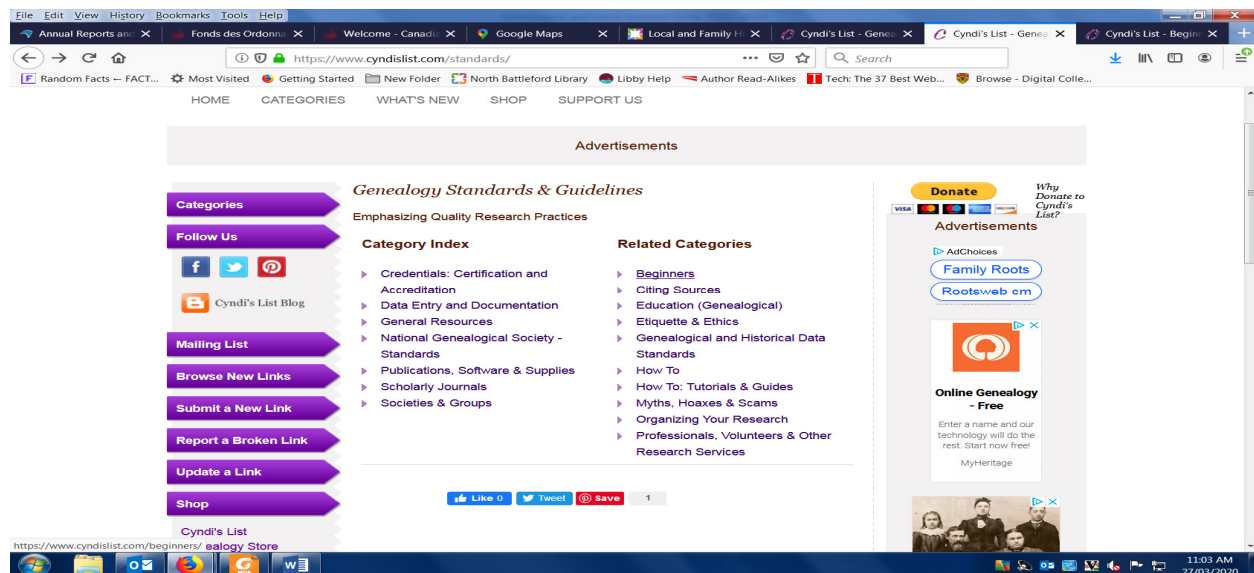
Here we give several links, both for general or national research and for Saskatchewan specific research, in the left and right columns respectively. For an example of the former, or general research, let us see where “Cyndi’s List” (no.5) takes us:



On the website Cyndi’s List, you will find not a simple search box to look for names of your ancestors or relatives, but rather a large list of categories of subject matters related to your genealogical research which may be helpful. Let’s look under “**Genealogy Standards & Guidelines**”:



We find that not only does it have the contents of that category, the website also provides related topics in the column to the right. This is a feature of the website and it can prove very useful—in fact, let’s see what is under the suggested related topic “**Beginners**”.



Following that related link will bring up a great deal of useful material to help you start your journey into genealogical research. Take some time to have a look around...You can easily spend many hours going through this site and its links alone. But as this is a brief introductory guide, let us move on for now.

Another link in the left column on our own library’s website (shown above) is that of FamilySearch, which is a site hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, or the Mormon Church. For their own theological concerns, the Mormons have built up a vast collection of microfilm copies of genealogical records from state and ecclesiastical archives around the entire world. Much of this has

been digitized and made available online. You will need to create an account, but they do not charge for this.

As an example, I searched the site under the **RECORDS** tab for my own maternal grandfather. At first I was not specific enough with date or location, and many hundreds of irrelevant records were returned. I used my own personal knowledge of family history—remember that, as we said, this is where you should start, by talking to your own family and friends of the family—and entered more personal data such as a date range for his probable birth year, and location. This was successful:

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Records', 'Family Tree', 'Genealogies', 'Catalog', 'Books', and 'Wiki'. The left sidebar contains search refinement options: 'Deceased Ancestor's Information' (First Names: Verland, Last Names: Rorick), 'Search with a life event:' (Birthplace: Ohio, Birth Year Range: 1924-1931), and 'Search with a relationship:' (Spouse, Father, Mother, Other Person). The main content area displays 'Search Results from Historical Records' for 'Verland Rorick' with birthplace 'Ohio' and birth year range '1924 - 1931'. It shows 1-20 of 27 results. The results are presented in a table with columns for Name, Events, Relationships, and View. The first result is 'Verland E Rorick', Son, United States Census, 1940, born 1930, residence 1940;1935, Ward 1, Marion City, Marion Township, Marion, Ohio, United States; Same Place. The second result is 'Verland E Rorick', Son, United States Census, 1930, born 1930, residence 1930, Scott, Marion, Ohio, United States. The third result is 'Verland E Rorick', Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013, born 1929, marriage 12 November 1949, Marion, Ohio, United States. The fourth result is 'Verland E Rorick', Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013, born 1929, marriage 25, Marion, Ohio, United States. The Relationships column lists father, mother, and other relatives for each record.

Name	Events	Relationships	View
Verland E Rorick Son United States Census, 1940	birth: 1930 residence: 1940;1935 Ward 1, Marion City, Marion Township, Marion, Ohio, United States; Same Place	father: Carl W Rorick mother: Ellen E Rorick other: Wanda M Rorick, Eugene C Rorick, Myron L Rorick	
Verland E Rorick Son United States Census, 1930	birth: 1930 residence: 1930 Scott, Marion, Ohio, United States	father: Carl Rorick mother: Ellen E Rorick other: Wanda M Rorick	
Verland E Rorick Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013	birth: 1929 marriage: 12 November 1949 Marion, Ohio, United States	father: Carl W Rorick mother: Ellen Stauffer spouse: Phyllis Joan Mathias other: Reuben E Mathias, Katherine Hoffman	
Verland E Rorick Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013	birth: 1929 marriage: 25 Marion, Ohio, United States	father: Carlin Rovick mother: Ellen Stauffer	

The first one, I saw at once, was undoubtedly my grandfather, whose middle name (and nick name) was Elmer, hence the middle initial “E”. Moreover, I recognize the names of my great aunts and uncles. When I click on the record, the following screen appears:

The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with search filters like 'Refine your search', 'Deceased and Information', and 'Search with a'. The main area displays a record for Carl W. Rorick, born 1930, with details like gender (Male), age (10), and birthplace (Ohio). Below this, a table lists other household members: Ellen E. Rorick (Wife, 31), Wanda M. Rorick (Daughter, 12), Verland E. Rorick (Son, 10), Eugene C. Rorick (Son, 5), and Myron L. Rorick (Son, 1). To the right, there's a thumbnail of the original document and a link to 'View the original document'. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various icons and the date 27/03/2020.

Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
Carl W Rorick	Head	Male	35	Ohio
Ellen E Rorick	Wife	Female	31	Ohio
Wanda M Rorick	Daughter	Female	12	Ohio
Verland E Rorick	Son	Male	10	Ohio
Eugene C Rorick	Son	Male	5	Ohio
Myron L Rorick	Son	Male	1	Ohio

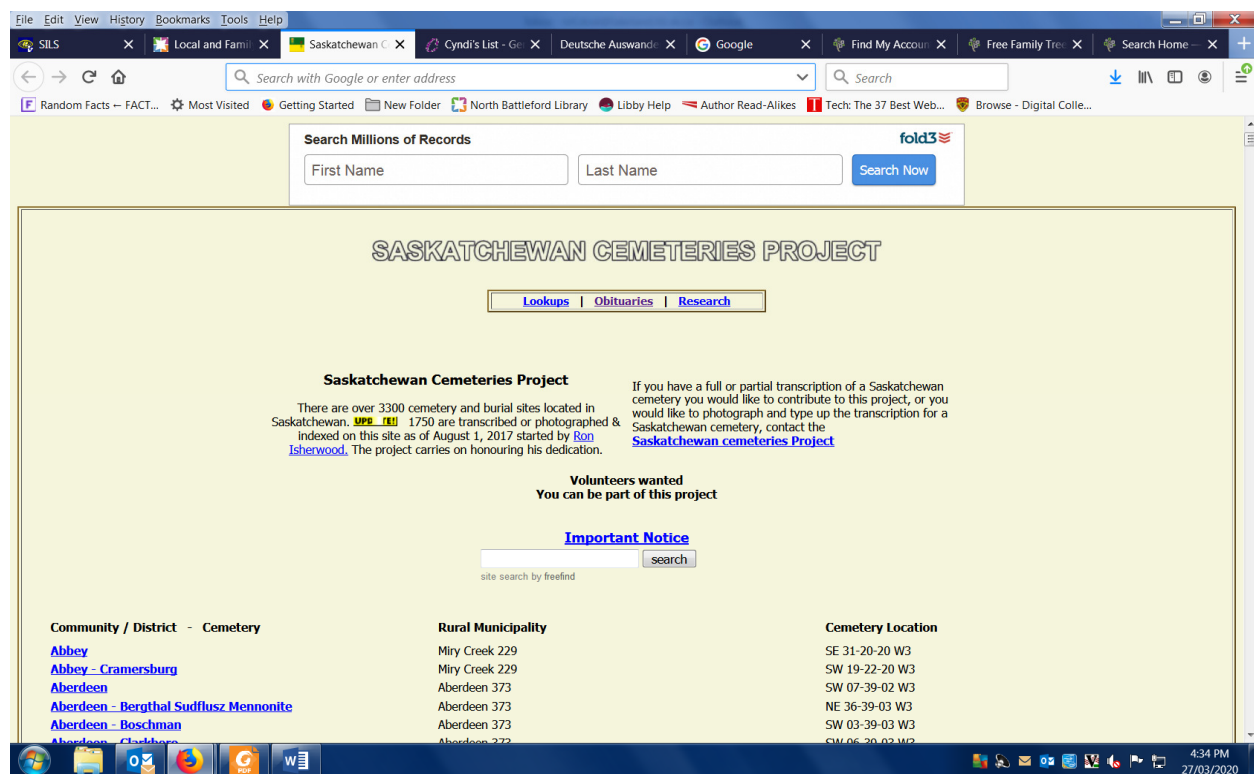
You can see the original scanned microfilm copy of the record and can enlarge it. You should always do so, because the original document may have more information than the database is giving you.

The citation for that document is given in brief, and we see that it is the decennial U.S. census for the year 1940. The real strength of this site is seen immediately below that. You can see that related records are also given, including local marriage records. These related records can provide you with interesting surprises which you might otherwise spend a lot of time looking for elsewhere.

Just as important of course are the related persons, i.e. family members, to the left side of the screen. In this case it was possible to see my great-grandfather's records, and find out who his own father was from a previous U.S. census in turn. Links to other vital records were available, and in a few instances one can even read in what cemetery the final remains are buried.

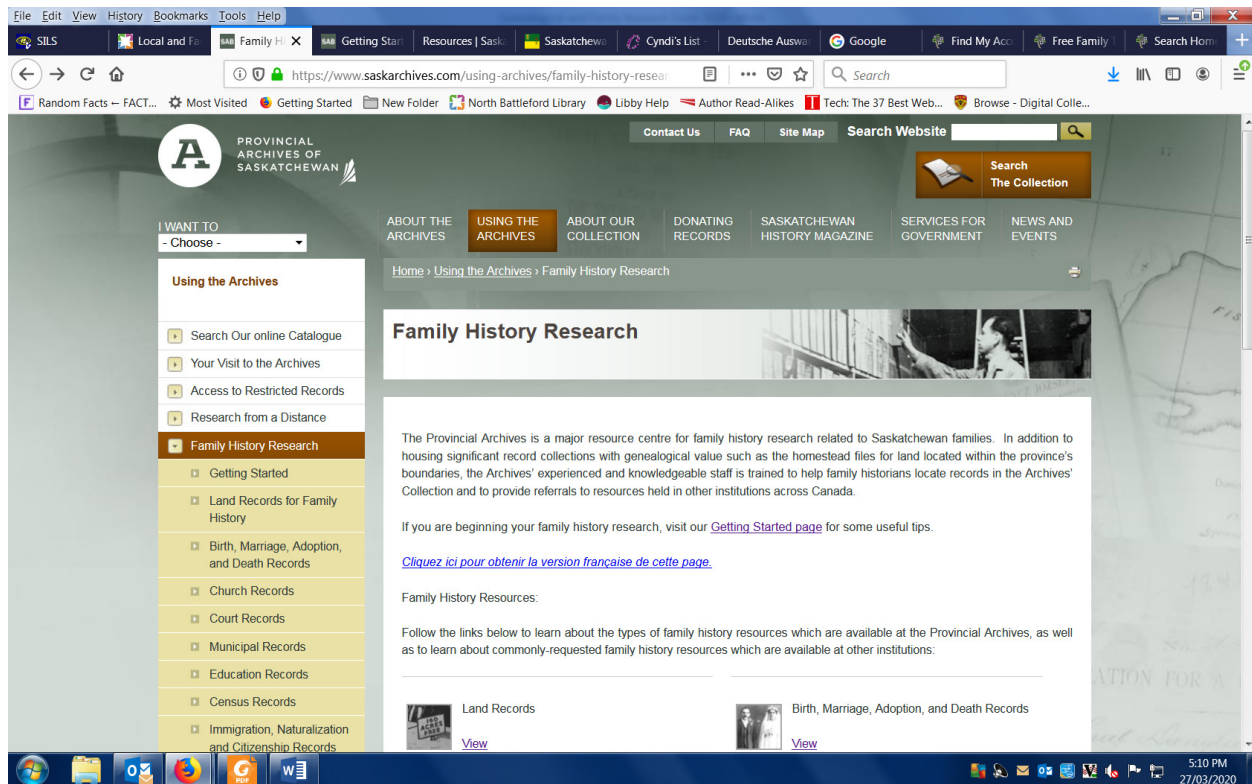
SASK SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Let us return to our initial library e-resource page and look at the more localized resources on the right side of the screen. All of them are potential goldmines of information, but one in particular may be of interest for locating at least birth and death dates, and disposition of final remains. This is the Saskatchewan Cemeteries Project, which currently indexes a little over half the cemeteries in the province, providing a full transcription of the tombstones found in these graveyards—and even actual photographs of them taken by volunteers.



As you can see the site also includes transcriptions of obituaries from various Saskatchewan towns. This site works best however when you already have some idea of where the relative or ancestor you are researching may have lived or died.

Going back to our e-resources page and looking again at the right side of the screen you will see that last but not least comes the Saskatchewan Archives website. Let's have a look at it...



Click on 'Using the Archives' and then 'Family History Research' as I have done in the screen shot above. You will find several categories of records, from homesteading land files to vital records to military records to citizenship/naturalization records to documents relating to First Nations.

When you click on some of these categories you find not a searchable database but rather information about these types of records and links to external sites which do have searchable databases, or else which list various local civic and church archives around the province.

PRINT AND MICROFORM RESOURCES INSIDE THE LIBRARY

North Battleford Public Library has numerous print and microform resources including:

- A special collection of local history books for library use only
- Genealogical reference books located in the central reference collection for library use only
- Many local history books in general circulation and available for borrowing;
- A card catalogue which indexes local family and personal names to references made to local history books
- A collection of obituaries from local newspapers
- Yearbooks from the Battlefords area
- Phonebooks and old editions of the *Henderson's* directories for the Battlefords which allow us to trace back the history of who lived where and what businesses were located where
- Back issues of *Saskatchewan History*

- Microfilm copies of local newspapers such as the *Battleford News-Optimist*, and more.

For help with these and other print resources available inside the library, please ask at the reference desk, or email ref.desk@lakeland.lib.sk.ca or call 306-445-3206.