

# OBITUARIES

by Linda Holdaway

## The “Perfect” Obituary (from a genealogical point of view) includes:

Person’s full name, including nick-names

- Picture of the deceased
- Birth date and place
- Date, location and cause of death
- Names of parents, including mother’s maiden name, also if living or deceased
- Name of spouse, including wife’s maiden name, also if living or deceased
- Date of marriage and location
- Names of children, grandchildren etc, names of their respective spouses (both living and deceased) as well as their current residence.
- Names of siblings and their spouses (both living and deceased) as well as their current residence.
- When left their native land, arrival date and place of arrival in new country
- Education (level obtained and places where educated)
- Occupation (including places of employment)
- Hobbies, organizations to which they belonged, awards obtained, their character, etc.
- Military service information
- Political affiliation
- Religious affiliation
- Name and address of location where service held, also date and time of service
- Name of officiating clergy
- Names of pallbearers
- Date, place and disposition of remains
- Statement regarding any memorial services
- Directions regarding donations or memorial gifts
- Name of the Funeral Home in charge of arrangements

## How To Find An Obituary

You must have at least:

- date of death
- where they are buried

Also helpful but can be misleading are:

- date of burial
- where they died

## To Find A Date Of Death - (at least a year)

- Cemetery Transcriptions from various Genealogical Societies (Confirm that this is the correct information; some headstone info was placed many years after the fact and is incorrect)

- Searching on the internet (Some cemeteries are searchable from their web sites - eg. Winnipeg has 3 cemeteries online but are not complete) I usually do a google search for the cemetery name.

- Search AFHS web site - from Transcriptions, click on Cemeteries then click under Online Indexes - searchable by surname - mainly Calgary and surrounding areas - not complete so can also check City of Calgary Cemetery web site.

\*\* When contacting a cemetery, be sure to ask for whatever information they can provide - in particular the name of the funeral home that handled the arrangements since they may be able to provide additional information - especially if no obituary was actually placed in the newspaper.

NOTE: Some Cemetery offices only have the burial date. FOIP Concerns.

### **If You Only Have A Year Of Death**

Check Vital Event Indexes online:

[http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v\\_events.htm](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v_events.htm) - indexes

<http://web2.gov.mb.ca/cc/vital/Query.php>

[http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs\\_srch.aspx](http://vsgs.health.gov.sk.ca/vsgs_srch.aspx)

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

If you still only have the year, small town newspapers are relatively easy to search since they are usually only weekly publications and are not as large (volume wise) as a city newspaper. City newspapers tend to have an index, which helps if your only option is to search every day. Just hope they didn't pass away on Dec 31 - which it would then be beneficial to search the first 2 weeks of the following year.

Some small town newspapers have back issues that can be searched in their archives.

Cities - best to search at the public library. Calgary Public Library has current newspapers available as hard copies. Back issues of Calgary newspapers plus some years of other major centers are available on microfilm.

University Libraries also have newspaper collections on microfilm.

Glenbow Museum Library has newspaper collections on microfilm – also some hard copies.

Inter-library loan requests are available at Calgary Public Library and Glenbow Museum Library.

The Library and Archives of Canada has newspaper collection on microfilm  
Searchable at <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/8/18/index-e.html>

Libraries can also be contacted through their “Ask a Librarian” service

### **Internet Sources**

<http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca/>

<http://www.ourfutureourpast.ca/newspapr/>

<http://www.islandnet.com/~jveinot/cghl/cemetery.html>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~obituary/>

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~abwcobit/>

<http://www.daddezio.com/obituary/>

[http://www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/obit\\_links.htm](http://www3.sympatico.ca/bkinnon/obit_links.htm)

<http://www.ontarioobits.com/>

<http://www.obitcentral.com/>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~obit/>

<http://www.obituariestoday.com/>