

Introduction to the Métis in the Winnipeg census, 1901-1916 Database

This document is meant to be a brief introduction to the database. It is suggested that anyone using the data read this document first, as it clarifies where the data came from, how it was recorded and how it should be read. If you have any general questions, this document will probably answer them. If you have questions specifically related to the linking process or how people were confirmed to be Aboriginal, there are separate documents that address these issues in particular.

Index

- A) The Data
- B) Index of Project Excel Sheets
- C) Sources of Census Data
- D) Methodology for Gathering Census Data
- E) Who and What was Recorded in the Excel Documents?
- F) Navigating the Excel Documents
- G) Helpful Web Links
- H) How do the Excel Documents Differ from the Manuscript Census?
- I) Notes about Common Headings in the Censuses
- J) Notes about Headings Unique to Certain Census Years

A) The Data

This database has been created as part of a wider project to record Winnipeg's Aboriginal population at the turn of the 20th century. It contains information from the 1901-1916 manuscript censuses, for individuals living in Winnipeg or Saint Boniface who considered to be Aboriginal. This database also attempts to follow the location Aboriginal people between multiple census years. To this end efforts have been made to link people through census years as they move into and away from Winnipeg and Saint Boniface.

B) Index of Project Excel Sheets

The Primary Documents:

Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1901: This document contains data from the 1901 manuscript census for individuals living in Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town who are considered to be Aboriginal.

Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1911: This document contains data from the 1911 manuscript census for individuals living in Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town who are considered to be Aboriginal.

Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1916: This document contains data from the 1916 manuscript census for individuals living in Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town who are considered to be Aboriginal.

The Supplementary Documents:

Outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1901: This document contains data from the 1901 manuscript census for individuals who are living outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town, but who have been found living in the city in the 1911 and/or 1916 censuses.

Outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1911: This document contains data from the 1911 manuscript census for individuals who are living outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town, but who have been found living in the city in the 1901 and/or 1916 censuses.

Outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town 1916: This document contains data from the 1916 manuscript census for individuals who are living outside of Winnipeg and Saint Boniface Town, but who have been found living in the city in the 1901 and/or 1911 censuses.

Duplicates: This document records individuals and families that appear twice in the same census. When an individual appears twice in the same census, the first instance is recorded in one of the above documents and the second is recorded in this document.

Linking Winnipeg: This document serves as a central hub for connecting individuals who are found in multiple census years. Using this document it is possible to track Aboriginal individuals through multiple documents.

C) Sources of Census Data

The most significant sources used to transcribe the manuscript census were Automated Genealogy (especially 1901 and 1911) and Ancestry (1916)

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>

<http://home.ancestry.ca/>

D) Methodology for Gathering Census Data

The most commonly used techniques for gathering data were:

1. Scrolling through individual pages of the manuscript census, looking for features that identified people as Aboriginal. Most importantly an Aboriginal tribal origin, colour or language. See the “Confirming Aboriginal Matches” document for a discussion of what was considered an Aboriginal identifier.
2. Using the search by nationality/race function on Ancestry.ca
3. Linking people who were Aboriginal matches to other censuses. See the “Rules for Linking” document.
4. As part of a separate project, external documents were used to identify the origin of residents of Winnipeg's Roostertown settlement. Based on the findings of this project a number of people who appeared to be Aboriginal non-matches in the manuscript census, were confirmed to actually be Aboriginal. These individuals were then added to the

database. There are likely additional individuals who were not identified through these methods who were Aboriginal.

E) Who and What Was Recorded in the Excel Documents?

If an individual was found to be Aboriginal, their entire family, as found in the manuscript census, was recorded in an Excel sheet. The exception to this was when individuals were living in institutions with over 25 members, if less than one third were Aboriginal. In such cases, the start and end of the institution were recorded as well as all Aboriginal people living there. Other individuals living in the institution were not recorded.

When transcribing information from the manuscript census to the Excel sheet, most of the data was recorded, the exception being data considered irrelevant to the project (For example: Year of naturalization).

F) Navigating the Excel Documents

Many of the Excel documents are huge, containing dozens of columns and hundreds, or thousands of rows. There are a couple of techniques for searching through this data that will make it a lot easier to find what you are looking for:

1. When looking for a specific person, or a specific piece of information in an Excel document, use the Ctrl F search function. You can also select a specific column to narrow the search.
2. Using the Sort function in Excel makes it possible to arrange the data by different columns. This is useful for difficult to navigate documents such as "Linking Winnipeg."
3. The linking document can act as an index to see where a person is linked to/living over time.
4. Each row of data in the Excel documents has its own unique ID number. This is generally found in the first or second column of a document. Sorting the document by this column will put the data into its default order. In the census documents the ID number will be under "Document ID" and in the Linking document it will be under "Link ID."
5. In addition to the default ID, the census documents also contain a column for "Link ID." This column makes it easier to track people through multiple censuses. For example, James Omand has been given a Link ID number of 63. In any document that James Omand appears, he will have 63 recorded in the Link ID column. Therefore, by searching for 63 in the Link Id column, James Omand can always be found quickly.

G) Helpful Web Links

1. Overview of data included in censuses and how they were recorded from Library and Archives Canada (See Index on left side for specific censuses):

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx>

2. Occupation codes used in the 1911 and 1916 censuses:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/006003/f2/006003-1911-e.pdf>

And

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/pages/about-census.aspx>

3. Instructions to enumerators

1901

https://www.nappdata.org/napp/resources/enum_materials_pdf/enum_instruct_ca1901a.pdf

1911

<http://www.ccri.uottawa.ca/CCRI/Images/1911%20Enumerator%20Instructions%20-%20English.pdf>

1916

http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/093/001060-119.01-e.php?document_id_nbr=6234&image_id_nbr=201495&f=g&PHPSESSID=qgruv5g7sgrvn49q1eqm2ljlo6

H) How do the Excel Documents Differ from the Manuscript Census?

There are a number of differences between the manuscript censuses and the transcribed Excel documents.

1. A great deal of standardization took place to make the Excel documents more consistent and easy to use. These are some of the most common ways the Excel sheets were standardized:
 - Months were shortened to three letters and written in english (For Example: Aug)
 - Years were written in numbers and in full (For Example: 1989)
 - For people under the age of one year, age was recorded in months. For people over the age of one year, age was recorded in years.
 - In some categories, most notably, Racial and Tribal Origin, Religion, Occupation and Language spoken/Mother Tongue, similar answers were made combined (For example: Roman C, RC and Roman Catholic all became RC).
 - Negative answers, often recorded in the manuscript census as blanks, dashes, the letter N and the word no, were left blank in the Excel sheet.
 - Positive answers, often recorded in the manuscript census as ticks, lines, the letter Y and the word Yes were recorded as the letter Y in the Excel sheet.
 - In the Excel sheets, ditto ("") marks in the manuscript census, were recorded as the answer that the mark was referring to.
2. Some marks and numbers from the manuscript census were not transcribed in the Excel documents. This was mostly done in cases where it appeared that the mark appeared to not relate to the category it was written in or was difficult to understand. For example, in the 1901 census, tick marks that looked different that the standard often appeared in the Working on Own Account Column. They were not recorded in the Excel sheet because it became clear that these were not Positive answers, but rather the marks of someone who was counting in the census at a later date.
3. In some cases different symbols and colours, not found in the manuscript census were used in the Excel documents.
 - a. **Red letters:** Crossed out or partially erased data from the manuscript census. Note that crossed out data was only recorded in the Excel documents when it was considered

relevant to the project. For example if someone was recorded as Aboriginal and then it was crossed out.

- b. **Purple Lettes:** Information not recorded in the manuscript census, but inferred by the research assistant. For example if an individual was recorded in the same house as their family, but their address was given as Camp Hughes, the data would be recorded as: **Family Address** Camp Hughes.
- c. **Question Marks:** A question mark in an empty cell meant that the whole cell was indecipherable. A question mark at the start, middle or end of a word meant that part of the word was indecipherable (For Example: ?ndian or Ind?n).

I) Notes About Common Headings in the Censuses

1. Added By the Research Assistant

In Winnipeg/ Saint Boniface, or Outside

-A refers to individuals living in Winnipeg or Saint Boniface (city).

- B refers to Individuals in Manitoba but outside of Winnipeg or Saint Boniface (city).

Document ID

-The unique ID number given to an individual in a particular census. Sort by this column to put everyone in order.

Aboriginal Census

-A code number based on the likelihood an individual is Aboriginal based on the census. See the "Confirming Aboriginal Matches" document.

Aboriginal External

-Whether an individual appears Aboriginal based on non census sources. See the "Confirming Aboriginal Matches" document.

Aboriginal Final

- Whether a person appears Aboriginal after considering the census and external documents. If Yes "Y," if No "N," if unsure "U."

Link ID

-The unique ID number given to an individual in the linking document. See "Rules for Linking" document.

Duplicate?

-Will be Y if a person appears several times in the same census. See the "Duplicates" document.

2. Recorded in the Manuscript Census

Province/District/Subdistrict/Enumeration District/Page/ Line

-Details used to locate an individual in the manuscript census.

Household #

-The ID given to each unique home in a particular enumeration district in the manuscript census.

Name First/Name Last

-Titles were generally removed (the main exception being “Sister” when referring to a nun).

-Middle names and initials were lumped in with first names.

Street Number

-If recorded in the census, lot numbers and township/range numbers were also recorded in this category.

-Note that some addresses are missing in 1901 because of difficulty getting access to the schedule 2 census. It may be worth going to the microfilm to find this.

Street Name

-If recorded in the census, this category also included town/rural municipality name, institution name or further details on housing location (For example: Living in Bush)

-Note that some addresses are missing in 1901 because of difficulty getting access to the schedule 2 census. It may be worth going to the microfilm to find this.

Sex

-If male “M” if female “F.”

Marital Status

-If married “M,” If single “S,” If divorced “D,” If widowed “W.”

Place of Birth/Place of Father’s Birth/Place of Mother’s birth

-In the Excel sheets, if a person was born in Canada, their province of birth was recorded in short form (For example: Man) and if they were born outside of Canada their country were recorded in long form (For example: England).

Born in an Urban/Rural area

-If Urban “U” if Rural “R.”

Racial or Tribal Origin

-In the Excel documents the racial or tribal origin of Aboriginal people was generally standardized in acronyms (For example: Métis French, Met Fr, MF and Métis Francais all became MF). An important exception to this was when specific bands were discussed (For example: Cree Scotch Breed became Cree SB instead of CSB). The exception to the exception was cases where the enumerators used acronyms to describe a specific band (For example: if a person was recorded as CSB in the manuscript census, they were recorded as CSB in the Excel document).

-Common acronyms: M=Métis, B= Breed, H=Half, O= Other, E= English, F= French, I = Irish, S= Scotch, C= Likely Cree, but possibly Chippewa.

Nationality

- In the Excel sheets, if a person was Canadian, they were recorded in short form (For example: Can) and if they were not Canadian they were recorded in long form (For example: England).

Religion

-Common abbreviations and acronyms: Catholic=RC, Anglican=CE, Baptist=Bapt, Presbyterian= Presb, Methodist= Meth.

Earnings From Occupation/Earnings from Secondary Occupation/Earnings per hour

-These categories were often very difficult to read and were very messy. The data from them should be used with caution.

Other Notes

-Any notes made by the enumerator that didn't fit into another category.

J) Notes About Headings Unique to Certain Census Years

1901

Colour

-The color of a person's skin.

-Tribal origin was sometimes recorded in this category. For example, some people's color was recorded as Indian.

-If white "W," if Black "B," if Indian "R," if Asian "Y."

Employed at Home or Factory?

-If Home "H", if factory "F."

1911

Occupation Codes

See: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/006003/f2/006003-1911-e.pdf>

And

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/pages/about-census.aspx>

1916

Military Service

- if Overseas "O" and if in Canada "C."

Township Range and Meridian

-If provided in the manuscript census, this category also included a lot number.

Employer, Employee or Own Account

- if Employer "E", if Employee or Worker "W" or if, Working on own account "OA."

Occupation Codes

See: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/006003/f2/006003-1911-e.pdf>

And

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1911/pages/about-census.aspx>