

Genealogy is the study of your family ancestry. It is a fun and fascinating look into your family's past. However, it can be confusing to start searching when there are so many records and so many places to look! To help you out, we've prepared an example of a genealogical search. In this example, we will show you how we found the genealogy of one of New Brunswick's premiers, Richard Hatfield.



## **RICHARD HATFIELD**

Richard Hatfield was premier of New Brunswick from 1970-1987.

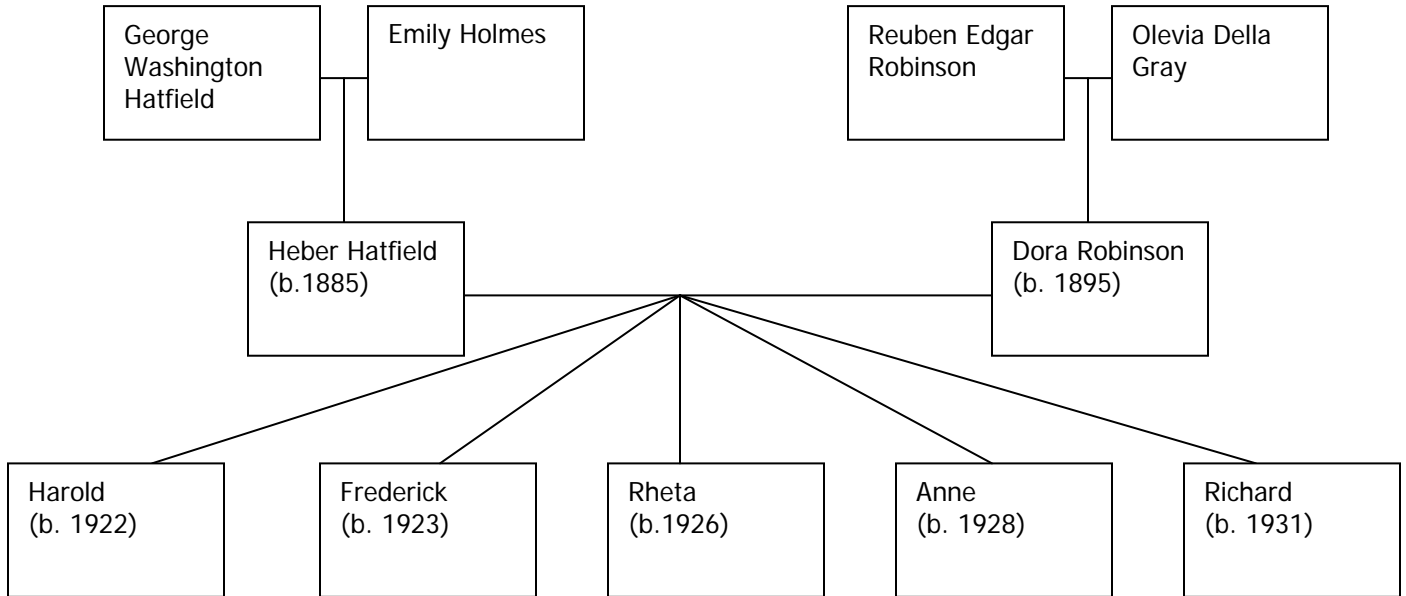
From his biography, *Remembering Richard: An Informal Portrait of Richard Hatfield*, we learn that his parents' names were Heber Hatfield and Dora Robinson, and that he had two brothers named Harold and Frederick, and two sisters named Rheta and Anne. Richard was the youngest sibling. He was born in Carleton County, New Brunswick in 1931 and he died in 1991.

Since we know the name of Richard's parents and where he was born, we can now look in archival records to find the names of their parents. For that, we need to look for vital statistics. These are birth, marriage, and death records kept by the government. The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick keeps these records, and are world-renowned for their excellent genealogical services. Their records go back as far as 1800.

On the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick website, we select [Vital Statistics from Government Records](#). This leads to a database of birth, marriage, and death records. We enter the name "Hatfield" in the family name field, and "Heber" in the given name field. A search under this name brings up a birth record for Heber Hatfield, born in 1885 in Carleton County to George Washington Hatfield and Emily Holmes. So now we know the names of Richard's grandparents on his father's side.

Now, we do the same search with Richard's mother's name, Dora Robinson. This brings up a record that shows Dora Robinson was born in 1895 in Carleton County to Reuben Edgar Robinson and Olevia Della Gray. This gives us the names of Richard's grandparents on his mother's side.

With this information, we can create a family tree for Richard Hatfield.



For your own family tree, you can use the same search method we used. The easiest way to start finding your ancestors is to ask your parents and other relatives. When you need to go further back, using vital statistic records like we did to find Richard Hatfield's ancestors is a great way to find your relatives from a hundred years ago or more.

There are some fun genealogical activities on the website of Library and Archives Canada that show you how to research genealogy and your family history. Be sure to check them out!

Give Me Five activity on Library and Archives Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-403.001.04-e.html>

My Timeline

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/genealogy/022-403.001.05-e.html>