

Manitoba Surrogate Court probate applications

A set of 33 microfilms – the Manitoba Surrogate Court probate applications – offers information on the deaths of about 230,000 people. It serves as an index to deaths of some Manitoba residents, as well as some non-residents with ties to the province.

Finding a reference is a two-step process. First, search for the name of the deceased person in the index, on microfilms M1266-M1270. Surnames are generally sorted by the first letter, then by the first vowel. If you find your person, make a note of the reference number, then use it to find the person in the applications, on microfilms M1278-M1305. The applications provide the probate application number; the name of the deceased; residence; amount of estate; date of death; name, address and occupation of applicant; nature of application; court district; date when certificate was mailed; and a note of matter certified.

These microfilms are available at the Archives of Manitoba in Winnipeg as well as other libraries such as the Alberta Genealogical Society in Edmonton and the Victoria Genealogical Society in Victoria.

Copies of probate files are available from the Archives of Manitoba. Ask for a copy of the full file, or just the key documents if you prefer. Provide the name of the deceased, the date the certificate was mailed, the court district, and any number that appears in the final column, which is marked "note of matter certified." DO NOT use the probate application number.

E-mail: pam@gov.mb.ca

Regular mail: Archives of Manitoba, 200 Vaughan Street, Winnipeg R3C 1T5

Telephone: 204-945-3971 Fax: 204-948-2672

You will not find a probate reference for everyone! Also, if the deceased is listed in the first set, but not the second, that's a problem with the original documents. Some of the application books were lost prior to the microfilming.

Other sources of information:

- Use the death dates provided in the index to check for obituaries in the Winnipeg Free Press, available on microfilm at most university libraries in Western Canada.
- Use locality information to check for local histories.
- Look in old directories as well. The Legislative Library in Winnipeg has had an extensive microfilming program. Directories are also found in two microfiche collections, CIHM and Peel. For a guide to coverage, check Dave Obee's book *Western Canadian Directories on Microfiche and Microfilm*, available on Interlink's Canada page.

The Archives of Manitoba has an extensive collection of microfilmed material. Information is on the Archives website.

Dave Obee, Victoria, revised December 2006

Guide to the Surrogate Court microfilms

Part One - Accession GR 3728 - Index

Reel M1266	1871 - 1930 (A-L) 1871- 1930 (M-Z) January 1931- June 1939
Reel M1267	June 1939 - January 1945 January 1945 - April 1949 April 1949 - September 1953 September 1953 - June 1957 July 1957 - January 1965 A-Fy
Reel M1268	July 1957 - January 1965 Ga-Z February 1965- December 1972 A-Mc
Reel M1269	February 1965- December 1972 McA-Z January 1973 - December 1978
Reel M1270	January 1979 - December 1982 January 1983 - July 1984

Part Two - Accession GR 3750 - application list

Reel M1278	Application Numbers 1-9370 -- February 1884 - August 1907
Reel M1279	Application Numbers 9371-18957 -- August 1907 - March 1917
Reel M1280	Application Numbers 18958-28567 -- March 1917 - June 1922
Reel M1281	Application Numbers 28568-38655 -- June 1922 - May 1929
Reel M1282	Application Numbers 38657-47533 -- May 1929 - June 1935
Reel M1283	Application Numbers 47534-54676 -- June 1925 - November 1939
Reel M1284	Application Numbers 54677-61915 -- November 1939 - June 1943
Reel M1285	Application Numbers 61916-72424 -- June 1943 - August 1946
Reel M1286	Application Numbers 72425-90002 -- August 1946 - July 1949
Reel M1287	Application Numbers 90003-98493 -- July 1949 - May 1952
Reel M1288	Application Numbers 98494-106946 -- May 1952 - January 1955
Reel M1289	Application Numbers 106947-116423 -- January 1955 - September 1957
Reel M1290	Application Numbers 116424-125175 -- September 1957 - February 1960
Reel M1291	Application Numbers 125176-133740 -- February 1960 - July 1962
Reel M1292	Application Numbers 133741-141178 -- July 1962 - July 1964
Reel M1293	Application Numbers 141179-148584 -- July 1964 - May 1966
Reel M1294	Application Numbers 148585-156186 -- May 1966 - February 1968
Reel M1295	Application Numbers 156187-163670 -- February 1968 - January 1970
Reel M1296	Application Numbers 163671-171059 -- January 1970 - June 1971
Reel M1297	Application Numbers 171060-178449 -- June 1971 - September 1973
Reel M1298	Application Numbers 178450-185893 -- September 1973 - January 1975
Reel M1299	Application Numbers 185894-193283 -- January 1975 - January 1977
Reel M1300	Application Numbers 193284-200638 -- January 1977 - July 1978
Reel M1301	Application Numbers 200639-208029 -- July 1978 - January 1980
Reel M1302	Application Numbers 208030-211674 -- January 1980 - October 1980
Reel M1303	Application Numbers 211675-219081 -- October 1980 - April 1982
Reel M1304	Application Numbers 219082-226505 -- April 1982 - October 1983
Reel M1305	Application Numbers 226506-232674 -- October 1983 - November 1984