

# **GENEALOGY RESOURCES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIANS**

**British Columbia  
Vital Statistics Agency**

**Ministry of Health**

**2014 Revision**





**GENEALOGICAL  
RESOURCES  
FOR  
BRITISH COLUMBIANS**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA VITAL STATISTICS AGENCY**

2014 REVISION

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# FOREWORD

For years, genealogists have sought information from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency (formerly the Division of Vital Statistics). With records of vital events taking place in British Columbia starting in 1872, the Vital Statistics Agency is able to provide genealogists with information about ancestors which may not be available elsewhere. The Vital Statistics Agency, in conjunction with the British Columbia Archives have created the Vital Events Index, available through the Internet, or on microfiche. The Vital Events Index allows anyone to search for index information on birth registrations (120 or more years old), marriage registrations (75 or more years old), and death registrations (20 or more years old), created since 1872. The index information provided allows individuals to access and view micrographic images of the original registrations at various locations.

Having received a genealogy certificate, or viewed a record on microfilm, many individuals inquire how they can continue their genealogical research. This guide is primarily intended to provide inexperienced genealogical researchers with information on what additional resources are available. It is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of all the genealogical resources which exist in British Columbia. Rather, it attempts to point new researchers in the right direction by providing contact information for organizations and institutions which they may find useful in genealogical research. In doing so, it also constitutes a useful reference tool for more experienced genealogists.

Jack Shewchuk  
Registrar General  
British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency



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# Introduction

Because most genealogical research begins close to one's home, this guide has focused on British Columbia and includes only selected genealogical resources from other parts of Canada. However, genealogical searches eventually cross borders and most British Columbians will find that their genealogical research leads them to records held elsewhere. While those beginning to research their family tree may find that their search takes them beyond the geographic scope of this guide, its intent is to provide enough information to get beginners started and to illustrate the wealth of resources available to them.

Some entries in this guide cover record sources such as the various British Columbian and sometimes Canadian genealogical societies, government offices, churches, archives, libraries, and universities and colleges, which hold genealogical records and/or offer instruction in genealogy. These entries attempt to show the reader what types of genealogical resources are available at a particular source and how further information can be accessed. Other sections, such as those on British Columbia history and freedom of information legislation, provide general background information useful to any British Columbian researching his or her family tree. Still other sections, such as those covering web sites, published works, and genealogy software, provide supplemental information useful for those new to the field of genealogy. It is hoped that the information provided in this guide will assist beginners in starting their genealogical research, and more experienced users in continuing it.

## Beginning Your Genealogical Research

Genealogy, the study of family descent, is done for a variety of reasons, and offers a variety of rewards. For some, it offers exciting insights into the histories of their families and towns. For others, it provides a religious connection to ancestors. Still others find that their hobby and passion becomes a livelihood, when they begin to conduct research for others. But whether pursued for interest's sake, for religious reasons, or even professionally, genealogy can become a life-long and rewarding pursuit.

Many individuals have thought of researching their family history but have never actually done so. Often, people simply do not know where to begin. However, you can start genealogical research simply by organizing already-known facts about relatives into a family tree, or pedigree chart. Once that is accomplished, you should talk to relatives, especially elderly ones, to find out what they know about your ancestors. You may substantially add to your genealogical knowledge in this way. In addition, many documents in the home, such as old diaries, photographs, and certificates, contain family information. Much can be accomplished before beginning research in a library or archives.

Once you have collected all the information possible from relatives and sources in the home, you may wish to continue your research. If so, a wealth of resources is available. This guide is designed to assist you by providing contact information for some of the organizations that British Columbians frequently access during genealogical research, as well as pointers to sources of further information.

## British Columbia History<sup>1</sup>

The land that now makes up British Columbia was first visited by Europeans in the late 1700s when both the Spanish and the British arrived and claimed the region. The current southern border of British Columbia, largely following the 49th parallel, was established with the signing of the Oregon Treaty in 1846. This treaty settled territorial disputes between the United States and the British Hudson's Bay Company, which by the 1840s controlled much of the Northwest. Three years later, in 1849, the British Crown granted Vancouver Island to the Hudson's Bay Company for colonization. The discovery of gold on the Thompson and Fraser Rivers in the late 1850s resulted in a rapid increase in the population of what is now British Columbia, as thousands flocked here from California and elsewhere in search of gold. Due to the increase in mainland population, the British created the colony of British Columbia in 1858. By 1866, the gold rush had ended, and due to population decline, the two colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were amalgamated. In 1871, the combined colony of British Columbia elected to join the Dominion of Canada, on the condition that a railway link be established with the East.

The Province prospered as investors took advantage of its rich natural resources such as fish, timber, and minerals. By the turn of the century, Vancouver had surpassed Victoria in population and had become the economic centre of British Columbia. The population of the interior also increased as towns grew around resource industries, and transportation links such as railways and roads were established.

British Columbia is now a province of over four million people. Its population is still concentrated in the lower mainland and southern Vancouver Island, though important population centres in the interior continue to thrive. Its growing economy is now based primarily on services rather than resources, and its population has developed from one consisting of largely British and aboriginal peoples, to one characterized by great ethnic diversity.

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<sup>1</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from historical words (Woodcock, 1990; Ormsby, 1958).

## British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency<sup>2</sup>

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency (BCVSA) has records of births, marriages, and deaths occurring in British Columbia since 1872.<sup>3</sup> Computerized records exist for events occurring since 1984/85. Records are available to qualified applicants and can be an important source of information for the family historian. Those who qualify can apply for genealogy certificates that are intended to provide more information than a regular birth, marriage, or death certificate.<sup>4</sup> The disclosure of this information is in compliance with the *Vital Statistics Act* and the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Researchers may wish to access the online Vital Events Index, which indexes marriage registrations (75 or more years old), and death registrations (20 or more years old) created since 1872 (British Columbia Archives, 1996). Birth registrations (100 or more years old) will be added in 1997. Microfilm copies of the registrations indexed can be viewed at the B.C. Archives, the Vancouver Public Library, the Surrey Public Library (Cloverdale) or borrowed from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through their local Family History Centers. Photocopies from the collection may also be obtained from the Victoria Genealogy Society. For more recent records, the Vital Statistics Agency will only release certificates to qualified individuals, as listed in the next few pages. For more information on the Vital Events Index, consult the British Columbia Archives section of this guide.

It should be noted that the Vital Statistics Agency will release adoption records or birth registrations containing a notation of adoption only to birth parents and adopted persons. Under the provisions of the Province's *Adoption Act*, individuals wishing to receive adoption record information are required to make the appropriate application to the Vital Statistics Agency.

Following are the eligibility requirements for each type of Genealogy Certificate, and what information may be provided on the certificates. Not all certificates will contain information in every field. A photocopy of the relevant birth, marriage, or death registration is included with each genealogy certificate.

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<sup>2</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the BCVSA web site.

<sup>3</sup> For information on the Agency's non-genealogical statistical data dissemination services see Appendix 2.

<sup>4</sup> For examples of genealogy certificates and historical birth, death, and marriage registrations see Appendix 3.

## General Information

The qualified applicant can print an application from our website and mail it to any Vital Statistics Agency office.

For fee information, consult the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency website.

For more information please contact:

Vital Statistics Agency  
818 Fort Street  
**Victoria BC V8W 1H8**

Telephone (General Enq.) 250 952-2681

Website: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca>

Vital Statistics Agency  
305 478 Bernard Ave  
**Kelowna BC V1Y 2A3**

Vital Statistics Agency  
2nd floor, 250 605 Robson St  
**Vancouver BC V6B 5J3**

## Genealogy Certified registration copy - Birth Event

For genealogical research purposes the Agency issues a unique certified registration copy, which makes available all the information recorded on the original event record.

Eligible applicants consist of:

- anyone, as long as the record pertains to a person who has been dead for 20 years and proof of death is produced;
- anyone, if the record has been in existence for 120 years;
- the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death; and,
- an agent of the above, if they are the solicitor for the person, or they have the written consent of the eligible person.

Note: Closest living relative is defined as: mother, father, son, daughter, spouse, sister, brother, grandparent, or grandchild.



## **Genealogy Certified registration copy - Marriage Event**

For genealogical research purposes the Agency issues a unique certified registration copy, which makes available all the information recorded on the original event record.

Eligible applicants consist of:

- anyone, as long as both parties have been dead for 20 years;
- anyone, if the record has been in existence for 75 years;
- the closest living relative of the person named, on production of proof of death; and,
- an agent of the above, if they are the solicitor for the person, or they have the written consent of the eligible person.

Note: Closest living relative is defined as: mother, father, son, daughter, spouse, sister, brother, grandparent, or grandchild.

## **Genealogy Certified registration copy - Death Event**

For genealogical research purposes the Agency issues a unique certified registration copy, which makes available all the information recorded on the original event record.

Eligible applicants consist of:

- the closest living relative;
- anyone, if the death occurred more than 20 years previously; and,
- an agent of the above, if they are the solicitor for the person, or they have the written consent of the eligible person.

Note: Closest living relative is defined as: mother, father, son, daughter, spouse, sister, brother, grandparent, or grandchild.

## Non-British Columbia Vital Events

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency holds only records of vital events that took place in British Columbia. For access to records of vital events that took place in other Canadian provinces or territories, researchers must contact the organization holding vital records for that jurisdiction. Provided below is a list of the organizations to contact regarding vital records created in the other provinces and the territories.<sup>5</sup> Fee schedules for these Canadian organizations are accessible through the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency web site listed below, as is contact and fee information for organizations holding vital records in the United States.

Non-British Columbia Vital Events web site: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/contact/index.html>

Vital Statistics Council for Canada web site: [www.vscouncil.ca](http://www.vscouncil.ca)

### Alberta

Vital Statistics, Alberta Registries, Alberta Municipal Affairs, holds birth records created as early as 1853 and marriage and death records created as early as 1898. Birth records created after 1971 and marriage and death records created after 1975 exist in computerized format. Vital Statistics is converting additional registrations to computerized format, working from the above dates to earlier years. Records created before 1946 are also held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Vital Statistics will provide certified photocopies of birth, marriage, and death registrations to any family member for the purpose of genealogical research. These photographic prints may contain more information than a birth, marriage, or death certificate. For death registrations which have been in existence 50 years or more, marriage registrations which have been in existence for 75 years or more, and birth registrations which have been in existence for 100 years or more, access is open to anyone who can provide information adequate to identify the appropriate record. Applicants can apply in person or by mail, though not by phone. A letter providing sufficient information, and accompanied by appropriate payment, will be accepted in place of a completed application form, but fax requests will not be accepted.

For more information regarding Alberta vital records, contact:

Service Alberta  
Alberta Registries, Vital Statistics  
Box 2023  
Edmonton, AB T5J 4W7

Telephone: 780 427-7013 (Edmonton & Area)  
310-0000 followed by 780-427-703 (Within Alberta toll free)

Web Site: <http://www.servicealberta.gov.ab.ca/VitalStatistics.cfm>

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<sup>5</sup> For lists of the major data elements collected on birth, marriage, and death registrations in each province and territory, consult Appendix 4.

## **Manitoba**

The Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency, Manitoba Consumer and Corporate Affairs, holds complete vital records from 1882 onwards, and incomplete records before that date. Records created since 1983 exist in computerized format. The Agency will conduct a five year search of their records, and provide certified photocopies of original birth, marriage, or death registrations to qualified applicants. Those eligible to apply are: a person named on the record, the person's next of kin, or individuals with the written permission of the aforementioned. Searches can be extended to ten years for an additional charge. Payment can be made by cheque, money order, or credit card, and applications can be dropped off, mailed, or faxed to the office. A letter providing sufficient information, and accompanied by appropriate payment, will be accepted in place of a completed application form. Application forms for genealogical searches that allow for alternate spellings of names can be obtained from the Manitoba Vital Statistics Agency upon request.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Vital Statistics Agency  
254 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0B6

Telephone: 1 866-949-9296 (Toll Free)  
Fax: 204 948-3128

Web Site: <http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/>

## New Brunswick

The recording of vital events was first required by legislation in New Brunswick in 1888. The Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, holds complete records of vital events occurring in New Brunswick from 1920 to the present, and incomplete records from 1888 to 1919. Death records created since 1980, marriage records created since 1968, and birth records created since 1917 exist in computerized format. Vital Statistics will provide a Genealogical Statement of Particulars containing information from a birth, marriage or death registration to qualified applicants. The fee for a Genealogical Statement includes a three-year search that can be extended by three years for an additional fee. Payment can be made by cheque, money order, or credit card, and applications can be made with a completed application form, or by letter, either of which may be mailed or faxed.

Records dealing with the following events are open and should be accessed through the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick:

- deaths occurring prior to 1940;
- marriages occurring prior to 1920; and,
- births occurring prior to 1905.

For records not falling under these categories, applications should be made to the Division of Vital Statistics. Vital Statistics may, in some cases, request that an applicant provide information regarding his/her identity and reasons for requesting a record before eligibility will be determined. Also, if an individual named in a record is living, that individual's authorization may be required before a researcher will receive a certificate.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Service New Brunswick  
PO Box 1998  
Fredericton NB E3B 5G4

Telephone (within New Brunswick): 506 453-2834  
Telephone (within North America): 1-888-762-8600  
Fax: 506 444-4253

Web Site: <http://www.snb.ca/e/1000/1000-01/e/index-e.asp>

## **Newfoundland Labrador**

The Vital Statistics Division, Department of Government Services and Lands, holds vital events records from 1892 to the present. Birth records created since 1945 exist in computerized format. Vital Statistics will provide birth, marriage, and death certificates to any individual providing the information required to identify the correct record is supplied. Birth certificates are provided for a fee. Marriage and death certificates are provided free of charge. For a fee, a three-year search of records can also be conducted without the production of a certificate. Requests can be made by completing an Application For Service form, or by letter, provided that sufficient information and payment are included. For records prior to 1892 access is through the Provincial Archives of Newfoundland.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Dept of Government Services  
PO Box 8700  
St. John's NL A1B 4J6

Telephone (voice):           709 729-3308  
Telephone (Registrar):       709 729-3311  
Fax:                               709 729-0946

Web Site:       <http://www.gs.gov.nl.ca/departement/branches/divisions/vs.html>

## Northwest Territories

The Registrar General, Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Social Services, holds records for events from 1892 onwards. Birth records created since 1920, marriage records created since 1946, and death records created since 1960 exist in computerized format. Vital Statistics will provide birth, marriage, or death certificates, or restricted photocopies of registrations, to applicants who provide sufficient information to identify the desired record. The restricted photocopies may contain more information than certificates, but their release is at the discretion of the Registrar, and individuals must explain their reason for requesting these documents. The fee for certificates and restricted photocopies includes a search of all post-1924 records held by Vital Statistics. Individuals may request a record by completing an Application For Certificate form, or may fax or mail a letter to Vital Statistics. Payment by credit card is available.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Vital Statistics  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Bag 9  
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0

Telephone: 1-800-661-0830 (Toll Free within Northwest Territories)  
Telephone: 867 777-7400  
Fax: 867 777-3197

Web Site: [http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/vital\\_statistics/default.htm](http://www.hlthss.gov.nt.ca/english/services/vital_statistics/default.htm)

## Nova Scotia

The Deputy Registrar General, Department of Health, holds complete birth and death records from 1908 to the present, and marriage records starting in various years from 1906 to 1918, depending on the county. Birth records created since 1963, marriage records created since 1946, and death records created since 1990 exist in computerized format. Records also exist for births and deaths (1864-1876) and marriages (late 1700s until 1906 to 1918) which are held by the Public Archives of Nova Scotia. The Deputy Registrar General will supply birth, marriage, and marriage certificates to qualified applicants who provide enough information to identify the correct record. Detailed, or Long Form, certificates are also available which provide more information than short-form or wallet-size certificates and are more valuable to those involved in genealogical research. Individuals applying for a certificate must complete the required application form, which will be sent to individuals living outside Nova Scotia upon request. A fee is charged for a three-year search and a long form certificate. The search can be extended for an additional fee. Payment by credit card is available.

Detailed certificates recording the following events may be issued without proof of death or kinship:

- births of individuals who are 100 years of age or more;
- marriages which occurred 75 or more years ago, and the present age of both bride and groom would be 100 years or more; and,
- deaths that occurred 25 or more years ago and the deceased were at least 50 years of age at the time of death.

For events that do not meet these criteria, eligibility to receive detailed certificates is restricted. For further information regarding eligibility and applications, contact the Deputy Registrar General at:

Vital Statistics  
1690 Hollis St  
Halifax NS B3J 3J9

Telephone: 902 424-4381  
Telephone: 1-800-898-7668 (Toll Free within North America)  
Fax: 902 424-0720

Web Site: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/snsmr/access/vitalstats/default.asp>

## Nunavut

Nunavut became Canada's newest territory on April 1, 1999. Vital Statistics will provide birth, marriage, or death certificates, or restricted photocopies of registrations, to applicants who provide sufficient information to identify the desired record. The restricted photocopies may contain more information than certificates, but their release is at the discretion of the Registrar, and individuals must explain their reason for requesting these documents.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Nunavut Dept of Health and Social Services  
Bag 003  
Rankin Inlet, NU X0C 0G0

Telephone (Toll Free): 1-800-661-0833  
Fax: 867-645-8092

Web Site: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/english/forms/>



## Ontario

The recording of vital events was first required by legislation in Ontario in 1869. Birth records created since 1930, marriage records created since 1960, and death records created since 1980 exist in computerized format. The Ontario Office of the Registrar General will provide birth, marriage, and death certificates, as well as certified copies of birth, marriage, and death registrations to eligible applicants. Individuals living outside Ontario may apply by completing an Application for Certificate or Search form, or by letter. Payment by credit card is available.

Records related to the following events are held by the Office of the Registrar General:

- births occurring from 1904;
- marriages occurring from 1919; and,
- deaths occurring from 1929.

To access records related to events occurring between 1869 and the above restricted periods, contact the Archives of Ontario or access the Vital Statistics Bulletin maintained by Archives at the web site below.

Bulletin Web Site: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/index.aspx>  
(Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2000)

Eligibility requirements for applicants requesting a certificate of birth or marriage are restrictive, as are eligibility requirements for those requesting certified copies of birth, marriage, or death events. Essentially, only individuals named in a record, their next of kin, or an authorized representative of the aforementioned are eligible to access these documents. Consult the Application for Certificate or Search form for specific eligibility requirements, or contact the Office of the Registrar General. For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Office of the Registrar General  
ServiceOntario  
Ministry of Government Services  
189 Red River Road  
P.O. Box 4600  
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8

Telephone: 1-800-461-2156 - (Toll Free Ontario only)  
Telephone: 416 325-8305  
Fax: 807 343-7459

Web Site: [http://www.ontario.ca/en/services\\_for\\_residents/index.htm](http://www.ontario.ca/en/services_for_residents/index.htm)

## Prince Edward Island

The Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, holds complete records of vital events occurring from 1906 onwards. Incomplete records of marriages (1886 to 1905) and births (1840-1905) are also held. Records created since 1925 exist in computerized format. The Division will provide death certificates, certified copies of marriage certificates, and long form birth certificates to qualified applicants. Applicants may apply by completing the applicable Application For Search form (birth, marriage, or death) or by letter. Payment by credit card is available.

If an event took place more than 100 years ago, anyone may access the record of that event. If the event is more recent, then only selected persons are eligible to receive the documents. Procedures are currently being developed to allow genealogical researchers to access that would not otherwise be available to them. Contact Vital Statistics for specific eligibility requirements.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Vital Statistics  
126 Douses Road  
Montague, PE, C0A 1R0

Telephone: 902 838-0880  
Telephone: 1-877-320-1253 (Toll Free)  
Fax: 902 838-0883

Web Site: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/health/index.php3?number=1020357&lang=E>

## Québec

Civil Registration, Ministry of Justice, holds records of vital events occurring in Québec as early as 1900 and will provide birth, marriage, and death certificates to qualified applicants. The recording of vital events was first required by legislation in Quebec in 1869 but pre-1900 records are held by the Archives nationales du Québec. Records created since 1984 exist in computerized format. Searches to confirm the existence of a record created as far back as 1926 are conducted free of charge, but certificates are provided for a fee. Applicants wishing to receive a certificate must complete an Application for Service form and mail or fax it to Civil Registration. Payment by credit card is available.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Registrar of Civil Status  
(certificates, change of name, adoption)  
2535, boulevard Laurier, RC  
Quebec QC G1V 5C5

Telephone: 418 643-3900  
Telephone (elsewhere in Quebec Toll Free): 1 800-567-3900  
Fax: 418 643-4129

Web Site: <http://www.etatcivil.gouv.qc.ca/en/default.html>

## Saskatchewan

The Division of Vital Statistics, Saskatchewan Health, holds records of vital events occurring as early as the 1870s although registration of vital events only became the norm in Saskatchewan in 1898. Records created since 1979 exist in computerized format. Genealogy copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates are available to qualified applicants. A fee is charged for a three-year search and a certificate. Applicants may apply by completing an Application for Certificate form or by letter. Payment by credit card is available.

Those eligible to receive birth and marriage records are direct descendants of the individual named on the record or an individual with the written permission of the person named. Death records are accessible to all individuals who can provide enough information to identify the correct record.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan  
1301 1st Ave  
Regina SK S4R 8H2

Telephone: 306-798-0641  
Telephone: 1-866-275-4721 (Toll Free)  
Fax: 1-306-787-2288

Web Site: <http://www.isc.ca/vitalstats/Pages/default.aspx>

## **Yukon**

The Division of Vital Statistics, Health and Human Resources, holds records created from 1898 to the present, and will provide a photocopy of an original birth, marriage, or death registration to applicants. Applicants must provide enough information to identify the correct record and satisfy the Division of Vital Statistics that the record is requested in good faith. Applicants may complete an Application for Certificate or Search, or may apply by letter, either of which may be mailed or faxed. Payment by credit card is available.

For more information regarding vital records and applications contact:

Vital Statistics  
PO Box 2703  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 2C6

Telephone: 867-667-5207

Fax: 867-393-6486

Web Site: <http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/vitalstats.php>

## **British Columbia Archives<sup>6</sup>**

An important source of information for those involved in genealogical research is the British Columbia Archives. Its holdings include government records, maps, newspapers, as well as personal, family, and other non-governmental records. Researchers who familiarize themselves with the B.C. Archives' holdings and how they are catalogued will find their search for genealogical information more rewarding. Following is an outline of some of the resources available.

### **Reference Room**

Through the B.C. Archives Reference Room you can access an extensive library of published works dealing with B.C. history, politics, government, natural science, and ethnography. The library's holdings are indexed in a standard card catalogue, listed alphabetically by subject, author, and title. Searches can also be done online using an index accessible through the B.C. Archives home page on the Internet, though this online index only includes items catalogued since 1985/86. Researchers may search by subject, author, title, or all three simultaneously.

There are many items accessible through the Reference Room that deserve mention due to their value as genealogical resources.

### **Published Material**

#### ***Handbooks on Genealogical Research***

Several handbooks can be found under the subject heading, "GENEALOGY." Readers may wish to also consult the "Books" section of this guide for a selection of valuable genealogy handbooks.

#### ***Family Histories***

Family Histories are best searched for under the name of a specific family.

#### ***City and Provincial Business Directories***

These directories list businesses, individuals, and individuals' occupations.

#### ***Telephone Directories***

Consult the Archives binder indexing B.C. telephone directories to determine which directory a specific community is listed in.

#### ***Crockford's Clerical Dictionary (Anglican)***

Archives holds 1868, 1896, 1910-14, 1916-18, 1920-22, 1923-27, 1929-36, 1941, 1947-50, and 1953-68. This source and the Clergy List listed below provide information on members of the Anglican clergy.

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<sup>6</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the British Columbia archives web site and genealogy information sheet (British Columbia Archives, 2000).

***Clergy List (Anglican)***

Archives holds 1882 and 1911-16.

***British Navy List***

Archives holds 1806-1975.

This source contains name, rank, and date of birth for naval officers.

***British Army List***

Archives holds 1879-1936.

This source contains name, rank, and date of birth for army officers.

***Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF), Battalion Lists***

This source contains information on officers and enlisted men of the CEF. In addition to name and rank, additional information such as name and address of next of kin, country of birth, and former corps, may be given.

***Mercantile Navy Lists and Maritime Directory***

Archives holds 1857-1957 with gaps.

***Voter Lists (By Provincial Electoral District)***

Archives holds 1874 onwards with gaps. In addition to names, this source provides information on occupations of individuals, and street or community of residence. Researchers must know the proper electoral district in order to refer to the Voter Lists. These can sometimes be gained from the city directories. Researchers should be aware that due to an amendment of the *Elections Act* lists less than 25 years old are no longer open to the public.

***British Columbia Gazette*: NW 320.05 B862 + year (for index)**

Archives has 1863-1980. This publication includes notices of government appointments and licenses issued, etc.

***1881 Census, Vancouver Island (Index)*: Ref. NW 317.1 C215 1881**

A census attempts to record information about every individual in a given area and is therefore of immense value to genealogists. Information sheets on the use of this source are available in the Reference Room. British Columbia Census returns for 1881, 1891, and 1901 are all available on microfilm at the B.C. Archives.

***1891 Census, Victoria (Index)*: Ref. NW 317.1 C215 1891**

Information sheets on the use of this source are available in the Reference Room.

***Canadian Who's Who*: Ref. NW920 C212 + year**

Archives holds 1910, 1917, 1936-1939, and 1948-90.

***An Index to Biographical Dictionaries of British Columbians***

This record is a good place to start when looking for individuals in biographical dictionaries.

***Annual Report of the Public Schools (Dept. of Education), 1872+***

This source includes the names of teachers and statistical information about schools. Consult the B.C. *Sessional Papers* D-24 to D-26 (1872-1920) or consult NW 971.58 B862p + year (1921-present).

***Annual Report of the Department of Mines, 1874+***

This source includes the names of individuals killed or injured in the mining industry. Consult the B.C. *Sessional Papers* 1872-1920 (D-24 and D-25) or consult NW 971.58 B862 + year (1921-present).

**Historical Records, Manuscripts, and Government Records**

Researchers seeking historical records, manuscripts, and government records can consult the card catalogues which index these unpublished. Generally, the main entries in the catalogues are based on the name of the organization or individual that produced the record, though there are cross references by subject and location. Two card catalogues exist, the first indexing entries made before 1975, and the second indexing entries made from 1975 onward. The post-1975 catalogue and finding aids to government records are accessible through the B.C. Archives web site. Full-text searches of both the catalogue and the finding aids are possible. The post-1975 catalogue and finding aids to non-government records are in the process of being converted to electronic format.

Many entries in the post-1975 card catalogue, and the online catalogue, include references to a finding aid. Finding aids provide a detailed description of the contents of a particular historical record, manuscript, or government record. This allows researchers to narrow their search to particular parts of large record series. Researchers may also wish to consult the guides to government records. These binders, located on top of the card catalogues, organize the records by ministry or agency.

The records listed next page are particularly useful to those involved in genealogical research.



## Government Records

### ***British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency***

Marriage Registrations (1872-1921) GR-2962

Death Registrations (1872-1976) GR-2951

Birth Registrations (1872-1897) Upcoming release

An index is available online through the B.C. Archives web site that provides basic data (names, date, place) and provides researchers with the index information necessary to view a copy of the original on microfilm.<sup>7</sup> The microfilm collection is available at the B.C. Archives, the Vancouver Public Library, the Surrey Public Library (Cloverdale), and from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) through the Church's local Family History Centres. Individuals may view the microfilm at the B.C. Archives or order rolls through the LDS Family History Centers. The microfilm collection and microfiche indexes will soon be available at additional locations in British Columbia and other jurisdictions.

Birth registrations may be released 100 years following the date of birth, marriage registrations may be released 75 years after the date of marriage, and death registrations may be released 20 years after the date of death. Release of these records is consistent with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. As each year passes, additional records will be released on microfilm.

See the "British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency" section of this guide for more details on birth, marriage, and death registrations.

### ***Colonial Secretary, Pre-Confederation Marriage Records (1859-1872):*** GR-3044

Copies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia pre-confederation marriage records submitted to the Colonial Secretary by clergy, 1859-1872.

### ***British Columbia Attorney General (Coroner's Records 1859-1970):***

Information contained in these records is often of a sensitive nature, and may include autopsy reports, photographs, jury findings and police reports. An information sheet on the use of this source is available in the Reference Room. Researchers should note that access to these records is subject to the terms of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

### ***British Columbia Attorney General (Wills, 1861-1981):***

An information sheet on the use of this source is available.

### ***Canada Census Office, Manitoba and Red River, 1832-1847, 1849, 1856, 1870:*** GR-2017.

This is a self-serve microfilm item (reel B00396). For a list of enumeration districts consult the finding aid.

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<sup>7</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency

***Canada Census Office, British Columbia, 1881, 1891, 1901:*** GR-0469, GR-0288, GR-2927.

These are self-serve microfilm items. Consult the finding aid for reel numbers. Information sheets on the use of these sources are available in the Reference Room. Some indexes are also available, though there is no index to the 1901 census.

***Canada, Dept. of Interior. Dominion Lands Branch, 1885-1930:*** GR-0436

This source includes applications to homestead in the railway belt and Peace River Block. Consult the finding aid and box file list for correct box number.

***Canada, Department of the Interior. Immigration Branch:*** GR-1547

This source includes records relating to Asiatic and oriental immigration and child emigration programs. There is no nominal index. Consult the finding aid.

***Colonial Correspondence:*** GR-1372

This source is composed of letters to and from the colonial governments of B.C. and Vancouver Island, 1849-1871. Consult the index and then the finding aid to determine microfilm reel number.

***British Columbia Surveyor of Taxes (Assessment Rolls), 1876-1948 (incomplete):*** GR-1999

The information given concerns owners of property, not necessarily residents. Consult the finding aid to determine taxation district before referring to the microfilm reel list.

***British Columbia Department of Lands (Preemption Records to 1970):*** GR-0112 and others.

This source contains information on name, date, and description of the land. Consult "Government Records Relating to Crown Lands in British Columbia" in Binder 15 on top of the card catalogues, as well as the nominal card index.

***British Columbia Attorney General (Court Records). Various Government Record Collections:***

These sources include records of civil and criminal proceedings (1849-1970s). Consult, the "Court Records Guide" (Binder 7B) for additional information.

***British Columbia Attorney General (Probate Case Files 1861-1981 [incomplete]).***

***Various Government Record Collections:***

These sources provide information on the probate of an estate. An information sheet on the use of this source is available.

***British Columbia Provincial Police, 1858-1950. Various Government Record Collections:***

These sources include personnel records, Superintendent's correspondence, and license applications. Consult Binder 12 for additional information. Researchers should note that access to these records is subject to the terms of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

***British Columbia. Canadian Confederation Centennial Committee 1967:*** GR-1489

This source is composed of applications for pioneer medallions that include genealogical information. Consult the finding aid for additional information.

***British Columbia. Centennial 1971 Committee:*** GR-1490

This source is composed of applications for pioneer medallions that include genealogical information. Consult the finding aid for additional information.

**Non-Government Papers (Private Papers)**

***Church Registers of baptisms, marriages and burials:***

Consult the catalogues under church name, place name, or subject headings (e.g., “Registers of Births,” “Religious Records”). Also consult “Churches” section of this guide for records held by British Columbia churches.

***Family Papers:***

Genealogical information can often be gleaned from such family papers as diaries, correspondence, etc. Consult the catalogues under the family name.

***Family Trees:***

The B.C. Archives holds a few family trees that can be found through the manuscript and library catalogues under the family name.

***“Colonial Settlers on the Mainland of British Columbia” (typescript):*** MS-0700

***Alexander Begg collection:*** MS-0467

This collection includes three volumes of questionnaires distributed to settlers in the North West Territory in 1884-85.

***Hudson’s Bay Company Archives:*** MS-2053

This finding aid allows researchers to determine which portions of the records they wish to order through inter-library loan. See the Provincial Archives of Manitoba entry in this guide for information regarding the Hudson’s Bay Company Archives.

## **Newspapers**

The B.C. Archives has a large collection of newspapers on microfilm, though major twentieth-century Vancouver and Victoria papers are not held. These can be accessed at university and public libraries. A guide to the newspaper holdings of the B.C. Archives lists newspapers alphabetically by community, and provides a reference number to the self-serve microfilm collection. Indexes to the newspaper holdings of the B.C. Archives are not available electronically.

Researchers may also wish to consult the clipping file index. This microfiche index of selected newspaper articles (1858-1983) can be searched by subject, name, or place. Each entry contains the title of the article, the name of the newspaper, the date, the page number, and indicates if the article is also included in the vertical file collection. The vertical file is a collection of over 88,000 files on various subjects that provides easy access to newspaper articles on a given topic. The index to the vertical files is contained in four large black volumes in the reference room. The vertical files have been microfilmed as D-19 and are available on a self-serve basis.

## **Sound and Moving Image Collection**

Researchers may make use of a card catalogue that indexes all sound recordings, filmographies of B.C. films, and lists of films and videos by title. These collections are not yet indexed in electronically accessible format.

## **Photographs, Paintings, Drawings, and Prints**

These images are available in the Photo Reference Room. The General Reference File indexes photographs by subject heading or by the name of the individual shown in the image. Individual collections are also available. Many of the visual images in the collection are accessible through the B.C. Archives web site. For more than 26,000 images, searchable text descriptions and online images are available.

## **Cartographic Records**

Card catalogues in the map reference area list the cartographic records by author, title, subject, chronologically, and/or by National Topographic Series number, depending upon the catalogue. Finding aids are also available that make locating a map easier if it happens to be part of a series. Researchers may wish to use the index map at the back of the finding aid to locate certain types of maps. Work in progress will provide access to cartographic images and related finding aids through the B.C. Archives web site.

## Contact Information

Research inquiries regarding archival holdings may be directed by mail, telephone, or fax to the addresses below. Also, an online research query form, accessible from the B.C. Archives web site, may be filed electronically. However, B.C. Archives staff cannot undertake genealogical research on behalf of clients. For those unable to conduct research at the B.C. Archives themselves, a list of researchers who have registered with the B.C. Archives is available.

*Mailing Address:*

British Columbia Archives  
PO Box 9419 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9V1

*Location:*

655 Belleville St  
Victoria British Columbia

Telephone: 250 387-1952

Fax: 250 387-2072

Web Site: <http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/bcarchives/default.aspx>

*Toll Free:*

From Greater Vancouver area: 660-2421 (ask operator for 387-1952)

From elsewhere in B.C.: 1-800-663-7867 (ask operator for 387-1952)

## Municipal and Other Archives

### City of Vancouver Archives<sup>8</sup>

The City of Vancouver Archives stores records of the municipal government, non-governmental organizations, businesses, and some individuals. Its collections include significant holdings of genealogically relevant material, such as directories, cemetery records, voters' lists, clippings files, photographs, books, and a collection of notes on street and place names in Vancouver.

The City of Vancouver Archives reference guide to genealogy, available on the Archives' web site, outlines some of the valuable genealogical resources available at that institution. The following is a selection from that outline.

#### ***Directories:***

The Archives holds Vancouver directories from 1882 to the present, and some British Columbia directories from between 1860 and 1948.

#### ***Cemetery Records:***

The Archives holds records pertaining to Mountain View Cemetery.

#### ***Voters' Lists:***

Holdings include voters' lists for Vancouver, Point Grey, and South Vancouver for various years as far back as 1886. Researchers should be aware that access restrictions may apply.

#### ***Clippings Files:***

Four separate microfiche clipping files exist, each with a separate index.

For more information contact:

City of Vancouver Archives  
1150 Chestnut Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6J 3J9

Telephone: 604 736-8561

Fax: 604 736-0626

Web Site: Genealogy Reference Guide:  
<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/archives/>

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<sup>8</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the City of Vancouver Archives web site (City of Vancouver Archives, 2001).

## City of Victoria Archives and Records Division<sup>9</sup>

The City of Victoria Archives and Records Division, Administration Department, holds historically valuable records of municipal offices, businesses, and individuals related to Victoria. Its holdings also include photographs, maps, and plans. The Division's web site provides a useful overview of the Archives' holdings, and includes a research guide for genealogists. The following is a selection of records held by the Archives.

### ***City Directories:***

Archives holds city directories for years from 1860 to 1994, but not every year is covered.

### ***Census Records:***

Portions of the 1881 and 1891 censuses that relate to Victoria are held.

### ***Clippings Files:***

These include obituaries and marriages clipped from the *Victoria Daily Times* from 1901 to 1939, obituaries from the *Times Colonist* from 1985 to 1993, and clippings indexed by subject.

### ***Cemetery Records:***

Records of the Ross Bay Cemetery, 1872-1976 are held.

### ***Voters' Lists:***

Lists held cover Victoria in the years 1908 to 1993. Some lists predating 1908 are also held. Researchers should be aware that access restrictions may apply.

### ***Tax Assessment Rolls:***

Rolls held by the Archives cover the years 1865-1948. Researchers able to look up a piece of property by its legal description will find their search of such records much easier.

### ***Vital Statistics Search:***

Ross Bay Cemetery Records from 1872 - 1980, Death Notice Index from 1901 - 1939, Marriage Notifications 1901 - 1939.

For more information contact:

City of Victoria Archives  
1 Centennial Square  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1P6

Telephone: 250 361-0375

Fax: 250 361-0394

Web Site: <http://www.victoria.ca/archives/archives.shtml>

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<sup>9</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the city of Victoria Archives and Records Division web site (City of Victoria Archives, 2001).

## Archives Association of British Columbia

The Archives Association of British Columbia (AABC) represents both archives and archivists in British Columbia. It works for the preservation of British Columbia's recorded history and represents B.C. archival institutions at the national level. For researchers, AABC resources are a valuable source of information on municipal and other types of archives in British Columbia (Archives Association of British Columbia 1997a).

The Archives Association of British Columbia maintains a list archival repositories in British Columbia titled *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia*. This list can be accessed through the AABC web site. Researchers can select a locality from a map of British Columbia and view a list of archival repositories in that area, view an alphabetical list of all B.C. archival repositories, or search by repository type. For each entry, contact information, hours of operation, as well as a brief description of holdings is given. This list can be an invaluable tool for those involved in research requiring records held in archives and museums (AABC, 1997b).

The Archives Association of British Columbia also maintains the *British Columbia Archival Union List*, which includes descriptions of the holdings of most of the repositories listed in *A Guide to Archival Repositories in British Columbia* (AABC, 1997c). Researchers can search the database in a variety of ways to discover the location of desired records (AABC, 1997c). In addition, researchers may wish to access the *British Columbia Archives Sites and Other Resources* web site that provides information on the web sites of archives and related institutions and associations (AABC, 1997d).

For more information access the AABC web site, or contact:

Archives Association of British Columbia  
PO Box 78530 University Post Office  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z4

Web Site: <http://aabc.ca/>



# Other Provincial Archives

## Provincial Archives of Alberta

The Provincial Archives of Alberta is the primary repository for Alberta's documentary heritage. Its holdings relate to the history of Alberta, and include records from both government offices and the private sector, such as business, labour, religious, and other organizations, as well as noteworthy individuals. Some records in the Archives' holdings were created as early as 1795, though most holdings date from 1841. Research guides exist for some collections and staff will conduct some research on behalf of individuals (Provincial Archives of Alberta, 1997).

The Archives' holdings of genealogical records are extensive and cannot be adequately outlined here. The records listed below are a selection of records highlighted by Archives staff (Michelle Purcell, personal communication, Feb. 21, 1997).

### *Church Records*

Roman Catholic Church:

Les Oblats des Marie Immaculée, Les Soeurs de l'Assomption de la Sainte Vierge, The Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, Sisters of Providence, Grey Nuns, St. Joachim Parish (Edmonton)

Anglican Church:

Diocese of Edmonton, Diocese of Mackenzie River, Diocese of Calgary

United Church of Canada:

The Alberta and Northwest Conference 1853-1990

Lutheran Church:

Alberta Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada 1896-1989

Presbyterian Church of Canada:

The Alberta Synod of the Presbyterian Church 1950-1983

### *Other Records*

Edmonton Divorces 1924-1936 and 1958-1968

Alberta Divorces 1926-1971

Athabasca Estate Files: various dates

Northwest Territories Estate Files: various dates

*Henderson's Directories*: various dates and towns

*Edmonton Bulletin* Newspaper

*Edmonton Journal* daily Newspaper

Alberta Genealogical Society Cemetery Records

For more information on the Provincial Archives of Alberta's genealogical holdings, access the Archives web site or contact:

Provincial Archives of Alberta  
12845-102 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 0M6

Telephone: 780 427-1750

Fax: 780 427-4646

Web Site: <http://www.culture.alberta.ca/archives/about/default.aspx>

## **Provincial Archives of Manitoba (including Hudson's Bay Co. Archives)**

The Archives' holdings cover both the Red River Settlement (pre-1870) and the Province of Manitoba (1870-present). For both periods, records include census returns, parish registers, newspapers, military records, court records, and personal manuscripts. The collection of material dating from 1870 to the present includes a wider variety of records, including homestead records, private sector records, and court records. Researchers may also wish to consult the Homestead Records created by the Dominion Lands Branch (Manitoba Genealogy Society).

Also housed at the Provincial Archives of Manitoba are the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Archives. The HBC Archives include records of its operations across the northern hemisphere and elsewhere, since its establishment in 1670. Holdings include contracts, personal accounts, pension records, estate records, census information on some First Nations peoples, and many genealogical resources for those researching Scottish, Irish, English, or Welsh genealogies (Provincial Archives of Manitoba, 1996a, April; Manitoba Genealogy Society, 1993). For those interested in the HBC's records, a guide titled *Biographical Resources at the Hudson's Bay Company Archives: Volume One* can be consulted at the Provincial Archives or purchased by mail (Briggs and Morton, 1996). An information sheet on this publication is available upon request.

Several other publications are also available from the Provincial Archives of Manitoba that can facilitate research using that institution's records. The Archives publication, *Family and Community History: Selected Manitoba Government Records*, provides information on court records, land records, municipal records, and school records held by the Archives (Provincial Archives of Manitoba, 1996b, April). The government records finding aid held at the Archives is also helpful and is much broader in scope, providing summary descriptions of all records transferred to the Provincial Archives.

Another useful work, *Reference Sources For Researching Family History in Manitoba*, is an information booklet produced by the Manitoba Genealogical Society. It outlines the genealogically relevant records held by the Provincial Archives of Manitoba and provides information on genealogical records elsewhere in the province as well (Manitoba Genealogy Society, 1993).

For more information contact:

Provincial Archives of Manitoba  
200 Vaughan Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1T5

Telephone: 204 945-3971  
1-800-617-3588 (toll free)  
Fax: 204 948-2008

Web Site: <http://www.gov.mb.ca:80/chc/archives/index.html>

Archives of Manitoba  
130 - 200 Vaughan Street  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1T5

Telephone: 204 945-4949  
Fax: 204 948-3236

Web Site: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/index.html>

## Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) offers a variety of publications to assist those involved in genealogical research within the Province. A fifteen-page guide by archivist Robert F. Fellows, *Family History Resources at the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick*, provides an excellent starting point for anyone interested in utilizing that institution's resources for genealogical research (Fellows, 1990). The shorter, more general, *A Beginner's Guide for Genealogical Research in the Province Of New Brunswick*, will be of use to those who have not researched previously in New Brunswick (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, 1992). The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick also offers a series of genealogical guides, one for each of the Province's fifteen counties. These are quite detailed and of significant value to genealogists (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, 1996). In addition, researchers may request a publications list, which includes various county censuses and other genealogically relevant records which may be purchased by mail. Researchers with Internet access should consult the Archives web site, which includes a section on genealogical research (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, 1997). The genealogical holdings of the New Brunswick Archives include:

- Government Records
- Private Records
- Church and Burial Records
- Census Records
- Photographs
- Municipal Records
- Maps and Plans
- Court Records
- Sound and Moving Images

To request a publication, or for more information, contact:

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick  
PO Box 6000  
Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 5H1

Telephone: 506 453-2122  
Fax: 506 453-3288

Web Site: <http://archives.gnb.ca/>

## Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador (PANL) holds a variety of records useful to those doing genealogical research including records of land grants dating from 1803, newspapers, newspaper extractions and some vital records. Some of the other collections of interest are:

- Extracts of births, marriages and deaths from newspapers, circa 1850-1900 from Conception Bay are of Harbour Grace and Carbonear.
- Daily news Deaths. Listing of deaths from the year-end editions of the Daily News from 1913 to 1963
- Original records of government departments, some dating from the early 1600's
- Census Records 1675 - 1945
- Voter's Lists 1832-1980's
- Research. Listing of military references and records held by the Archives. From late 1600's up to and including the Second World War.
- Colonial Secretary's Office. Outgoing correspondence from 1749 to 1948 and incoming correspondence from 1825 - 1891.

Reference and Research Services staff will answer specific research inquiries, but requests which do not include a full name, approximate date, place of residence, and religious affiliation of the person and/or event in question will not be answered. If a record is found, a certified copy will be produced for a fee of \$5.00 (PANL, 1996c, June).

For more information contact:

Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Colonial Building  
Military Road  
St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2C9

Telephone: 709 729-3065

Fax: 709 729-0578

Web Site: <http://www.therooms.ca/archives/>

## **Northwest Territories Archives**

The Northwest Territories Archives have 1,200 linear feet of textual holdings, 250,000 historical photographs, 5,000 hours of sound recordings and over 400 motion pictures.

An on-line general database is available for people interested in information that relates to the heritage of the Northwest Territories. An on-line photographic database is also available that currently has 20,000 of the 250,000 images. The Northwest Territories Archives also have a sound database and a place name database for clients to search on-line as well as on-line exhibits for clients to visit.

Northwest Territories Archives  
Prince of Wales Northern Cultural Centre  
Education, Culture and Employment  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Box 1320  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9

Telephone: 867 873-7551

Fax: 867 873-0205

Web Site: <http://www.pwnhc.ca/>

## Public Archives of Nova Scotia

The Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS) holds a wealth of genealogical information. Its holdings include church records, cemetery records, some vital records, land records, newspapers, and court records. Like many other archival institutions, PANS has published information sheets and booklets to guide researchers through its genealogical material.

Following are a selection of PANS access tools and genealogical resources.

### *Catalogues*

Biography catalogue  
Communities card catalogue  
Land records catalogue  
Photographs catalogue  
Maps catalogue

### *Other Holdings*

Church Records: Most on microfilm (incomplete)  
Cemetery Records  
Census Records: 1767-1901 (incomplete)  
Vital Statistics: Births and Deaths 1864-77, Marriages 1864-1910  
Marriage Bonds: 1763-1864 and 1871-72 (incomplete)  
Halifax Directories: 1869-present (additional scattered years)  
N.S. Directories: 1870s and 1890-1915  
Deeds and Probates  
Passenger Lists  
Loyalist Claims  
Newspapers: 1769 - 1999 (incomplete)

For more information on PANS genealogical resources contact:

Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management  
6016 University Avenue  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 1W4

Telephone: 902 424-6060  
Fax: 902 424-0628

Web Site: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm>



## **Archives of Ontario**

The primary genealogical holdings of the Archives of Ontario are divided into three categories: Vital Statistics, Court Records, and Land Registrations. Holdings also include diffusion microfilm from the National Archives of Canada. For example, researchers may wish to access the *Ontario Vital Statistics Bulletin* web site maintained by the Archives of Ontario (Queen's Printer for Ontario, 2001a). It provides additional detail on the availability of open vital statistics records.

Archives of Ontario's holdings include:

### ***Vital Statistics***

Some Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) cemetery transcripts  
Church Register Collection  
Clergy, Justice of the Peace, and Church returns  
Civil Vital Statistics (births 1869-1984, marriages 1801-1919, deaths 1869-1929)

### ***Court Records and Wills***

Court of Probate Records and Surrogate Court Records 1793-1958  
Application to Probate 1859-1982  
Divorce Decrees 1867-1972

### ***Land Records***

Land records fall into two categories, the early Crown Land records and later Private Property registrations. The computer Land Records Index, indexes homesteaders and first owners of Crown Land by surname from the 1780's to 1920.

### ***Diffusion Microfilm from National Archives of Canada***

Colonial and Federal Census returns  
British Military and Naval Records  
United Empire Loyalist Lists

### ***Additional Records***

Municipal Records 1850 - 1900

Genealogies Collection

Education Records 1854 - 1932

Newspapers pre-1930

Ontario Immigration Records 1867 - 1902

(Archives of Ontario 2001a)

For more information contact:

Archives of Ontario

77 Grenville Street, Unit 300

Toronto, Ontario M5S 1B3

Telephone: 416 327-1600 (reception)

Telephone: 1-800-668-9933 (Toll Free from within Ontario)

Fax: 416 327-1999

Web Site: <http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>

*Ontario Vital Statistics Bulletin* web site:

Web Site: [http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/about/pdf/rg\\_202\\_vital-statistic-bulletin.pdf](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/about/pdf/rg_202_vital-statistic-bulletin.pdf)

### **Archives of Nunavut**

Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Box 1000, Stn, 800

Iqaluit, Nunavut X0A 0H0

Telephone: 867-975-5500

Fax: 867-975-5504

Web Site: <http://www.gov.nu.ca/cley/home/english/archives.html>

## **Public Archives and Records Office in Prince Edward Island<sup>10</sup>**

The Public Archives and Records Office has significant holdings of genealogical materials, including finding aids and indexes designed to assist genealogists. The Archives web site is also helpful with respect to genealogical resources. Following are selected genealogical resources.

### ***Master Name Index***

This card catalogue is organized by family name. The entries contain information compiled from cemetery records, census records, passenger lists, marriage registers, and many other sources.

### ***Census Records***

Records held cover 1728 to 1901, though sporadically. Some records are nominal, but others contain a wealth of genealogical information.

### ***Vital Statistics***

Often researchers must use a variety of sources to do vital events research in P.E.I. The Archives holds several relevant primary sources and finding aids.

### ***Land Records and Maps prior to 1900***

The Public Archives and Records Office holds a variety of land records, including conveyances, leases, Crown deeds, and many others. Records from 1900 to the present are held by the Land Registry Office.

### ***Court Records***

Court Records held by the Archives date back to the 1790s. These include probate records, supreme court records, and inquests.

### ***Secondary Sources***

There are also many genealogically valuable secondary sources available at Archives. One of these is Kindex, which indexes genealogists, the names they are researching, and information on how they can be reached.

For more information contact:

Public Archives and Records Office      Telephone: 902 368-4290  
P.O. Box 1000                                      Fax: 902 368-6327  
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7M4

Telephone: 902 368-4290  
Fax: 902 368-6327

Web Site: <http://www.gov.pe.ca/tourism/index.php3?number=1004626&lang=E>

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<sup>10</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Public Archives and Records Office web site (Public Archives and Records Office, No date).

## Archives nationales du Québec

The Archives nationales du Québec has significant holdings of genealogically relevant material, and many of its collections document events back to the 1700s. The Archives brochure, *Qui étaient nos ancêtres? Comment vivaient-ils?*, provides information about the Archives' genealogical holdings and can be forwarded to individuals upon request (Gouvernement du Québec, 1994). Though researchers with ancestors from Québec will find the Archives' collections impressive, the ability to read French is a virtual necessity if one is to conduct research oneself at the Archives nationales du Québec. For those unable to visit the Archives, staff will answer specific genealogical inquiries that are not prohibitively time-consuming. As there are nine regional archival centres, researchers are advised to inquire by phone for the name of the centre to which their inquiry should be directed.

For more information contact:

Archives nationales du Québec  
Centre d'archives de Québec  
1210, Avenue du Séminaire  
C.P. 10450  
Sainte-Foy, Québec G1V 4N1

Telephone: 418 643-8904

Fax: 418 646-0868

Web Site: <http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/>

## Saskatchewan Archives Board

Like several other provincial archival institutions, the Saskatchewan Archives Board (SAB) has publications designed to assist genealogists. An information sheet titled *Genealogical Sources at the Saskatchewan Archives Board* provides brief descriptions of approximately twenty collections held at the Saskatchewan Archives. This sheet is available upon request. *Exploring Family History in Saskatchewan*, which outlines sources of genealogical information in Saskatchewan and beyond is available in PDF format at [www.saskarchives.com/web/services-pub-bulletins.html](http://www.saskarchives.com/web/services-pub-bulletins.html)

Some of the more valuable genealogical collections held by the Saskatchewan Archives Board are listed below. Researchers should note that SAB's collections are divided between two locations and that not all records are available at each location.

- Newspapers (large collection of dailies and weeklies, back to 1878)
- Biographies (published biographies and biographical newspaper clippings)
- Genealogies (published and unpublished genealogies)
- Directories and Registers (as early as 1885)
- Government publications (includes the Canada *Sessional Papers* and Militia Lists)
- Local Histories (many contain family histories)
- Private Papers
- Oral Histories
- Church Records (United Church, Presbyterian, Methodist, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Catholic, and other churches' records are held)
- School Records (collection does not include school registers)
- Homestead Records (one of the SAB's most heavily used genealogical resources)
- Pioneer Questionnaires (from 1950s)
- Maps (includes *Cummins Rural Directory Maps* for some years between 1917 and 1930)
- Municipal Records (collection includes tax and voter records)
- Military Records (some records pertaining to Saskatchewan servicemen)
- Passenger Lists and Border Entry Records
- Census Records (microfilm copies held for 1881, 1891, 1901 censuses of Northwest Territories and parts of Ontario)

To request a publication or for more information, contact:

Saskatchewan Archives Board  
University of Regina  
3303 Hillside Street  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0A2  
Telephone: 306 787-4068  
Fax: 306 787-1197

Saskatchewan Archives Board  
Murray Building  
University of Saskatchewan, 3 Campus Dr  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 5A4  
Telephone: 306 933-5832  
Fax: 306 933-7305

Web Site: <http://www.saskarchives.com/web/index.html>

## Yukon Archives

A variety of records are available from the Yukon Archives that may be of use to genealogists. These include manuscripts, newspapers, corporate records, government records, municipal records, books, newspapers, as well as various indexes and finding aids.

Researchers may wish to view the Yukon Genealogy Database at [http://www.yukongenealogy.com/content/ykgen\\_db.htm](http://www.yukongenealogy.com/content/ykgen_db.htm). The Yukon Archives Finding Aid “Genealogical Resources at the Yukon Archives” can be found through the following link: [http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/genealogical\\_bib.pdf](http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/genealogical_bib.pdf).

For more information contact:

Yukon Archives  
Box 2703  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Telephone: 867 667-5321  
1-800-661-0408 (Toll Free from within Yukon)

Fax: 867 393-6253

Web Site: <http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/75.html>

## National Archives of Canada

The National Archives of Canada can be an important resource to those involved in genealogical research. Researchers unable to research in Ottawa may access many of the Archives' records through inter-institutional loan arrangements. Other services to the public are also offered. Staff at Reference Services will provide names of professional researchers in an individual's area, answer questions regarding Archives sources, and answer specific genealogical queries, as long as they are not prohibitively time-consuming, and are submitted in writing.

The National Archives booklet, *Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada*, provides a good overview of the Archives genealogical holdings, and points to other organizations that hold genealogical records (National Archives of Canada, 1998). This booklet is free and may be ordered or downloaded at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/022/f2/022-607.001-e.pdf>.

Alternatively, researchers may wish to consult the Archives web site's section on genealogy at

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/the-public/index-e.html>

<http://www.archivescanada.ca/english/index.html>

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/publications/index-e.html>

These sites provide lots of information and many links to other sources of information.

For British Columbia researchers unable to visit Ottawa, an access site exists in the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room at the University of British Columbia Library, 1956 Main Mall, Vancouver. The Vancouver Access Site provides researchers with access to CD-ROM databases of some finding aids to the National Archives' holdings, and instructional CD-ROMs on the subject of archival and genealogical research. These databases provide researchers with information necessary to order specific records from the National Archives or to submit specific research requests. Some National Archives records can also be accessed at the UBC Library (University of British Columbia, 2001).

To contact National Archives, or for more information about the above, contact:  
(see next page)

For Research Inquiries:

Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3

Telephone: 613-996-5115

Telephone: 1-866-578-7777 (Toll Free in Canada and the United States)

Fax: 613 995-6274

Inquiry Form: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-300.001-e.php>

Internet:

National Archives - Genealogy Research

Web Site: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/the-public/index-e.html>

Vancouver Access Site Information:

University of British Columbia Library  
Special Collections and University Archives  
Chris Hives, University Archivist

Telephone: 604 822-5877

Fax: 604 822-9587

Web Site: <http://www.library.ubc.ca/archives/>



## Canadian Census Data

Census returns are an invaluable source of genealogical information given that they generally attempt to record every individual in a jurisdiction, and often include a variety of additional information of interest to genealogists. The first census taken in Canada was in the year 1666 by Jean Talon in the colony of New France (National Archives, 1987). Between that date and the census of Canada in 1851, censuses were conducted in various years for different provinces.

The Canada-wide censuses of 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901 are open to the public. These post-1850 Canadian censuses attempted to record every member of each household, while previous censuses normally recorded only the head of each household. With subsequent censuses, the number of questions increased and more information on each individual was gathered. Information recorded may include sex, age, place of birth, nationality, religion, occupation, and marital status. These censuses are held at the National Archives of Canada in Ottawa.

The first census to include British Columbia was the 1881 Canadian census. The returns of this census, as well as those for the 1891 and 1901 censuses, have been microfilmed and are available at many large public and university libraries.

Individuals interested in conducting research using census records should refer to the National Archives publications *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1666-1891* and *Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm 1901* (National Archives of Canada, 1987, 1993). These catalogues list all census records covering Canadian jurisdictions and provide the index information needed to find or order specific rolls. The National Archives of Canada plans to add electronic versions of these publications to its web site. For more information, contact the National Archives, B.C. Archives, or your local library.

## Public Libraries

Public libraries such as the Greater Victoria Public Library, Vancouver Public Library, and Surrey Public Library are good sources of genealogical material. A variety of “how to” guides, and numerous other works on the subject of genealogy, allow beginners to familiarize themselves with the field, and with the genealogical resources available. Resources such as reference texts, microfilm collections, indexes, and periodicals are also held, and can be of value to more experienced researchers. Inter-library loan services are also available, allowing access to the holdings of many other institutions.

### **Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library<sup>11</sup>**

The Cloverdale Library is one of the most important repositories of genealogical information in British Columbia. Its holdings are extensive, and some records pre-date 1770. Individuals researching ancestors who resided in what is now Canada will find a wide variety of relevant materials. The 200-page guide to the Canadian genealogical resources held at the Cloverdale Branch that is published by the Surrey Public Library is highly informative. Researchers intending to access genealogical resources at the Cloverdale Library will find the guide most useful. It can be purchased or viewed at the Cloverdale Library.

Genealogical researchers seeking information about their ancestors prior to emigration to Canada will also find useful resources at the Cloverdale branch, but these have been excluded from the above guide. Contact the Cloverdale Library for more information on these holdings

The following is an overview of the genealogical resources available at the Cloverdale Library. Its holdings are too large to cover in any but this cursory fashion, and researchers should consult the aforementioned guide for more information.

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<sup>11</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Surrey Public Library Publication, *A Guide to the Materials held at the Cloverdale Library* (Gutteridge and Middleton, 1994)

***Microfilm***

Canada Census 1671-1901  
Newfoundland Census 1671-1945  
Estate Records  
Land Indexes and Petitions  
Passenger Lists  
Border Entry Records  
Naturalization Records  
Military Records  
Parish Records  
Cemetery Records  
Vital Records  
Naturalization Records

***Books***

Indexes  
Immigration and Passenger Records  
Local Histories  
Historical Atlases  
Biographical Records  
Loyalist Records  
Parish Records

Individuals wishing to view microfilm at the Cloverdale Library are advised to reserve time on a microfilm reader before visiting, to ensure that a reader is available. Researchers from outside the Lower Mainland may book a reader for the day, while others are limited to two-hour reservations. A small fee is charged for use of the readers. Microfilm photocopying equipment is also available and may be used for a small fee.

For more information contact:

Cloverdale Library  
5642 - 176A Street  
Surrey, British Columbia V3S 4G9

Telephone: 604 598-7320  
Fax: 604 598-7321

Web Site: <http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca/Programs+and+Services/Genealogy/default.htm>

## Greater Victoria Public Library

### *Library Guide*

The Greater Victoria Public Library (GVPL) serves numerous clients interested in genealogy. A valuable tool for anyone intending to do genealogical research at the GVPL is the in-house publication, *Genealogical Searching: Resources at the Central Library*. The booklet does not include resources added since 1993, but provides a good overview of sources held by the Central Library. Different sections catalogue publications and resources focusing on Canada, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Germanic countries, the United States, other nations, and some specific groups. There are also sections devoted to general works, newspapers, associations, atlases, and other topics. The guide provides beginners with a number of starting points, allowing them to gain an understanding of genealogy and the resources available, while more experienced researchers may use the guide for its overview of the library's resources and specific reference information. Researchers interested in British Columbia will find details on: British Columbia, Vancouver Island, and Victoria directories; 1891 and 1901 Canada census returns on microfilm for British Columbia; and many other relevant records. The guide is held at the information desk. (Greater Victoria Public Library, 1993)

### *Information Centre*

The Information Centre at the Central Library also holds several genealogical reference works for in-library use and a binder compiled by the library staff which contains various indexes and other information pertaining to collections held by other institutions. While this information is not systematically organized or indexed, it can prove useful to researchers interested in accessing genealogical records not available in Victoria. Researchers may wish to consult the inventory of microfilm records accessible through inter-library loan.

### *Contact Information*

Central Library  
735 Broughton Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 3H2

Telephone: 250 382-7241  
Fax: 250 385-5971

Web Site: <http://www.gvpl.victoria.bc.ca>

## Vancouver Public Library

Like the GVPL, the Vancouver Public Library (VPL) has also produced an in-house publication to assist individuals interested in genealogical research, although the VPL booklet is for beginners. *Beginning Genealogy* is available at the History and Government desk. It explains how to use library's computerized catalogue to search the specific genealogical topics individuals may be interested in and also lists the titles of some useful published works in various genealogical fields (Dobroslavic, 1995, Oct.). Those unfamiliar with genealogical research will certainly benefit from this short guide.

VPL's holdings also include primary genealogical resources, such as the microfilm<sup>12</sup> collection of historical British Columbia marriage (1872-1925) death (1872-1980) and birth (1872-1900) registrations and the microfiche index to this collection. Additionally, VPL's holdings include the returns for Canadian censuses from 1666 to 1901, as well as directories covering most of British Columbia, either in hardcopy or on microfilm. Researchers should check with Special Collections if they are unable to find the desired directory, as some directories are held there, as is a card catalogue indexing some of the older directories. VPL also has a collection of voters' lists for British Columbia, and records of Chinese immigration to Canada from 1892 to 1949.

For more information visit one of the 20 VPL branches, the VPL Web site, or contact:

Vancouver Public Library  
History and Government Division  
350 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 6B1

Telephone: 604 331-3603  
Fax: 604 331-3720

Web Site: <http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/>

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<sup>12</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

## Other Public Libraries

To contact other British Columbia public libraries, researchers can access Internet sites listing libraries, such as the one listed below, or consult a reference text such as *Corpus Almanac 1997 Sourcebook*, which lists over 150 libraries in British Columbia and how they can be contacted (Corpus Almanac, 1996).

Libraries listed on this site include college and university libraries, BC libraries, other Canadian libraries and libraries worldwide (UVic, 2001).

Web Site: <http://gateway.uvic.ca/>

## Records Available At Other Government Offices

### Bankruptcy Records (Supreme Court Registry)

Court Services Branch, Supreme Court Registry, holds information regarding bankruptcies that occurred in the Victoria area. Information can be provided to individuals who are a party to the bankruptcy or legal counsel, free of charge. Other individuals are charged a small fee. There are three types of bankruptcy records: bankruptcy case files, bankruptcy orders, and bankruptcy reasons for judgment. Bankruptcy case files are retained for twelve years, then selectively retained by the B.C. Archives. Files created before 1950, those concerning cases in Prince Rupert or notable cases are retained by the B.C. Archives. All other bankruptcy case files are destroyed. Bankruptcy orders and bankruptcy reasons for judgment, are kept by the Supreme Court for ten years, then fully retained by the B.C. Archives. For information regarding bankruptcies in other localities, researchers must contact the court registry in that area. The Supreme Court Registry in Victoria can provide contact information, or researchers may wish to consult the *British Columbia Lawyers Guide*, which also contains contact information for court registries (Smethurst, 1996).

For more information contact:

#### *Mailing Address*

Supreme Court Registry  
PO Box 9248 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9J2

#### *Physical Address*

Supreme Court Registry  
2nd Floor - 850 Burdett Ave  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1B4

Telephone: 250 356-1492

Fax: 250 387-3061

### Bankruptcy Records (Office of Superintendent of Bankruptcies)

The federal Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcies can also provide bankruptcy information, as well as other files related to commercial activity, free of charge to private researchers. However, only records created from 1978 to the present are held. Researchers must request searches in writing, by fax, or mail, and will receive information from the office in the same manner.

For more information contact:

Office of Superintendent of Bankruptcies  
Heritage Place  
155 Queen Street, 4th Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

Telephone: 613 941-1000

Fax: 613 941-2862

Web Site: [http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/eng/h\\_br01991.html](http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/bsf-osb.nsf/eng/h_br01991.html)

## Corporate Searches

Corporate searches are conducted at the Corporate and Personal Property Registry in Victoria. Individuals must provide the full name of the corporation, incorporated society, cooperative, etc., for which a search is desired. A charge applies to each search conducted. Information held on a corporation may include the date of the last annual report, directors' addresses, name change details, and other data. Researchers may request a search in person, by phone, by mail, or by fax. Copies of documents cost \$.50 per sheet. Normally, individuals requesting a search from a remote location call to determine the number of pages in the file so that appropriate payment for copies can be made together with the search request and fee. All services must be prepaid.

If a corporation has been dissolved for ten or more years, the file is held at the B.C. Archives. For B.C. Archives staff to access the correct file, the exact name, number, and dissolution date of the corporate body must be supplied. Where that information is not known, a search through the Corporate and Personal Property Registry may be required.

For more information, or to request a corporate search contact:

### *Mailing Address*

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations  
Corporate and Personal Property Registry  
PO Box 9431 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 9V3

Telephone: 250 387-5101  
Fax: 250 356-0206

Web Site: <http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/registries/corppg/crsearch.htm>

### *Physical Address*

Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations  
Corporate and Personal Property Registries  
2nd Floor, 940 Blanshard Street  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 3E6



## Records of Court Proceedings

Individuals seeking to view court records for civil and criminal proceedings in British Columbia may consult the court registry in the area where the proceedings took place. Files may be viewed for a small fee. Counselors, and parties to proceedings, may view records free of charge. Individuals should note that records are held by court registries for a limited time, after which most are only selectively retained by British Columbia Archives. Researchers should inquire to the court registry in the area where the proceedings took place regarding the retention of, and access to, the type of file they are interested in.

Researchers may contact the Victoria Court Registry, or may consult the *British Columbia Lawyers Guide* (Smethurst, 1996) for the addresses of court registries holding records for British Columbia localities.

### *Mailing Address*

Victoria Court Registry  
PO Box 9248 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 1B4

### *Physical Address*

Victoria Court Registry  
850 Burdett Avenue  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 1B4

Telephone: 250 356-1466

Fax: 250 387-3061

## Divorce Records (Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings)

The Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings, established in 1968, will provide any individual with the following information pertaining to Canadian divorces: whether a divorce application file exists; the date filed; the date granted, discontinued, or dismissed; the file number; and the address and phone number of the appropriate court registry where qualified individuals may access the divorce file. There is no fee for this service.

Qualified individuals wishing to access a divorce file should phone the appropriate court registry in advance to confirm that the file is still held locally. In British Columbia files are usually stored by a court registry for approximately 12 years, before being transferred to the B.C. Archives for selective retention, though some court registries retain their divorce files for longer. Individuals qualified to view a divorce record are individuals party to the divorce, a solicitor, or individuals authorized by a party to the divorce.

The Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings can be contacted at:

Central Registry of Divorce Proceedings  
Justice Building  
239 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H8

Telephone: 613 957-4519

Fax: 613 941-2520

## Land Records

Land Titles Offices can conduct land title searches of Crown grants and land transfers, but searches must be based on the legal description of the property in question. In addition, the B.C. Archives has a small number of early land records indexed by name. To request a search, researchers should contact the Land Titles Office in the appropriate area (Monasch, 1996).

For more information contact:

### Land Titles Branch

#### *Mailing Address*

Ministry of Attorney General  
PO Box 9259 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 9J4

#### *Physical Address*

Ministry of Attorney General  
5th floor - 910 Government street  
Victoria British Columbia V8V 1X4

Telephone: 250 387-1903

Fax: 250 387-1763

Kamloops District/Nelson Area:	250 828-4455	Fax:	250 371-3717
Lower Mainland Area:	604 660-2565	Fax:	604 660-4064
Pr. George/Pr. Rupert Area:	250 565-6200	Fax:	250 565-4217
Victoria Area:	250 387-6331	Fax:	250 356-6060

## Probates

Researchers interested in probate/estate records can contact the probated estate's local court registry. The period of time a court registry will store a file varies, but most available probate records predating 1950 are held by the B.C. Archives. Researchers may wish to contact the appropriate court registry for more specific information about record retention in that location before visiting the court registry in person.

Researchers may contact the Victoria Court Registry, or may consult the *British Columbia Lawyers Guide* (Smethurst, 1996) for the addresses of court registries holding records for British Columbia localities.

#### *Mailing Address*

Victoria Court Registry  
PO Box 9249 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 9J2

#### *Physical Address*

Victoria Court Registry  
2nd Floor - 850 Burdett Avenue  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 1B4

Telephone: 250 356-6634

Fax: 250 356-6279

Web Site: <http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/courts/>

## **Voter Registrations**

Though the current British Columbia Voters List was previously open to the public, a new *Election Act* came into force in 1995 that prohibits public access to voters lists less than 25 years old. Voters lists 25 or more years old can be viewed at 1075 Pendergast Street, Victoria, B.C. Researchers must conduct searches themselves and should note that an individual's name can be difficult to locate as the lists are sorted by electoral district, and sometimes by voting area.

For further information contact:

Location: Chief Electoral Officer  
1075 Pendergast Street

Mail: PO Box 9275 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9J6

Telephone: 250 387-5305  
Fax: 250 387-3578

Web Site: <http://www.elections.bc.ca/>

# Police Records

## Royal Canadian Mounted Police (R.C.M.P)

R.C.M.P. records deemed to have historical significance, and which are open to the public, are held by the National Archives of Canada, Federal Archives Division, in Record Group 18. Some of these administrative and operational records date back to 1873, though a fire destroyed many of the records predating 1887.

For more information contact the National Archives (see the National Archives section of this guide) or the R.C.M.P. Historical Section of the Public Affairs and Information Directorate in Ottawa. The Service files that the National Archives hold ended in 1904. After 1904 only those that were deemed historically noteworthy were retained. Researchers can search for files in Record Group (RG) 18 in the Federal Government Records database [www.archives.ca](http://www.archives.ca) under ArchiviaNet.

For some information, formal requests under the *Access to Information Act* must be made, for a small fee. R.C.M.P. Historical Section will advise researchers of the necessity for such a request and can forward researchers' requests to the Access and Privacy Branch.

R.C.M.P. Headquarters, Historical Section  
1200 Vanier Parkway, Room B121  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2

Telephone: 613 993-7691  
Fax: 613 993-1310

Web Site: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/hist/archiv-eng.htm>

## R.C.M.P. Museum in Regina

The R.C.M.P. Museum in Regina maintains a database of individuals who serve, or have served, with the R.C.M.P. Information on members includes name, rank, and serial number, and may include locations in which they served. The museum also has some lists of individuals who were charged with rule infractions while serving. For more information contact:

R.C.M.P. Museum  
Box 6500  
Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 2J7

Telephone: 306 780-5838  
Fax: 306 780-6349

Web Site: <http://www.rcmpmuseum.com/>

## **Vancouver Police Centennial Museum**

The Vancouver Police Centennial Museum contains a variety of records of use to those involved in genealogical research, some of which date back to 1886. For example, some service records are available that list officers' activities, dates of service, birth date, and country of origin.

For more information contact:

Vancouver Police Centennial Museum  
240 East Cordova Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6A 1L3

Telephone: 604 665-3346

Fax: 604 665-3585

Web Site: <http://www.vancouverpolicemuseum.ca/>

## **Victoria Police Historical Association and Museum**

The Victoria Police Historical Association and Museum's holdings include photographs of individuals charged with offenses that date back to 1900, charge books dating from approximately 1875 to 1970, commendation documents, and case files. Access to case files is restricted.

For more information regarding holdings, members of the Historical Association Executive can be reached by telephone through the Victoria Police Station or mail can be sent to the Victoria Police Historical Association at the Police Station.

Victoria Police Historical Assoc.  
850 Caledonia Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8T 5J8

Telephone: 250 995-7654 (Victoria Police Switchboard)

Web Site: <http://www.vicpd.ca/index.php/museum>

# Church Records

## Anglican Church of Canada<sup>13</sup>

Archives of the Diocese of New Westminster and the Anglican Church of Canada Archives for the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, located at the Vancouver School of Theology, holds parish registers which record baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials. These records are arranged by parish; they are not indexed by name. Other records, such as those of women's groups, Sunday schools, and church committees, are also arranged by parish.

As records are arranged by parish, researchers who know the name of the church where an ancestor worshipped will be able to focus their search quite quickly. For those that do not know the name of the church, other information can also be useful, such as the name of the priest who officiated an event, approximate or specific dates of events, or geographic location of an individual's residence when an event took place.

Researchers can access the Archive's holdings in person and use the microfilm reader-printer free of charge. Though not required, it is recommended that researchers call ahead before visits to ensure that staff will be present. Archives staff will conduct research for a fee of \$12.00 per hour plus charges for copies. Individuals who wish to have research conducted on their behalf should contact the Archives to request that an inquiry form be mailed or faxed to them.

For more information or to request an inquiry form, contact:

Anglican Archives  
6000 Iona Drive  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1L4

Telephone: 604 822-9583  
Fax: 604 822-9212

Web Site: <http://www.anglicanarchivesvancouver.com/>

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<sup>13</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Anglican Church of Canada Archives brochure (Anglican Church of Canada, No date)

## **Baha'i National Centre**

The Baha'i National Centre in Thornhill, Ontario, may provide genealogical researchers with information on former members. Information available includes enrollment date, records of marriage and death, and possibly birth date. Researchers must be able to provide the first and last name of a former member.

For more information contact:

The Baha'i Community of Canada  
7200 Leslie Street  
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6L8

Telephone: 905 889-8168  
Fax: 905 889-8184

Web Site: <http://www.ca.bahai.org/>

## **Canadian Unitarian Council National Archives**

A microfilming project currently being undertaken by the Canadian Unitarian Council National Archives will produce a central repository of Canadian Unitarian Council churches' records, to be held in Toronto, that will be open to researchers. At present, only records held by individual churches are accessible, except for such records as meeting minutes and Council newsletters held in the National Archives. Researchers wishing to visit Unitarian churches in B.C. to conduct research can contact the Canadian Unitarian Council for addresses.

For more information contact:

Canadian Unitarian Council National Archives  
100 - 344 Dupont St  
Toronto, Ontario M5R 1V9

Telephone: 416 489-4121  
Toll Free: 1-888-568-5723  
Fax: 416 489-9010

Web Site: <http://www.cuc.ca/index.html>

## **Regent College Library (Baptist Union of Western Canada)**

The Regent College library, called *The John Richard Allison Library*, is jointly owned by Regency College and Carey Theological College. It is affiliated with the Baptist Union of Western Canada, but is not a central repository of Baptist church records. However it is one of the major theological libraries in western Canada. Researchers can contact the library to receive contact information for individual congregations that hold congregational records.

For more information contact:

The John Richard Allison Library  
5800 University Boulevard  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 2E4

Telephone: 604 221-3340

Web Site: <http://allisonlibrary.regent-college.edu/about/index.html>

## **Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada**

The Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada holds records of marriages, baptisms, confirmations, and burials, for congregations that have ceased to exist. As the records are arranged by congregation, and no central registry exists, researchers must know the congregation to which an individual belonged if an individual is to be found in the records. Specific written inquiries will be answered by staff. Existing congregations hold their own records.

For more information contact:

Archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada  
302 - 393 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3H6

Telephone: 204 984-9150

Toll Free: 1-888-786-6707

Fax: 204 984-9185

Web Site: <http://www.elcic.ca/>



## **Associated Canadian Theological Schools Library**

The Associated Canadian Theological Schools library, located at Trinity Western University, houses the archives of the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches of British Columbia and the Yukon. Its holdings include materials from Baptist groups in British Columbia created as early as the late 1800s. Issues of the denominational newsletter, *The B.C. Baptist*, from 1925 to the present are also held.

For more information contact:

ACTS Library  
7600 Glover Road  
Langley, British Columbia V2Y 1Y1

Telephone: 604 513-2023

Fax: 604 513-2063

Web Site: <http://www.twu.ca/library/>

## **The Presbyterian Church in Canada**

The Archives and Records Office of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, located in Toronto, holds the historically significant records of the Church. Its holdings include baptism, marriage and death registers, minutes of congregational organizations, personal papers, Presbyterian periodicals, and many other records. Finding aids exist to aid researchers in accessing desired records (Presbyterian Church in Canada. No date).

Research inquiries can be made in person, by mail, phone, or fax. Research undertaken by staff costs \$25.00 per hour, with additional charges for copies. As most inquiries are handled in less than one hour, few charges exceed this amount.

For more information contact:

The Presbyterian Church  
in Canada Archives  
50 Wynford Drive  
Toronto, Ontario M3C 1J7

OR

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church  
680 Courtney Street  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 1C1

Telephone: 416 441-1111 ext: 310

1-800-619-7301

Fax: 416 441-2825

Telephone: 250 384-5734

Fax: 250 384-5738

Web Site: <http://www.presbyterianarchives.ca/>

## **Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives**

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives holds the sacramental records of most parishes in the Archdiocese from their founding until the end of 1986. The Archive is a private one and it exists to serve the Archbishop and his Chancery personnel, therefore if individuals are granted access they must request an appointment in writing, fax or by e-mail.

For genealogical research, individuals searching for sacramental records (baptisms, marriages, deaths etc) must contact the parish in which the sacrament was administered. If the parish is unknown, the researcher must send a generic fax or e-mail to each parish that existed at the time to ask for the sacramental register to be searched. A complete listing of parishes can be found at:

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver Archives  
150 Robson Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 2A7

Fax: 604 683-4288

Web Site: <http://www.rcav.org/Archives/>

*Researchers are requested not to contact the Archives by phone.*

## **United Church of Canada British Columbia Conference Archives**

The United Church of Canada British Columbia Conference Archives is located on the University of British Columbia campus. Its holdings include a wide variety of records, such as historic membership rolls, registers of vital events, minutes of church meetings, correspondence, and photographs for over 500 congregations across British Columbia. The publication, *Guide to Family History Research in the Archival Repositories of the United Church of Canada*, is available from the United Church and may be useful to researchers interested in such records (United Church of Canada B.C. Conference Archives, No date).

For more information contact:

United Church of Canada B.C. Conference Archives  
6000 Iona Drive  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1L4

Telephone: 604 822-9589

Fax: 604 882-9212

Web Site: <http://www.bc.united-church.ca/content/archives-about-us>

## **Cemeteries**

### **British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid (BCCFA)**

This Internet resource consists of a database containing over 344,000 burial records, almost all of which record burials in B.C. Entries contain information collected from cemetery records and monumental inscriptions, and include surname, given name, cemetery name, and cemetery location. Reference numbers attached to each record allow researchers to contact the organization that contributed the record. Normally, additional information on a burial is available.

For more information contact:

British Columbia Cemetery Finding Aid  
Metchosin Central  
Box 48058  
3575 Douglas Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 7H5

Web Site: <http://www.islandnet.com/bccfa/>

### **Old Cemeteries Society**

The Old Cemeteries Society in Victoria has automated the Ross Bay Cemetery records and many of the Pioneer Square Cemetery's records, and can provide information to those interested in cemetery research. For more information contact:

Old Cemeteries Society  
Box 50004  
15 - 1594 Fairfield Rd  
Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 7H5

Telephone: 250 598-8870

Web Site: <http://www.oldcem.bc.ca>

## **Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid (OCFA)**

This Internet resource is designed and administered in the same way as the BCCFA, but is larger, with over three million entries. As with the BCCFA, each entry lists the reference number of the contributing organization. Researchers in British Columbia who find a record of interest in the index can often request and receive additional information from the contributing organization.

For more information contact:

Metchosin Central  
Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid  
Box 48058  
3575 Douglas Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 7H5

Web Site: <http://www.islandnet.com/ocfa/homepage.html>

## **Registrar of Cemeteries**

The Registrar of Cemeteries, Ministry of Attorney General, regulates cemeteries in British Columbia and maintains a list of cemeteries still in use. Requests for genealogically relevant information are not encouraged, but researchers may contact the office with simple questions regarding current cemeteries in British Columbia.

For more information contact:

Registrar of Cemeteries  
Ministry of Attorney General - Consumer Services Division  
PO Box 9297 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria British Columbia V8W 9J8

Telephone: 250 387-1271  
Toll Free: 1-888-564-9963  
Fax: 250 953-3533

## **Genealogical Societies**

Many genealogical societies are involved in cataloguing cemetery records in their local area, and some of these collections can be extensive. Researchers interested in the records of a specific cemetery should contact genealogy societies in the region to inquire if any cataloguing has been conducted.

## **Funeral Service Association of British Columbia**

The Funeral Service Association of British Columbia (F.S.A.B.C.), which represents most funeral service providers in B.C., will conduct a genealogical search of its members' records back to 1867, upon request. The Association also maintains a list of all funeral service providers in B.C. and will contact the appropriate non-member provider for records when necessary. Eligibility requirements for application are identical to those outlined under "Genealogy Certificate - Death Event" in the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency entry in this guide.

Researchers must complete an application, include a processing fee and provide enough information to identify the correct record, including the city or town in which the death occurred. The F.S.A.B.C. will process all requests within four to six weeks. Relevant information that is available may vary greatly, but normally includes name and birthplace of event subject, place and date of death, and often parents' names and birthplaces.

To request an application form or for more information, including current service fees, contact:

Funeral Service Association of British Columbia  
Suite 211 - 2187 Oak Bay Ave  
Victoria, British Columbia V8R 1G1

Telephone: 250 592-3213  
1-800-665-3899

Fax: 250 592-4362

Web Site: <http://www.bcfunerals.com/>

## Medical Societies

Researchers wishing to obtain information regarding an ancestor who was a physician in British Columbia should contact the British Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. Membership in the College is compulsory for all physicians and surgeons, and its records date back to 1868. For the years 1868-1960, member files include full name, city of residence, medical qualifications, and medical school attended. From 1961 to the present, more information on members may be available, though some restrictions on access apply.

Many other medical societies exist in British Columbia. They are divided along geographic lines, such as the Victoria Medical Society, or on functional lines, such as the College of Psychologists. Researchers may wish to contact these organizations, but as membership in them is not compulsory, their records are not as comprehensive as those of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

For more information contact:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia  
400 - 858 Beatty St  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1C1

Telephone: 604 733-7758  
1-800-461-3008

Fax: 604 733-3503

Web Site: <https://www.cpsbc.ca/>

## The Law Society of British Columbia

The Law Society of British Columbia has records such as minutes of meetings as far back as 1869, and has member information back to approximately 1900, though records are not complete. Researchers may request information on former members of the society, but should note that restrictions on what information can be released do apply.

For more information contact:

Attention: Archives  
The Law Society of British Columbia  
845 Cambie Street  
Vancouver British Columbia V6B 4Z9

Telephone: 604 669-2533  
Toll Free: 1-800-903-5300 (within British Columbia)  
Fax: 604-669-5232

Web Site: <http://www.lawsociety.bc.ca/index.html>

## Hospitals

Those involved in genealogical research may wish to contact museum or archives committees associated with a hospital. Though researchers will not be given access to personal information in patient records, there are occasionally genealogically relevant records available. The Ministry of Health Services maintains a list of hospitals in British Columbia that includes contact numbers and addresses. This list will be sent to researchers upon request.

To request a copy of the list contact:

Ministry of Health Services  
Societies Section  
7-1 1515 Blanshard Street  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 3C8

Telephone: 250 952-1048

Fax: 250 952-2205

Web Site: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/socsec/pdf/hospitallist.pdf>



## School Records

Researchers can obtain genealogical information from school records, though access is, in many cases, limited. The British Columbia Archives has an extensive collection of school records though access is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Individuals interested in this collection should consult *The School Record: A Guide to Government Archives Related to Public Education in British Columbia 1852-1946* (Dunae, 1992).

Other records, such as school registers, containing information about students, and school district annual reports, containing information about teachers and administrators, can be accessed through individual school districts. Researchers should note that often these records are not well organized, and access is also restricted by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Additional sources of information regarding teachers are the *B.C. Sessional Papers* and *Public School Annual Reports*, held in libraries throughout the province.

For more information contact British Columbia Archives or the Field Services Team, Ministry of Education, Skills and Training, which can supply contact information for school districts.

Field Services Team  
Ministry of Education  
PO Box 9158 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9H3

Telephone: 250 356-2575  
1-888-664-2256  
250-356-8267

Fax: 250 356-8267

Web Site: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/apps/imcl/imclWeb/Home.do> (school/district listings)  
<http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/bcarchives/default.aspx> (BC Archives)

## University Libraries

Genealogy is not generally considered an academic subject. For this reason, university libraries in British Columbia have not made special efforts to acquire materials of genealogical value. However, many records acquired for historical research or other research purposes are of value to genealogists and make university libraries a plentiful source of genealogical information, though less experienced researchers may have difficulty determining what records are useful and how they can be accessed.

### Simon Fraser University

Like most universities, Simon Fraser University has not attempted to collect records required for serious genealogical research. Its holdings include The Vancouver Sun and other newspapers on microfilm back to early dates, as well as the Census nominal rolls. It should be noted that visitors to the library who are non-SFU users will not be able to access off-campus web sites, due to the strictures of the University's Internet access policy.

For more information on holdings, contact:

Reference Division  
W.A.C. Bennett Library  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, British Columbia V5A 1S6

Telephone: 604 291-5735  
Fax: 604 291-3203

Web Site: <http://www.lib.sfu.ca> (This web site provides a link to the library catalogue)

## University of British Columbia

Like many university library systems, the University of British Columbia (UBC) Library has a wealth of records useful to genealogical research, but its collections are not intended to further genealogical research and will not be a primary destination for inexperienced genealogists. Those just starting their genealogical searches may find general works on genealogy and related subjects useful. Some relevant periodicals and old newspapers are available, as are census records, directories, vital records, wills records, military records, church records, and family histories, but for the most part these collections are incomplete.

Researchers should note that the Vancouver Access Site for the National Archives of Canada is located in the Special Collections and University Archives Reading Room of the UBC Library. Consult the National Archives of Canada section of this guide for more information on the site.

For more information on the UBC Library's holdings contact:

University of British Columbia  
Walter C. Koerner Library  
Government Publications and Microform  
1958 Main Mall  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6T 1Z2

Telephone: 604 822-6375

Fax: 604 822-9122

Web Site: <http://www.library.ubc.ca> (This web site provides a link to the library catalogue.)

## **University of Northern British Columbia**

The University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), like the other British Columbia universities, does not maintain holdings intended for primary use by genealogists, but does have many records in its historical collections that are of genealogical value. For example, UNBC's library holdings include directories for various British Columbian and Canadian cities in various years, dating back to the 1850s. Various British Columbia newspapers, dating back to 1900, are also held, as are telephone directories for various locations.

For more information contact:

University of Northern British Columbia Library  
3333 University Way  
Prince George, British Columbia V2N 4Z9

Telephone: 250 960-6475  
Toll Free within BC: 1-888-440-3440  
Fax: 250 960-6610

Web Site: <http://www.library.unbc.ca/>  
This web site provides a link to the library catalogue.

## University of Victoria

The University of Victoria McPherson Library has a strong collection of Canadian history and government publications from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Several standard genealogical tools are held, but no attempt has been made to collect materials useful for serious genealogical research. Nonetheless, researchers will find census records, city directories, voter's lists, newspapers, probate records, tithe documents, almanacs, and land records. As with other university collections, various records can be found among collections compiled for historical research that are genealogically relevant.

The Victoria Genealogy Society publication, *Trails Into The Past*, provides additional information on McPherson Library's genealogical holdings, as does the *University of Victoria Reference Publication No. 63: Genealogy* (VGS, 1997 February; Gray, 1984).

For more information on McPherson Library's holdings consult the above publications or contact:

### *Mailing Address*

University of Victoria  
PO Box 1800 Stn CSC  
Victoria BC V8W 3H5

### *Physical Address*

University of Victoria  
McPherson Library  
3800 Finnerty Rd  
Victoria BC V8P 5C2

Telephone: 250 721-8274

Fax: 250 721-8215

Web Site: <http://library.uvic.ca/index.html>

This web site provides a link to the library catalogue

## University and College Course Offerings

Few academic institutions offer genealogy courses for academic credit. However, due to widespread interest in genealogical research, some do offer non-credit genealogy courses, usually through continuing education programs. The following academic institutions in B.C. currently or periodically offer instruction in genealogy.

### **Camosun College Continuing Studies**

Camosun College periodically offers seminars in genealogy taught by local genealogists. Individuals interested in taking such courses in the future should consult the Camosun College calendar, or contact:

Continuing Studies  
3100 Foul Bay Road  
Victoria BC V8P 5J2

Telephone: 250 370-3000  
Web Site: <http://camosun.ca/>

### **North Island College Community Education**

North Island College offered a course in genealogy in the past and may offer courses again in the future. For more information, individuals should contact:

North Island College Community Education  
2300 Ryan Road  
Courtenay British Columbia V9N 8N6

Telephone: 250 334-5095  
Toll Free: 1-800-715-0914  
Web Site: <http://www.nic.bc.ca/>

### **University of Victoria Continuing Studies**

Continuing Studies periodically offers short seminars in genealogy taught by local genealogists. Individuals interested in attending such a seminar in the future should contact?

University of Victoria Continuing Studies  
Telephone: 250 721-8451  
Fax: 250 721-8774  
Web Site: <http://www.uvcs.uvic.ca/>

# Genealogical Societies and Organizations

## Alberta Genealogical Society

The Alberta Genealogical Society was founded in 1973, to encourage and promote the study of family history in Alberta. The AGS has several branches with holdings that include reference sources, periodicals, books, microfiche, microfilm and CD's for members to use. For more information contact:

Alberta Genealogical Society  
162 - 14315 118th Ave  
Edmonton Alberta T5L 4S6

Telephone: 780 424-4429  
Fax: 780 423-8980

Web Site: <http://www.abgensoc.ca/>

## British Columbia Genealogical Society

The British Columbia Genealogical Society (BCGS) is a large society with significant resources. The Society is involved in a variety of projects and maintains the BCGS Resource Centre, which has over 7000 publications and numerous microforms in its holdings, including a large collection of cemetery transcripts and publications that may be purchased (BCGS, 2001a, 2001b).

The Society's web site is very informative and includes a catalogue of the Resource Centre's microform holdings and a catalogue of other library holdings as well. Lists of products and publications, information on special projects, a directory of members, query links, are also available through this site (BCGS, 2001a).

For more information, visit the BCGS Resource Centre at Unit 211, 12837-76th Avenue in Surrey, access the BCGS web site, or contact:

British Columbia Genealogical Society  
PO Box 88054 Lansdowne Mall  
Richmond, British Columbia V6X 3T6

Telephone: 604 502-9119  
Fax: 604 502-9119

Web Site: <http://www.bcgs.ca/>

## **Campbell River Genealogy Club**

The Campbell River Genealogy Club has a growing library that includes such resources as the International Genealogical Index (IGI)®, some United Kingdom vital records, cemetery records, genealogy periodicals, and much more. The Club publishes a quarterly journal, *Treehouse*, and is involved in cemetery recording for many areas in mid-Vancouver Island. For more information contact:

Campbell River Genealogy Club  
PO Box 884  
Campbell River, British Columbia V9W 6Y4

Telephone: 250 287-4894

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bccrgc/>

## **Canadian Federation of Genealogical and Family History Societies Inc.**

The Canadian Federation of Genealogical and Family History Societies Inc. is a Canada-wide umbrella organization for genealogy societies with member organizations in nine provinces. It is dedicated to sharing and promoting the interests and resources of Canadian genealogical organizations. It also publishes a biannual newsletter.

For more information contact:

Canadian Federation of Genealogical and Family History Societies Inc.  
227 Parkville Bay  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2M 2J6

Web Site: <http://www.abcgenealogy.com/Regional/Canada/>

## **Comox Valley Family History Research Group**

The Comox Valley Family History Research Group is involved in research for the area encompassing Comox, Courtenay, Cumberland, Merville, Black Creek, Royston, Union Bay, as well as Denman and Hornby Islands. For more information contact:

Comox Valley Family History Research Group  
c/o Courtenay and District Museum  
219 Fourth Street  
Courtenay, British Columbia V9N 1G7

Web Site: <http://www.cvfamilyhistory.org/>



## **The Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia**

The Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia, a member of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, has a growing collection of books, journals, maps, and microfiche on Jewish genealogy which are held at the Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library in the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre. Researchers are welcome to attend monthly meetings and large seminars, and to utilize the library's resources. Those new to genealogical research may wish to attend the beginners' workshop that is periodically offered (Jewish Genealogical Institute of B.C., No date).

For more information contact:

The Jewish Genealogical Institute of British Columbia  
300 - 950 West 41st Avenue  
Vancouver, British Columbia V5Z 2N7

Telephone: 604 321-9870

Web Site: <http://jgibc.nexo.com/>

## **The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada**

The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada has an extensive archival collection that was started in 1967. Its holdings include, but are not limited to, the following:

- over 5,000 photographs, many unique and rare;
- hundreds of books on local Jewish history, and
- local Jewish newspapers to the 1910's

For more information contact:

Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada  
C116 - 123 Doncaster Street  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3N 2B2

Telephone: 204 477-7460

Fax: 204 477-7465

Web Site: <http://www.jhcwc.org/>

## **Kamloops Family History Society**

The Kamloops Family History Society maintains a library collection of books, manuscripts, maps, charts, photographs, and other genealogical material. It publishes a biannual Journal, *Family Footsteps*, as well as books, bulletins, and other printed materials such as the recently published record of internments in the Pleasant Street Cemetery.

For more information, access the Kamloops Family History Society web site, or contact:

Kamloops Family History Society  
PO Box 1162  
Kamloops, British Columbia V2C 6H3

Web Site: <http://www.kfhs.org/>

## **Kelowna and District Genealogical Society**

The Kelowna and District Genealogical Society (KDGS) maintains a library with a concentration on the Okanagan. Its holdings include CD-ROMs; microfiche; the KDGS newsletter; newsletters from genealogical societies across Canada, the U.S. and the U.K.; as well as other books and publications. The Society has recently published a book on local cemetery records, *Monumental Inscriptions of the Central Okanagan - Volume I & Volume II*.

Currently the society is working on a 1891 census index project for the Kelowna area. The index will be followed by a book of biographies of Kelowna pioneers. For more information contact:

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society  
PO Box 21105  
Kelowna, British Columbia V1Y 9N8

Telephone: 250 763-7159 (Marie Ablett, Secretary)

Web Site: <http://www.kdgs.ca/>

## **Manitoba Genealogical Society**

The Manitoba Genealogical Society produces a quarterly publication entitled *Generations*. This publication includes articles on genealogical research methods and sources. The society has collections that include: books, periodicals, maps, microfilm, microfiche, newspapers and other holdings. For more information contact:

Manitoba Genealogical Society  
Unit E - 1045 St James Street  
Winnipeg Manitoba R3H 1B1

Telephone: 204 783-9139

Web Site: <http://www.mbgenealogy.com/>

## **Nanaimo Family History Society**

The Nanaimo Family History Society maintains a library of genealogical resources, holds monthly meetings, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Ancestry*. Holdings include, books, periodicals, maps and some Canadian and U.S. census records. The Nanaimo Family History Society has a library located at 3999 Victoria Avenue. Library hours of operation are: Tuesday & Thursday - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, Wednesday - 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday - 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

For more information, access the Nanaimo Family History Society web site, or contact:

Nanaimo Family History Society  
PO Box 1027  
Nanaimo, British Columbia V9R 5Z2

Telephone: 250 751-8731

Web Site: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/>

## Ontario Genealogical Society

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is a large organization with significant resources. It has 28 branches across the province, many publications, and is involved in many genealogical projects (OGS, 2001a). Its central resource collection includes bibliographies, indexes, local histories, maps, cemetery transcripts, census records, passenger lists, local newspapers, and periodicals, and is held in the Canadiana Collection at the North York Public Library. The Society's branches also maintain libraries with additional local and broader resources.

The OGS hosts an annual conference, produces a journal, *Families*, and a newsletter, *Newsleaf*. Researchers may wish to consult the North York Public Library Brochure, as well as the OGS brochure and publications list, all of which contain additional information about the Society (North York Public Library, No date; OGS, 2001a, 2001b).

For information regarding the OGS, access the OGS web site, or contact the Society directly.

Ontario Genealogical Society  
Suite 102 - 40 Orchard View Boulevard  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1B9

Telephone: 416 489-0734  
Fax: 416 489-9803

Web Site: <http://www.ogs.on.ca/>

North York Public Library  
Canadiana Collection  
North York Centre 5120 Yonge Street  
Toronto, Ontario M2W 5N9

Telephone: 416 395-5623

Web Site: [http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/uni\\_can\\_index.jsp](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/uni_can_index.jsp)

### **Port Alberni Genealogy club**

The Port Alberni Genealogy Club has members that are interested in genealogical research in a wide variety of countries. the Club has several different collections that include census records, parish records, ships passenger lists, marriage indexes and a periodical source index. For more information contact:

Port Alberni Genealogy Club  
2218 Hamilton Drive  
Port Alberni British Columbia V9Y 1B6

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bcvancou/alberni/ptalbgen.htm>

### **Prince George Genealogy Society**

The Prince George Genealogy Society membership includes individuals interested in genealogical research in a wide variety of countries. The Society has a library that is open to members, and publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Tree Tracer*. In addition, the Society periodically sponsors special activities, such as a genealogy seminar in the fall. For more information contact:

Prince George Genealogy Society  
PO Box 1056  
Prince George, British Columbia V2L 4V2

Telephone: 250 562-3900

Web Site: [http://members.tripod.com/pg\\_genealogy\\_society/welcome.html](http://members.tripod.com/pg_genealogy_society/welcome.html)

### **Revelstoke Genealogical Society**

The Revelstoke Genealogical Society maintains a library of genealogical resources and has recently completed cataloguing extractions from the 1901 census for the Revelstoke area. For more information contact:

Revelstoke Genealogical Society  
PO Box 2613  
Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0

## **South Okanagan Genealogical Society**

The South Okanagan Genealogical Society maintains a library collection at the Penticton Museum and Archives. The Society holds regular meetings and publishes a newsletter, *Grapevines*. The Society's web site provides researchers with an index of articles from the society journal *Grapevines*, a list of scheduled meetings, a query option, as well as additional information about the Society. For more information, access the Society's web site, or contact:

South Okanagan Genealogical Society  
c/o Library - Museum Archives  
785 Main Street  
Penticton, British Columbia V2A 5E3

Web Site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bcsogs/sogs/>

## **United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada**

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada is a historical, patriotic, and lineage society that is involved in genealogical research pertaining to United Empire Loyalists. There are many branches of this association throughout Canada. For more information please contact:

The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada  
Dominion Head Office  
202 - 50 Baldwin Street  
Toronto Ontario M5T 1L4

Telephone: 416 591-1783

Web Site: <http://www.uelac.org/>

## **Vernon and District Family History Society**

The Vernon and District Family History Society maintains a genealogical library at the Vernon Museum, and publishes a journal, *Splitting Heirs*. The society has recorded monumental inscriptions for a large number of cemeteries in Vernon and the surrounding area, and has prepared booklets of these which are available for sale. For more information contact:

Vernon and District Family History Society  
PO Box 1447  
Vernon, British Columbia V1T 6N7

Web Site: <http://www.vdfhs.com/>

## **Victoria Genealogical Society**

The Victoria Genealogical Society (VGS) maintains a significant genealogical library which includes a copy of the microfilm collection of historical British Columbia marriage (1872-1925) and death (1872-1980) and birth (1872-1900) registrations. When yearly releases of additional registrations are available, the VGS library will also hold these records.<sup>14</sup> The VGS holds monthly meetings, and members may join subgroups that focus on particular geographic or methodological genealogy topics. The VGS publishes a quarterly journal and is involved in cemetery recording, and other projects. The VGS published *The Veterans Cemetery*, a highly informative 155-page book about the Veterans Cemetery that is nestled between fairways of the Gorge Vale Golf Course. This book along with other books and information guides can be purchased from the Society.

The Victoria Genealogical Society web site contains information on the VGS Library, the executive, queries, and special interest groups. For more information, access the web site, or contact:

Victoria Genealogical Society  
P.O. Box 43021  
Victoria North PO  
Victoria, British Columbia V8X 3G2

Telephone: 250 360-2808

Web Site: <http://www.victoriags.org/>

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<sup>14</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

## **West Coast Family Histories Society**

The West Coast Family Histories Society concentrates on genealogical research related to the West Coast of North America. The Society is involved in genealogical cataloguing, indexing, teaching, and consulting related to genealogies on the West Coast, and jointly holds the copy of the microfilm collection of historical British Columbia marriage (1872-1925) death (1872-1980), and birth (1872-1900) registrations that is held at the VGS library.

For more information contact:

Sandra Gill  
558 Hurst Avenue  
Victoria, British Columbia V8Z 2L1

Telephone: 250 479-8580

## **Additional Genealogical Societies**

The *Genealogical Research Directory: National and International* is an invaluable reference text for genealogical researchers. Published annually, it includes listings of genealogical societies around the world, as well as province-by-province lists of Canadian genealogical societies. Current information about genealogical societies can be obtained from this directory which is available in most genealogy and large public libraries (Johnson and Sainty, 1995).



## Aboriginal Peoples

Aboriginal individuals will find many general genealogical resources useful, such as the Hudson's Bay Company Archives and others. In addition, there are also some institutions of specific interest to those researching aboriginal genealogies.

### **British Columbia Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation**

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs should not be considered a resource for genealogical research as records are generally held for less than ten years, and virtually all records pertain to bands as opposed to individuals. However, the Ministry can provide researchers with contact information for aboriginal bands in British Columbia. For such information, contact:

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation  
PO Box 9100 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V 9B1

Telephone: 250 357-6121

Web Site: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/arr/>

### **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada**

While Northern and Indian Affairs Canada does hold records which contain genealogically relevant information, access to these records is restricted. When access is permitted, researchers will often find the process of accessing the information to be time consuming and may find that similar information can be accessed more readily through other institutions. For information about what records are available, and how requests for access can be made, contact:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
10 Wellington, North Tower  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 0H4

Telephone: 819 997-0811

Web Site: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/index-eng.asp>

The National Archives of Canada holds copies of records of Indian and Northern Affairs. References to many of those records can be found by searching Record group (RG) 10 in the National Archives database on their web site at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>

## **Secwepeme Cultural Education Society**

The Secwepeme Cultural Education Society holds some records of relevance to aboriginal genealogical research including baptismal records, oral histories, and family groupings documents. For more information contact:

Secwepeme Cultural Education Society  
311 - 355 Yellowhead Highway  
Kamloops, British Columbia V2H 1H1

Telephone: 250 828-9779

Fax: 250 372-1127

Web Site: <http://www.secwepemc.org/>

## **United Native Nations**

The United Native Nations operates the Family Reunification Program that assists Native persons who were adopted or lived in foster care to research their ancestors so that such individuals can be reunited with their families. For more information contact:

Family Reunification Program  
1979 Marine Drive Suite 341  
North Vancouver, British Columbia V7G 3G2

Telephone: 604 688-1821

Fax: 604 980-0324

Toll Free: 1-800-544-9756

Web Site: <http://www.unns.bc.ca/>

## **Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs**

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs Resource Center has some materials useful for aboriginal genealogical research including census records, lists of registered Indians, and Hudson's Bay Company finding aids. For more information contact:

Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs  
500 - 342 Water Street  
Vancouver, British Columbia V6B 1B6

Telephone: 604 684-0231

Fax: 604 684-5726

Web Site: <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/>

## Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) consider the identification of one's ancestors to be important for religious and philosophical reasons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2001b). The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU), founded by members of the Church in 1894, is actively involved around the world in activities related to genealogical research. The GSU makes a wealth of genealogical resources available to members as well as non-members. For more information about the Church's genealogical activities, visit a Family History Center, the Church's web site, or contact:

Web Site: <http://www.lds.org>

### Family History Library

The Family History Library (FHL), located in Salt Lake City, Utah, is the largest genealogical library in the world. The Library's holdings include over 2.2 million rolls of microfilm, over 725 million individual names in the International Genealogical Index database, and well over 300,000 books. It is open to the public and visitors are not charged. Those visiting the Library may receive instruction on the use of its resources, and may wish to make use of its consultation. The Library has also produced a series of highly informative research outlines for different countries, states, and provinces. These outlines can be viewed or bought at the Family History Library or through any of its branches, which are called Family History Centers

While many researchers travel to visit the Family History Library, most of its records can be borrowed through one of the 3,500 local Family History Centers in over 80 countries, including rolls from the microfilm collection of historical British Columbia marriage (1872-1925), death (1872-1980) and birth (1872-1900) registrations.<sup>15</sup>

For more information contact:

Family History Library  
35 North West Temple Street, Room 344  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150-3440

Telephone: 801 240-2584

Fax: 801 240-1794

Web Site: <http://www.familysearch.org>

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<sup>15</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

## Family History Centers

Family History Centers of the Family History Library are an invaluable resource for those involved in genealogical research. The Family History Centers in British Columbia provide researchers with access to resources available on-site, such as instructional videos, booklets, books, information sheets, beginners orientations, and searchable indexes, as well as access by loan to the vast holdings of the Family History Library.

Researchers can order almost any record held by the Family History Library through a Family History Center for only a small fee covering duplication and postage (LDS Church, 1993). A variety of index tools are available at most Family History Centers, some of which index the holdings of the Family History Library, allowing researchers to order the correct records, while others index other genealogical records. Those listed below are only a selection of the tools available. Researchers wishing to become familiar with these and other tools should contact a local Family History Center regarding instructional materials and orientation sessions.

### *Family History Library Catalog™*

The Family History Library Catalog™ lists the records held by the Family History Library. This massive index includes both primary sources, such as vital records, as well as secondary sources, such as books. Researchers may use a variety of searches including locality search and surname search. Copies of many records can be ordered from the Family History Library using the reference numbers given in the Catalog. Information sheets, and an instructional video on the Family History Library Catalog,™ are available through Family History Centers (LDS Church, 1990a)

### *Ancestral File™*

Ancestral File™ is a computerized system that links the pedigrees of millions of individuals. Researchers submit the results of their own research in the form of computer files and these separate files are then linked together to form interconnected pedigrees. Contact information for those individuals who have contributed files is also available on the system. Ancestral File™ allows researchers to share their research, avoid duplication of effort, and contact others to coordinate research efforts. Information sheets on the Ancestral File™ are available through Family History Centers (LDS Church, 1994b).

### *International Genealogical Index® (IGI)*

The IGI is an index that lists the names of several hundred million deceased individuals from around the world. This information has been collected by the Church or has been submitted by members. Researchers may choose to search using an individual search, marriage search, or parent search. Each search yields different information about deceased individuals. Information Sheets on the IGI® are available through Family History Centers (LDS Church, 1990b).

### *PERiodical source Index on Microfiche (PERSI)*

Published by the Allen County (Indiana) Public Library Foundation and the Genealogical Department of the Allen County Public Library, this index is transferred to microfilm by the Family History Library. It lists almost all genealogy periodicals published in English as well as those published in Québec. The index catalogues periodicals dating back to 1847, but is complete only from 1986 onwards. Information sheets on the PERiodical Source Index on Microfiche are available through Family History Centers (LDS Church, 1990c).

There are many Family History Centers in British Columbia. If there is no Family History Center listed for your area, you may wish to contact the nearest Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as some small Family History Centers may not be listed.

For more information regarding the resources of Family History Centers, contact the following locations, visit the LDS website describing the Centers, or consult your local Yellow Pages.™

## **Genealogy Software**

There are a wide variety of genealogy software packages available to assist genealogists in their record keeping and the presentation of their genealogies, with prices ranging from \$15.00 for the most simple programs to several hundred dollars for more complex ones. The wide variety of genealogy programs available provides genealogists with a great deal of choice, but can also make the decision of which software to use difficult. Cost, complexity, and one's needs are all considerations.

Three of the most popular genealogy programs are Personal Ancestral File, Ancestral Quest, and Family Tree Maker. Personal Ancestral File 5.1 is designed for use with Windows™ 95/95, DOS and is also available in Macintosh format. Ancestral Quest™ 3.2 for Windows™ and Family Tree Maker™ 9.0 for Windows™ 95/98/ME and Windows™ XP are competitively priced, easy to use, and are capable of incorporating scanned photographs.

In considering the purchase of a genealogy program, there are a variety of ways to ensure that your choice is an informed one. Many researchers ask members of genealogy groups what program they use, their opinion of the software, and if demonstration programs are available. One can also consult Internet sites, such as the ones listed below, which describe and review genealogy programs. Often, software creators make demonstration programs available on the Internet free of charge, allowing researchers to test the software before making a purchase decision.

**For more information on genealogy software, consult the sources listed below.**

*Genealogy Software Springboard:*

Web Site: <http://www.gensoftsb.com>

*Genealogy Sites on the Internet:*

Web Site: <http://www.cyndislist.com/software.htm>

## Additional Web Sites

### *Canada*

Each of these websites provide links to many other Canadian genealogy websites.

Veinot, Jessica. (2010). *Canadian Genealogy and History* [Online]. Available: (<http://www.islandnet.com:80/~jveinot/cghl/cghl.html>)

Howell, John. (2010). *Canadian Genealogy Resources* [Online]. Available: (<http://www.canadiangenealogy.net/>)

### *General*

Howell, John. (2010). *Genealogy Gateway* [Online]. Available: (<http://www.gengateway.com/>)  
This website provides links to genealogy websites in many countries.

National Archives and Records Administration. (2010). *National Archives and Records Administration* [Online]. Available: (<http://www.archives.gov/index.html>)  
This website provides information about records held by the National Archives and Records Administration in the United States.

Howells, Cindy. (2010). *Cindy's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet* [Online]. Available: (<http://www.cyndislist.com>)  
This website provides over 18,000 indexed genealogy links to Canadian and international websites.

Boudreau, Marcel. (2010). *Genealogy Home Page of Marcel Boudreau* [Online]. Available: ([http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~boudreau/MGB\\_Genealogy.html](http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~boudreau/MGB_Genealogy.html))  
This website provides links to a variety of other genealogy websites.

## Additional Published Works

### *General*

Baxter, Angus. (1991). *In Search of Your Roots: A Guide For Canadians Seeking Their Ancestors*. Toronto: MacMillan of Canada.

Baxter, Angus. (1995) *In Search of Your European Roots: A Complete Guide To Tracing Your Ancestors in Every Country in Europe*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.

Briggs, Elizabeth. (1995). *Access to Ancestry: A Genealogical Resource Manual for Canadians Tracing Their Heritage*. Winnipeg: Westgarth.

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### *Other*

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## Appendix 1

### Citizenship Information

Occasionally individuals seek genealogical records in order to apply for citizenship in the country of origin of their parents or grandparents. The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency is often contacted concerning information pertaining to applications for Canadian and British citizenship. For information regarding the documents required and the procedures to be followed to apply for citizenship in Canada and the United Kingdom, contact the following organizations.

#### *Canada*

Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
Public Rights Administration  
365 Laurier Avenue West - 15th floor  
Ottawa Ontario K1A 1L1

Telephone: 1-888-242-2100  
Web Site: <http://www.cic.gc.ca>

#### *United Kingdom*

Passport Office  
British High Commission  
80 Elgin Street  
Ottawa Ontario K1P 5K7

Telephone: 613-237-1303  
Fax: 613-237-6537  
Web Site: <http://britain-in-canada.org/>



## Appendix 2

### Statistical Data Dissemination

The British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency provides selected vital statistics and population health status indicators in publications available to the public. However, for those clients who require data not included in the published reports, the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency can accommodate their needs. Requests for information that can be produced in 15 minutes or less are answered without charge. For slightly larger requests, such as those requiring the use of non-standard category measures, clients are billed on an hourly basis. For very complex, or ongoing data requirements, contractual arrangements can be made with the Vital Statistics Agency to fulfill the client's needs. For more information contact Manager, Information and Resource Management Branch, British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency, PO Box 9657 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P3, or through an information request form on their web site at: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/>

## Appendix 3

### Sample Registrations and Genealogy Certificates

Samples of birth, marriage and death genealogy certificates can be viewed on the Vital Statistics Agency web site at: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/genealogy/>. Readers should note that since 1872 the birth, marriage and death registration forms have changed many times.

Researchers interested in viewing British Columbia historical registrations can access the online Vital Events Index which indexes British Columbia historical marriage registrations (75 or more years old) and death registrations (20 or more years old) created since 1872 (British Columbia Archives, 2001).<sup>16</sup> Microfilm copies of the registration can be viewed at BC Archives, the Vancouver Public Library, the Surrey Public Library (Cloverdale), or borrowed from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Photocopies from the collection may be obtained from the Victoria Genealogical Society. For other locations that maintain a copy of the microfilm collection, please visit: <http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca/genealogy/microfilm.html>

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<sup>16</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

## Appendix 4

### Major Data Elements Existing On Registrations

The following tables list the major data elements existing on non-British Columbian birth, marriage, and death registrations.

#### Alberta

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and groom
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date of birth	date and place of death	name of marriage licence issuer and licence number
place of birth	usual residence of deceased	marital status of bride and groom
mother's name, date and place of birth and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	marital status of bride and bridegroom
father's name, date and place of birth and age	birth date and place and age at the time of death	parents names and places of birth
mother's usual residence	occupation	religious denomination of bride and bridegroom
marital status of mother and if married to father	parents names and place of birth	officiant's name, address, status, and religious denomination if clergy
mother's Alberta Health Care Number	disposition of remains	residence of bride and bridegroom before marriage
other birth particulars include; duration of pregnancy, weight of child	name and address of funeral directorname, address and relationship of informant	witnesses' names and addresses
certification of mother	Alberta health Care Number of deceased	
	certification of hospital	

## Manitoba

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and groom
gender	gender	date and of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	place of marriage
kind of birth	date and place of birth	marital status of bride and bridegroom
MHSC Number	age	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
mother's name and date and place of birth	Social Insurance Number	religion of bride and bridegroom
father's name and date and place of birth	MHSC Number	parents' names and places of birth
mother's usual residence	usual residence of deceased	residence address of bride and bridegroom before and after marriage
marital status of mother and if married to father	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	officiant's name, address, denomination and approved number
band name/treaty number of mother and father, where applicable	occupation	witnesses' names and addresses
name and address of attendant	band name/treaty number, where applicable	
name, address and relationship of informant	parents' names and places of birth	
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child	arrangements for disposition of remains	
	name and address of funeral director	

## New Brunswick

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name (and cultural/ethnic/religious name if applicable)	name of deceased (or cultural/ethnic etc. name if applicable)	name (or cultural/ethnic etc. name if applicable) of bride and bridegroom
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date of birth	date of death	licence number
name of hospital/institution of birth	place of death	marital status of bride and bridegroom
mother's name (or cultural/ethnic, etc. name) and date and place of birth	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
father's name (or cultural/ethnic, etc. name) and date and place of birth	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	medicare numbers of bride and bridegroom
mother's usual residence	occupation	religious denomination
marital status of mother and if married to father	birth date and place and age at death	parents' names and places of birth
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child	parent's names and places of birth	officiant's name, registration number, status and religious denomination if clergy
signed request re registration of child's name as indicated	disposition of remains	witnesses' names and addresses
name of attendant	name, address and relationship of informant	
name and relationship of informant	name and address of funeral director	
	medical certificate of cause of death	

## Newfoundland

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom at time of marriage
gender	gender	date of marriage
date of birth	date and place of death	place of marriage
place of birth	Social Insurance Number and MCP Number	marital status of bride and bridegroom
mother's name and age	usual residence of deceased	age and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
father's name and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	parents' names
residence	occupation	religious denomination
occupation of father	parents' names and place of birth	officiant's name, address and religious denomination/ official capacity
single/twin	date and place of birth and age at time of death	occupation
date of baptism and name of baptizing clergy	name, address and relationship of informant	witnesses' names and addresses
	disposition of remains	residence when married
	medical certificate of death	

## Northwest Territories

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom at time of marriage
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	licence and banns number
Social Insurance Number	Social Insurance Number	marital status of bride and bridegroom
mother's name, date and place of birth, and Social Insurance Number	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
father's name, date and place of birth, and Social Insurance Number	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	parents' names and places of birth
mother's usual residence	occupation	ethnic group of bride and bridegroom
marital status of mother and if married to father	parents' names and place of birth	residence before marriage
ethnic group of father and mother	date and place of birth and age at time of death	officiant's name, address, status and religious denomination if clergy
name and address of attendant	ethnic group	witnesses' names and addresses
signature of parent or other informant and relationship	medical certificate of death	Social Insurance Numbers of bride and bridegroom
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child, birth order	disposition of remains	
	name, address and relationship of informant	
	name and address of funeral director	

## Nova Scotia

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name (required) and name of mother tongue (optional)	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom prior to marriage
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	marital status of bride and bridegroom
health card Number	health card number and Social Insurance Number	residence before marriage
mother's name, and date and place of birth and age	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
father's name and date and place of birth and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	parents' names and places of birth
mother's usual residence	occupation	religious denomination
marital status of mother and if married to father	date and place of birth of deceased	officiant's name, address, certification number, status and religious denomination if clergy
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child	parents' names and places of birth	witnesses' names and addresses
name and address of attendant	disposition of remains	
name, address and relationship of informant	name, address and relationship of informant	
	name and address of funeral director	
	medical certificate of death	

## Nunavut

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom at time of marriage
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	licence or banns number
Social Insurance Number of child	Social Insurance Number	marital status of bride and bridegroom
mother's name, date and place of birth, and age	Usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth and age of bride and bridegroom
father's name, date and place of birth, and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	residence before marriage
mother's usual residence	occupation	Social Insurance Numbers of bride and groom
marital status of mother and if married to the father	date and place of birth and age at time of death	ethnic group of bride and bridegroom
Social Insurance Number of mother and father	ethnic group	parents' names and places of birth
ethnic group of mother and father	parent's names and place of birth	witnesses' names and addresses
name and address of attendant	disposition of remains	officicant's name, address, status and religious denomination if clergy
signature of parent/information and relationship	name, address and relationship of informant	
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child, birth order	name and address of funeral director	
	medical certificate of death	



## Ontario

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom
gender	gender	date of marriage
date of birth	date and place of death	place of marriage
place of birth	cause of death	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
mother's name at birth, other names, date and place of birth, and age	usual residence of deceased	date of registration number
father's name at birth, other names, date and place of birth, and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	marital status
mother's residence	occupation	residence
marital status of mother	date and place of birth and age at time of death	religious denomination
parent's statement regarding whether they have agreed to the child's surname as shown	parent's names and places of birth	age
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child	disposition of remains	occupation
name and address of attendant	name and address of funeral director	parent's names and birth places
certification of informant, including name, address, relationship	name, address and relationship of informant	names and addresses of witnesses
		officiant's name, address, status and religious denomination if clergy

## Prince Edward Island

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom
gender	gender	date of marriage
date of birth	date of death	place of marriage
place of birth	place of death	marital status of bride and bridegroom
Social Insurance Number of child	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth and age of bride and bridegroom
mother's name, Social Insurance Number, and date and place of birth	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	parents' names and places of birth
father's name, Social Insurance Number, and date and place of birth	birth date and place and age at time of death	religious denomination of bride and bridegroom
marital status of mother and if married to father	parent's names and places of birth	officiant's name, address and religious denomination if clergy
mother's usual residence	disposition of remains	witnesses' name and addresses
if parent's married, date and place of marriage	occupation	Social Insurance Number of bride and bridegroom
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child, congenital anomalies	Social Insurance Number	
certification of parent	name, address and relationship of informant	
	name and address of funeral director	
	medical certificate of death	

## Quebec

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
birth date and place	address	residence of bride and groom
name, birth date, birth place, age and address of parents	birth date and place	marital status of bride and groom
date of parents' marriage (if applicable)	marital status and name of spouse (if applicable)	date and place of birth of bride and groom
signature of mother and father	parent's names	religious denomination
name, address and signature of witness	disposition of remains, date and place	witnesses names and addresses
mother tongue of mother and father	informant's names, address and signature	date of marriage
usual residence of mother	name of deceased	surname and usual given name of mother for bride and groom
language spoken at home	place, date and time of death	surname and usual given name of father for bride and groom
marital status of mother	age at death	signature of officiant
relationship with partner	marital status	certificate of marriage
surname of child	name and age of spouse	
given name of child	language spoken at home	
sex of child	usual address of deceased	
weight of child	surname of mother and given name	
duration of pregnancy	surname of father and given name	
certification of birth	sex of deceased	
	cause of death	
	name of medical attendant	
	disposal of body	
	certificate of death	

## Saskatchewan

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name and gender of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom
gender	date and place of birth and age at time of death	date and place of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	licence number
mother's current and maiden name and date and place of birth	Saskatchewan Health Card Number	marital status of bride and bridegroom
father's name and date and place of birth	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth of bride and bridegroom
mother's usual residence and mailing address	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	parent's names and places of birth
mother's Saskatchewan Health Card Number	occupation	residence of bride and groom before marriage
father's mailing address	parent's names and places of birth	aboriginal status of bride and bridegroom (optional)
marital status of mother (optional)	aboriginal status (optional)	witnesses' names and addresses
aboriginal status of father and mother (optional)	name, address and relationship of informant	officiants name, address, status, registration number, and religious denomination if clergy
name and address of attendant	name and address of funeral director	religious denomination of bride and groom
statutory declaration regarding parental status (incapability/unknown/unacknowledged)	disposition of deceased	
other birth particulars including birth order, weight, gestation	medical certificate of death	

## Yukon

The following data elements may appear on a registration.

<b>Major Data Elements Collected</b>		
<b>Birth Registration</b>	<b>Death Registration</b>	<b>Marriage Registration</b>
child's name	name of deceased	name of bride and bridegroom at time of marriage
gender	gender	date and place of marriage
date and place of birth	date and place of death	licence or banns number
Social Insurance Number of child	Social Insurance Number	marital status of bride and bridegroom
mother's name, date and place of birth, and age	usual residence of deceased	date and place of birth and age of bride and bridegroom
father's name, date and place of birth, and age	marital status and spouse's name if applicable	residence before marriage
mother's usual residence	occupation	parent's names and places of birth
marital status of mother if married to the father	date and place of birth and age at time of death	witnesses' names and addresses
Social Insurance Number of mother and father	ethnic group	officiant's name, address, status and religious denomination if clergy
ethnic group of mother and father	parents' names and place of birth	
name and address of attendant	disposition of remains	
signature of parent/informant and relationship	name, address and relationship of informant	
other birth particulars including duration of pregnancy, weight of child, birth order	name and address of funeral director	
	medical certificate of death	

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from historical works (Woodcock, 1990; Ormsby, 1958).
- <sup>2</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the BCVSA website (British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency, 1997).
- <sup>3</sup> For information on the Agency's non-genealogical statistical data dissemination services see Appendix 2.
- <sup>4</sup> For examples of genealogy certificates and historical birth, death, and marriage registrations see Appendix 3
- <sup>5</sup> For lists of the major data elements collected on birth, marriage, and death registrations in each province and territory, consult Appendix 4.
- <sup>6</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the British Columbia Archives website and genealogy information sheet (British Columbia Archives, 1997; 1997, Jan.).
- <sup>7</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.
- <sup>8</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the City of Vancouver Archives website (City of Vancouver Archives, 1996).
- <sup>9</sup> Information fro this entry was obtained from the City of Victoria Archives and Records Division website (City of Victoria Archives and Records Division, 1997).
- <sup>10</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Public Archives and Records Office website (Public Archives and Records Office, No date).
- <sup>11</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Surrey Public Library Publication, *A guide to the Materials held at the Cloverdale Library* (Gutteridge and Middleton, 1994).
- <sup>12</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.
- <sup>13</sup> Information for this entry was obtained from the Anglican Church of Canada Archives brochure (Anglican Church of Canada, No date).
- <sup>14</sup> - <sup>16</sup> This microfilm collection may be purchased from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency.

