



Vancouver Public Library

Genealogical Resources

An occasional newsletter of the
Fine Arts and History Division
Vancouver Public Library

Issue #12 - Summer 2005



Recent Additions to the Collection

Items listed below without a **Ref.** designation may be borrowed. Call **604-331-3603** to request a book, or place your request through the online catalogue (iPAC) at **ipac2.vpl.ca**

Ref. items must be used in the library.

General Interest

Abbreviations & Acronyms: A Guide for Family Historians, rev. 2nd ed.

by Kip Sperry, 2003
Ref. 929.103 S75a

Dictionary of American Family Names, 3 vol.

edited by Patrick Hanks, 2003
Ref. 929.403 D55h

DNA and Family History: How Genetic Testing Can Advance Your Genealogical Research

by Chris Pomery, 2004
929.1 P78d

Genealogy [Good Web Guide], 3rd ed.

by Caroline Peacock, 2003
929.10285 P35g1

Genealogy for the First Time: Research Your Family History

by Laura Best, 2003
929.1 B56g

Indexing Family Histories: Simple Steps for a Quality Product

by Patrician Law Hatcher, 1994
929.1 H36i

More Brickwall Solutions to Genealogy Problems

edited by Marc Skulnick, 2004
929.1 F56f1

Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History

by Dan Waddell, 2004
929.1 W11w

Writing Your Family History: A Practical Guide

by Deborah Cass, 2004
929.1 C34w

Canada - General

About Genealogical Standards of Evidence: A Guide for Canadian Genealogists, 2nd ed.

by Branda Dougall Merriman, 2004
929.1 M47n1

The Canadian Genealogical Sourcebook

by Ryan Taylor, 2004
929.371 T24c



Canadian Railway Records: A Guide for Genealogists, rev. and expanded
by Althea Douglas, 2004
Ref. 929.371 D73c1

Western Canada

Finding Your Ancestors in British Columbia
by David M. Jackson, 2004
Ref. 929.3711 J12f1

Western Canadian Directories and Microfilm: A Finding Aid, 3rd ed.
by Dave Obee, 2003
Ref. 929.3712X O12w1



Ontario

Genealogical Research Information in Peterborough and Area
by Kawartha Branch, OGS
Ref. 929.3713 P47O59g

Index to the Ontario Genealogical Society's Bulletin, 1962-1970 & Families, 1971-1997: Selected Subjects
by Roger William Gaffield Reid, 2000
Ref. 929.3713 R35i

Lennox & Addington County Decade of Deaths: 1921-1930: Death Records from Lennox & Addington County
by Patti Keller, 2003
Ref. 929.3713 L56K29L

Resources for Genealogy in York Region, Ontario, 2nd ed.
compiled by Ruth Burkholder, 1995
Ref. 929.3713 Y61B95r

Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register: Simcoe County, 1825-1910: A Transcription, rev. ed.
transcribed by Simcoe County Branch, OGS
Ref. 929.3713 S58W51o

Quebec

Index of Jews Resident in the Province of Quebec According to the 1861 to 1901 Censuses of Canada
by Glen Eker, 2004
Ref. 929.3714 E36i



Maritime Provinces

King County Marriages. Register A, 1812-1844
by Ruby M. Cusack, 1990
929.37154 K55M35a

King County Marriages. Register B, 1844-1857
by Ruby M. Cusack, 1990
929.37154 K55M35b

Marriage Register, Westmorland County, N.B., 1857-1888. Part 2.
by Ken Kanner, 1993
Ref. 929.37152 W53M35kb

The Veterans of Shelburne County: A Memorial, 2 vol.
by Eleanor Smith, 2004
Ref. 929.3716 S54s



British Isles

Discover Your Scottish Ancestry: Internet and Traditional Resources
by Graham S. Holton, 2004
929.3411 H75d

Family and Local History Handbook, 8th ed.
by Robert Blatchford, 2001-
Ref. 929.341 G32

A History of Clan Campbell, 2 vol.
by Alastair Campbell, 2002
Ref. 929.2 C18cam

Irish Emigrants in North American. Part Six

by David Dobson, 2003

Ref. 929.37 D63ic

Tracing Your Naval Ancestors

by Bruno Pappalardo, 2003

Ref. 929.1 P21t

United States

***Courthouse Research for Family Historians:
Your Guide to Genealogical Treasures***

by Christine Rose, 2004

929.373 R79c

Land & Property Research in the United States

by E. Wade Hone, 1997

Ref. 929.373 H77L

Red Book: American State, County, and Town Sources, 3rd ed.

edited by Alice Eichholz, 2004

Ref. 929.373 A53e1

Miscellaneous

Ancestors in German Archives: A Guide to Family History Sources

by Raymond S. Wright, 2004

Ref. 929.343 A53w

Chinese Names: The Traditions Surrounding the Use of Chinese Surnames and Personal Names

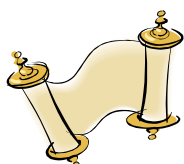
by Russell Jones, 1997

929.4 J78c

Writing Your Family History: A New Zealand Guide, rev. ed.

by Joan Rosier-Jones, 2005

929.1 R819w



New Ontario Census Publications

We are continuing to expand our collection of Ontario census books. The following were added to the collection during April – June 2005.



1851 Census

Addington County

- ***Earnest Township***
Ref. 929.3713 A22E12o 1851

Kent County

- ***Dover Township***
Ref. 929.3713 K37D74o 1851
- ***Howard Township***
Ref. 929.3713 K37H84o 1851
- ***Orford Township***
Ref. 929.3713 K37O67o 1851

1861 Census

Elgin County

- ***Bayham Township***
Ref. 929.3713 E41B35o 1861
- ***Dunwich Township***
Ref. 929.3713 E41D92o 1861
- ***Malahide Township***
Ref. 929.3713 E41M23o 1861
- ***South Dorchester***
Ref. 929.3713 E41D69os 1861
- ***St. Thomas***
Ref. 929.3713 E41S77o 1861
- ***Yarmouth Township***
Ref. 929.3713 E41Y28g 1861

Essex County

- ***Amherstburg Town***
Ref. 929.3713 E78A51o 1861

- **Anderson Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78A54o 1861
- **Colchester Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78C68o 1861
- **Gosfield Township (includes Village of Kingsville)**
Ref. 929.3713 E78G67o 1861
- **Maidstone Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78M21o 1861
- **Malden Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78M24o 1861
- **Mersea Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78M57o 1861
- **Rochester Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78R67o 1861
- **Sandwich East Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78S22eo 1861
- **Sandwich Town**
Ref. 929.3713 E78S22o 1861
- **Sandwich West Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78S22ow 1861
- **Tillbury West Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E78T56o 1861



Kent County

- **Camden Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37C17o 1861
- **Chatham Town**
Ref. 929.3713 K37C49o 1861
- **Chatham Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37C49ot 1861
- **Dover Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37D74o 1861
- **Harwich Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37H34o 1861
- **Howard Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37H84o 1861
- **Orford Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37O67o 1861
- **Raleigh Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37R16o 1861
- **Romney Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37R76o 1861
- **Tilbury East Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37T56o 1861

- **Zone Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37Z87o 1861

Lambton County

- **Bosanquet Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22B74i 1861
- **Brooke Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22B87o 1861
- **Enniskillen Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22E59i 1861
- **Euphemia Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22E89o 1861
- **Moore Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22M82i 1861
- **Plympton Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22P73o 1861
- **Sarnia Town**
Ref. 929.3713 L22S2i 1861
- **Sarnia Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22S24i 1861
- **Sombra Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22S69c 1861
- **Warwick Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22W29i 1861

Lanark County

- **Bathurst Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24B33o 1861
- **Beckwith Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24B39o 1861
- **Burgess Township**
Ref. 929.3713 B24B95o 1861
- **Darling & Lavant Townships**
Ref. 929.3713 L24D22o 1861
- **Lanark Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24L24o 1861
- **North and South Sherbrooke Townships**
Ref. 929.3713 L24S55on 1861
- **North Elmsley Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24E48on 1861
- **Perth Town**
Ref. 929.3713 L24P46o 1861
- **Smith Falls Town**
Ref. 929.3713 L24S64o 1861



Lennox & Addington County

- **Camden East Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L56C17c 1861
- **Ernestown Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L56E71c 1861
- **Kaladar Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L56K14c 1861
- **Richmond Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L56R53c 1861

Middlesex County

- **Biddulph Township**
Ref. 929.3713 M62B58o 1861
- **City of London**
Ref. 929.3713 M62L84o 1861

Simcoe County

- **Adjala Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58A23o 1861
- **Barrie Town & Gaol**
Ref. 929.3713 S58B27o 1861
- **Bradford Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58B79o 1861



- **Collingwood Town**
Ref. 929.3713 S58C71o 1861
- **Essa Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58E78o 1861
- **Flos Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58F64o 1861
- **Innisfil Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58I58o 1861
- **Medonte Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58M49o 1861
- **Mono Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58M75o 1861
- **Mulmur Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58M95o 1861
- **Nottawasaga Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58N91o 1861
- **Orillia, Metchedash, Morrison & Muskoka**
Ref. 929.3713 S58O69o 1861

- **Oro Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58O74o 1861
- **Sunnidale Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58S95o 1861
- **Surname Index**
Ref. 929.3713 S58O59s 1861
- **Tiny & Tay Townships**
Ref. 929.3713 S58T59o 1861
- **Tecumseth Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58T25o 1861
- **Tosorontio Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58T71o 1861
- **Vespra Township**
Ref. 929.3713 S58V57o 1861

1891 Census

Algoma District

- **Alphabetical List of the Central Section of Algoma District**
Ref. 929.3713 A39O59c 1891
- **Alphabetical List of Portions of the Census for the Eastern Section of Algoma District**
Ref. 929.3713 A39O59e 1891
- **Alphabetical List of Portions of the Census for the Western Section of Algoma District**
Ref. 929.3713 A39O59w 1891

Durham County

- **Cavan Township**
Ref. 929.3713 D96C37o 1891
- **Manvers Township**
Ref. 929.3713 D96M26o 1891
- **Port Hope Town**
Ref. 929.3713 D96P83o 1891

Elgin County

- **Aylmer**
Ref. 929.3713 E41A97a 1891
- **Dunwich**
Ref. 929.3713 E41D92o 1891
- **Dutton**
Ref. 929.3713 E41D98o 1891

- **Malahide Township**
Ref. 929.3713 E41M23o 1891
- **Port Stanley**
Ref. 929.3713 E41P83o 1891
- **South Dorchester**
Ref. 929.3713 E41D69os 1891
- **Southwold**
Ref. 929.3713 E41S72o 1891
- **Springfield**
Ref. 929.3713 E41S76o 1891
- **Vienna**
Ref. 929.3713 E41V66o 1891
- **Yarmouth**
Ref. 929.3713 E41Y28o 1891



Kent County

- **Blenheim Town**
Ref. 929.3713 K37B64o 1891
- **Bothwell Village**
Ref. 929.3713 K37B74o 1891
- **Chatham Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37C49o 1891
- **Dover Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37D74o 1891
- **Dresden Town**
Ref. 929.3713 K37D77o 1891
- **Harwich Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37H34o 1891
- **Howard Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37H84o 1891
- **Orford Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37O74o 1891
- **Ridgetown Town**
Ref. 929.3713 K37R54o 1891
- **Tilbury East Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37T56o 1891
- **Wallaceburg Village**
Ref. 929.3713 K37W19o 1891
- **Zone Township**
Ref. 929.3713 K37Z87o 1891

Lambton County

- **Bosanquet Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22B74o 1891

- **Brooke Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22B87o 1891
- **Dawn Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22D27o 1891
- **Enniskellen Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22E59o 1891
- **Euphemia Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22E89o 1891
- **Oil Springs**
Ref. 929.3713 L22O39o 1891
- **Petrolia**
Ref. 929.3713 L22P49o 1891
- **Sarnia Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22S24o 1891
- **Sombra Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22S69c 1891
- **Warwick Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L22W29o 1891
- **Watford**
Ref. 929.3713 L22W33oi 1891

Lanark County

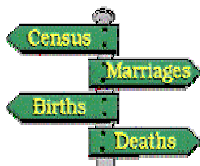
- **Beckwith Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24B39o 1891
- **Carleton Place**
Ref. 929.3713 L24C28o 1891
- **Lavant Township**
Ref. 929.3713 L24L39o 1891
- **Montague, North Burgess, North Elmsley Townships**
Ref. 929.3713 L24M75o 1891

Northumberland County

- **Murray Township**
Ref. 929.3713 N87M98o 1891
- **Percy Township**
Ref. 929.3713 N87P43o 1891

Peterborough County

- **Lakefield Village**
Ref. 929.3713 P47L19o 1891
- **Monaghan North Township**
Ref. 929.3713 P47N86o 1891
- **Monaghan South Township**
Ref. 929.3713 P47S72o 1891
- **Smith Township**
Ref. 929.3713 P47S64o 1891



1891 Census

Algoma

- **Algoma (includes Sault Ste. Marie, Thessalon, Bruce Mines area, Manitoulin Island)**

Ref. 929.3713 A39O59s 1901

Wentworth County

- **Beverly Township**
Ref 929.3713 W47B57o 1901
- **Binbrook Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47B61o 1901
- **East Flamborough Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47F57oe 1901
- **Hamilton-Ancaster Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47A53o 1901
- **Hamilton-Barton Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47B29o 1901
- **Hamilton-Dundas Town**
Ref. 929.3713 W47D91o 1901
- **Hamilton-Glanford Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47G54o 1901
- **Hamilton, Ward Four-1**
Ref. 929.3713 W47H21owda 1901
- **Hamilton, Ward Four-2**
Ref. 929.3713 W47H21owdb 1901
- **Hamilton, Ward One**
Ref. 929.3713 W47H21owa 1901
- **Hamilton, Ward Two**
Ref. 929.3713 W47H21owb 1901
- **Hamilton-Saltfleet**
Ref. 929.3713 W47S17o 1901
- **West Flamborough Township**
Ref. 929.3713 W47F57ow 1901

York County

- **Whitchurch and Stouffville**
Ref. 929.3713 Y62W58i 1901

Free Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library

Getting the Most Out of Ancestry

Saturday, September 10

10:30 – 12 noon

Back by popular demand! Learn how to get the most out of one of the richest genealogical research databases – now available for free at the Vancouver Public Library. Registration is required, and begins on Monday, August 15. To register, please call 604-331-3603 or come to Fine Arts and History on Level 6 at the Central Library.

Other Vancouver Public Library Programs of Interest

Research @ Your Library – Summer 2005

Spend some time learning how to do research @ your library by attending this free 2-hour hands-on course. Basic computer skills required. All programs take place in the Computer Lab on Level 5 at the Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street. Please register by calling 604-331-3603, or drop by the Level 5 Information Desk.

Saturday, July 9
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Wednesday, July 13
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 23
10:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Wednesday, July 27
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Discover Your Past: Local History Resources in Special Collections

Wednesday, July 20

7:00 – 8:45 p.m.

The resources of the Special Collections Department will be used to search and find information on the history of the Vancouver Public Library. Participants will be given a good overview of the local history research tools (indexes, maps, directories, etc.) available in Special Collections, and will view slides and film footage of the Vancouver Public Library. This program is free, but registration is required. To register, please call 604-331-3778 or come to the Special Collections Department on Level 6 at the Central Library.

Cyber Sunday: All About Google

Sunday, July 24

3:00-4:30 p.m.

This program is free. To register, please call 604-331-3603, or come to the Information Desk on Level 5 at the Central Library.

Finding E-Zines and E-Journals

Wednesday, July 27

2:00-3:00 p.m.

Hands-on practice finding magazines (e-zines) and journals (e-journals) on the Internet. This program is free, but registration is required. To register, please call 604-331-3742 or come to the Information Desk on Level 5 at the Central Library.

Cyber Sunday: Make the News Come to You

Sunday, August 28

1:00-2:30 p.m.

This program is free. To register, please call 604-331-3603, or come to the Information Desk on Level 5 at the Central Library.

One-To-One Library Catalogue Training

Learn how to use the Library Catalogue effectively by making an appointment for a 30-minute individual training session. In this introductory session, you will learn how to find specific books, videos and other materials, how

to find works by the same author or on a similar subject, how to sort and limit your search results, how to request an item, how to read a catalogue record, and how to access your library account online. To book your free appointment, please come to the Information Desk on the main level at the Central Library, or call 604-331-3603.

Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland

Family Tree Maker with Peter Claydon

Saturday, July 23, 2005

1:00-3:00 p.m.

British Columbia Genealogical Society

Charge: \$5.00 (members)

\$10.00 (non-members)

Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

- For more information or to register, please contact Eunice Robinson (eunice@dccnet.com or telephone 604-596-2811)

Abbotsford Roots Around the World 2005 Seminar

Saturday, September 24, 2005

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Rick Hansen Secondary School

31150 Blueridge Drive

Abbotsford, B.C.

Charge: Early registration (by July 15)

- \$35 (AGS members)

- \$40 (non-members)

After July 15

- \$40 (AGS members)

- \$45 (non-members)

More information:

- www.rootsweb.com/~bcags/seminar2005.htm



Also Noted...

Historical & Genealogical Fair

July 30 2005

Dalhousie, NB

Research area, Ancestor's Café, Silent Auction, Exhibitors and family trees.

- www.bitheads.com/nbgs/re-events.html



Red River Descendants Reunion 2005

August 13-21, 2005

Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba

- Red River Descendants Reunion, c/o Box 394, Selkirk, Manitoba, R1A 2B1

Stirling-Rawdon Genealogy Fair 2005

Saturday, August 27, 2005

Stirling, ON

Speakers: Rick Roberts and Kathie Orr

- www.stirling-rawdon.com/srhs.htm

Harvest Your Family Tree

September 30 – October 1-2, 2005

Kelowna, BC

Noted speakers from Scotland, England and Western Canada.

- www.rootsweb.com/~bckdgs/seminar2005.htm

Cloverdale Library Genealogical Collection Orientations

The Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library has one of the most extensive collections of Canadian genealogical materials in Western Canada. The collection includes a wide variety of books and microfilms covering records from the Canadian provinces and territories. Free orientations are offered from

9:30-10:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month. Pre-registration is recommended.

Cloverdale Library

5642 – 176A Street

Surrey, B.C.

Telephone: 604-576-1384 (ext.6)



Family and Local History Handbook

For a good rainy-day genealogy read, browse through The Family and Local History handbook, now in its 9th edition. Published annually in the U.K., the Family and Local History Handbook is compiled and edited by Robert Blatchford, in collaboration with the British Association for Local History. Each all-new annual edition contains dozens of articles on diverse aspects of family, local and military history. "Tracing Canal Faring Ancestors", "Researching the History of Houses" and "Women in the British Army" are just a few of the wide-ranging topics covered recently. Vancouver Public Library owns a run of The Family and Local History Handbook beginning with the 6th edition (2002). While the most recent edition is for reference use in the library only, earlier editions may be borrowed.

What's in a Name?

The Vancouver Public Library has recently acquired a 3-volume reference work entitled Dictionary of American Family Names (Ref. 929.403 D55h). Although it describes itself as an "attempt to explain the history and origin of the 70,000 most frequent family names in the United States", this encyclopedic work is of broad interest due to the fact that the population the United States has such widespread origins. Detailed essays on the

surnames of particular languages and cultures are included, and selected entries include information on “Forebears”, citing aspects of family history or ancestry associated with the name, such as the earliest known bearer of a particular name in North America.



NFHS Passenger Lists Indexing Project

The Nanaimo Family History Society is engaged in an ambitious project, the goal of which is to transcribe and index passenger arrivals at Halifax and Quebec (including Montreal) for the period from 1900 to about 1921, when passenger lists were temporarily discontinued in favour of Form 30A. Volunteers are currently transcribing Quebec arrivals from 1908 on. Quebec arrivals from 25 July 1909 to 26 April 1910 and from 17 September 1910 to 13 October 1910 have already been completed, and the index can be seen on the Society’s website at

- <http://members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs/>

An Online Genealogy Encyclopedia . . .

The **Encyclopedia of Genealogy** is a free online resource created by and for members of the genealogical community. As a reference manual, it provides information about a wide range of topics of interest to genealogists. Explanations of terms found in genealogical research, information on research in specific countries, and detailed descriptions of census records are just a few of the many subjects covered by the encyclopedia. Users can register for free. Contributions and corrections are welcome. The **Encyclopedia of Genealogy** is available at

- www.eogen.com/

And a Dictionary

A useful free online dictionary, **FamilySearch: Glossary**, is available at

- www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/rg/glossary/glsryidx.asp.

The dictionary includes many useful short entries, and may be particularly helpful for those needing help with foreign and archaic terms. Ontvanger? Dutch for “tax collector”. Infrascriptus? Latin for “written below, undersigned”. A good page to bookmark!



New From the Canadian Genealogy Centre

The Canadian Genealogy Centre (www.genealogy.gc.ca) is the premier website for Canadian genealogy, providing a wide range of information, tips, links, and databases. Important recent additions to the website include the following databases:

Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds

This database provides references to marriage bonds for Upper Canada (Ontario) from 1803 and 1865, and Lower Canada (Quebec) from 1779 and 1858. Marriage bonds were prepared only for Protestant marriages by licence. The groom was required to enter into a bond with one or two people (sureties) who knew him and who were prepared to guarantee to the Crown that no legal impediment to the marriage existed. After obtaining the bond, a licence was issued and the marriage took place a few days later. The database records include the name of the future husband, name of the future wife, their place of residence, and the date and place where the bond was issued. Records also include information referring the user back to the microfilm record, which can be ordered from Library and Archives Canada via inter-library loan. The database is available at:

- www.collectionscanada.ca/022/012/022012-130-e.html

Divorce in Canada (1841-1968)

This database comprises 12732 references to acts published in official publications of the Government of Canada between 1841 and 1968, a period during which divorces in Canada were granted by private acts of the Parliament of Canada. The references include information that will lead you back to the original publication in which the act appeared. The database is available at:

- www.collectionscanada.ca/022/008/022008-130-e.html#e



Civil Registration in the U.K.

Proposals to modernize the civil registration system in the United Kingdom, including restricting access to modern records, were presented to Parliament in July 2004. Following committee study, however, they were rejected. For now, the current system will continue as it is.



Ancient Scrawl

As experienced genealogists know, handwriting on old documents can sometimes seem illegible. But the ability to read old documents is a skill that can be learned, and the National Archives in the U.K. has developed a tutorial to help you meet the challenge. [Palaeography: Reading Old Handwriting, 1500-1800](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/) provides a practical tutorial, with information and tips that help you work through a series documents in ascending order of difficulty. When you are finished the tutorial, you can continue to develop your skills in the Further Practice section. The tutorial is available at

- www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/

Northern Ireland: Freeholders' Records

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has created a Freeholders' Record Site. The records are lists of people entitled to vote, or who voted, at elections. Freeholders were men who owned their land outright or held it by lease. The website provides free access to digitized copies of 5500 sheets from pre-1840 Registers and Poll Books. It is available at:

- www.proni.gov.uk/freeholders/intro.asp

Scottish Research News

Good news for Scottish researchers. Indexes and images for the 1871 Scottish census are now available on the ScotlandsPeople website at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/.

Victoria County History

If you wish to explore the history of an English village, city or town, the Victoria County History (VCH) is the place to start. Described as the greatest publishing project in English local history, the VCH was founded in 1899, with the intent of producing an encyclopedic national history in a series of volumes presenting the general and detailed history of England from earliest times to the present, county by county, and parish by parish. When complete, the VCH will document the history of every city, town and village in England. Information is compiled by professional historians, based in the counties they are researching, and is derived from original historical documents.

Thirteen county sets have been completed so far, work continues in 13 counties, and several more are on the horizon. About three new volumes are being published per year.

The VCH is a great resource for family historians, as it provides detailed background on ancestral places, and may provide clues that will lead to further genealogical discoveries. People such as landowners and others connected to the history of various places are recorded in the volumes.

Detailed information about the VCH is available on the project's website at

- www.EnglandPast.net/

Volumes from the Victoria County History are available at the University of British Columbia Library.

- Go to <http://webcat.library.ubc.ca/>
- In the **Find This** box, enter the following search string, substituting the appropriate county name for *Essex*:
Victoria and county and history and Essex
- Under **Using** (at the right) make sure **Keyword (USE and, or, not, "a phrase")** is selected.
- Click on the **Search** button.

This will generate a list of Victoria County History volumes relating to your county of interest and available at U.B.C.

Find It Now@VPL



Can't remember if VPL has Canadian census microfilms or not? Wondering about access to materials from the Hudson's Bay Company Archives? Curious to know if the latest updates to the Ontario birth, marriage and death indexes have arrived? For answers to these and other questions, VPL's **Find It Now** chat reference service is ready to help, Monday-Friday from 4-10 p.m. Simply log on to www.vpl.ca/finditnow/ and click on the magnifying glass to connect with library information staff in real-time. If your question can't be answered immediately, it will be forwarded to Fine Arts and History for a prompt reply.



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The Fine Arts and History Division welcomes financial donations in support of the genealogical collection. Donations can be made by cash, money order, cheque (payable to the Vancouver Public Library Foundation) or credit card (MasterCard, VISA, American Express).

You can make a donation at your local branch, by telephone, or by mail. Please note that credit card donations can only be made by telephone or at the Central Library. Be sure to specify that you would like your donation to be used to purchase genealogical materials.

For more information, please contact:

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