

Notices

Indian Affairs Records at the National Archives of Canada: A Source for Genealogical Research. BILL RUSSELL. Toronto: The Ontario Genealogical Society, 1998. 104 p. ISBN 0 7779 0202 8.

It is sometimes true that an anticipated publication, once available, does not fulfill its original promise. Happily, this is not the case with Mr. Russell's long-awaited guide, which is an excellent addition to the limited tools available to researchers undertaking genealogical work for or about Canada's First Nations. Intended as a guide to genealogical sources within Record Group (RG) 10, Records Relating to Indian Affairs, at the National Archives of Canada, the book lives up to expectations.

The guide is organized into sections, beginning with an explanation of the complexity of the Department of Indian Affairs' recordkeeping systems over the years. This is followed by a discussion of the Government Archives and Records Disposition Division within the National Archives, the concept of the record group, and federal Access to Information and Privacy legislation. The focus of the book is the third section which describes the records held in RG 10 of potential use to a genealogist. Final sections of the guide refer readers to records relating to non-status Indians, to employees of the Department of Indian Affairs, and also to non-Native citizens who had some interaction with the Department over time. Appendices located at the back of the book include basic steps to tracing aboriginal ancestry, addresses of provincial offices and societies holding information necessary to genealogical research, a bibliography, and a glossary of terms.

As a guide to genealogical research, the book is precise in its focus. The many and varied categories of records within RG 10 that contain personal information useful for genealogists are described and their usefulness for family research explained. But the book is not, and does not pretend to be, a general guide to tracing aboriginal ancestry. Its scope is confined to explaining where to look within the historical records of the Department of Indian Affairs

for those government records which relate principally to those First Nations having "status" under the *Indian Act*.

Noted in the introduction is the fact, sometimes missed, that RG 10 reflects solely the federal perspective on issues regarding which the government collected information, and will therefore furnish only the one side of the story. Nonetheless, Mr. Russell provides explanations for some of the perceived gaps within RG 10, and suggests alternate sources of information for particular research questions.

This guide will be useful to a variety of researchers. It is clearly and concisely written, nicely illustrated, and portable. While it is a valuable tool for its target audience, genealogical researchers, it will be equally helpful to those researchers undertaking broader research, but who are unfamiliar with RG 10. It is a welcome addition to the guides available for genealogists and should help all researchers approach RG 10 with more confidence and understanding of the records.

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Union of BC Indian Chiefs

W.L. Mackenzie King: A Bibliography and Research Guide. GEORGE F. HENDERSON. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1998. 367 p. ISBN 0-8020-4157-4.

George Henderson, Head of Public Service at Queen's University Archives in Kingston, Ontario, has compiled the definitive guide to material created by, or about, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, the dominant Canadian politician of the twentieth century. For Henderson, also author of *Federal Royal Commissions in Canada, 1867-1966: A Checklist* (Toronto, 1967), the production of this book has been truly "a labour of love": the result of almost thirty years' research in library and archival institutions from British Columbia to Newfoundland. This is an excellent publication about the legacy of a truly unique Canadian.

The guide is divided neatly into two main parts, with six appendices. The first part, "Works by Mackenzie King," includes lists of books, articles, government reports, edited works, published speeches, theses, and various other writings, often with accompanying descriptions. For this part of the guide, Henderson used references in the King Diaries to locate over 300 unsigned articles written for newspapers by King when he was a student in the 1890s. Although the emphasis is clearly on published material, there are also sections on archival records including the "Mackenzie King Diaries," the "William Lyon Mackenzie King Papers," and sound recordings of his speeches and statements, all located mainly at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa.