



Vancouver Public Library

# Genealogical Resources

An occasional newsletter provided by  
Fine Arts and History  
Vancouver Public Library

## Issue #17 - Fall 2006



## 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 **ipac.vpl.ca**

**Ref.** items must be used in the library.

### General

#### ***Publish Your Family History***

by Susan Yates, 2005  
929.1 Y34p

#### ***Palaeography for Family and Local Historians***

by Hilary Marshall  
929.1 M36p

#### ***Tracing Your Family History***

by Stella Colwell, 1997  
929.1 C72t

#### ***Tracing Your Family Roots: The Complete Problem Solver***

by Lise Hull, 2005  
929.1 H91tr

#### ***Transatlantic Voyages, 1600-1699***

by David Dobson, 2004  
Ref. 929.37 D63t



#### ***Using Maps in Family History Research: Lessons and Links***

by Dawn Stratford-Davai, 2004  
Ref. 929.1 S89u

### Canada

#### ***Scots in the USA and Canada, 1825-1875,*** 4 vol.

by David Dobson, 1998-2005  
Ref. 929.37 D63sc

### British Columbia

#### ***Genealogy Resources for British Columbia***

British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency  
Ref. 929.3711 G32b1

#### ***Indexes and Registers to Coroners' Inquiries and Inquests, 1879-1937***

Provincial Archives of British Columbia, 1987  
Ref. 929.3711 B862c INDEX

#### ***Passenger Lists of Chinese Arrivals at Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, January 1906-June 1912***

National Archives and Records Administration, 2000-?  
Ref. 929.3711 P287u

## Ontario

### **Carleton County and City of Ottawa**

by Elizabeth Hancocks, 1999  
Ref. 929.3713 C28h

### **Essex County** [County Marriage Registers]

by Elizabeth Hancocks, 1998  
Ref. 929.3713 E78h

### **Kent County** [County Marriage Registers]

by Elizabeth Hancocks, 1998  
Ref. 929.3713 E78h

### **Lennox & Addington County Loyalist Families, vol. 2**

by Russ W. Waller, 1997  
929.3713 L56wa



### **The Marriage Registers of Upper Canada/Canada West, vol. 11 pt. 2 & 4**

by Dan Walker, 2000  
Ref. 929.3713 W17m

### **Norfolk County** [County Marriage Registers]

by Elizabeth Hancocks, 1998  
Ref. 929.3713 N83h

### **Ontario People, 1796-1803**

by Keith Fitzgerald, 1993  
Ref. 929.3713 E78h

## Quebec

### **The "Dit" Name: French-Canadian English Surnames, Aliases, Adulterations, and Anglicizations**, 2nd rev.

by Quintin, Robert, 1998  
Ref. 929.4 Q79d

### **Quebec, 1851 Census Transcription & Index: Volume Two: St. Patrick of Sherrington Parish**

by Gary Schroder, 1992  
Ref. 929.3714 N21p31 1851

### **Quebec, 1851 Census Transcription & Index: Volume Three: Village of Huntingdon**

by Gary Schroder, 1992  
Ref. 929.3714 N21p31 1851

### **Quebec Strays**

Societe de l'histoire des familles du Quebec, 2002  
Ref. 929.3714 S67q

## New Brunswick

### **Index to 1901 Census, Kings Co., New Brunswick, Canada: Hampton Parish**

edited by K.J. Cormier, 2000  
Ref. 929.3715 K55H23 1901

## Chinese

### **Lam Chi Phat: The Chronicle of an Overseas Chinese Family**

by Tri Lam, 2001  
929.2 L21L

## British Isles

### **How to Write and Publish Local and Family History Successfully: Books, Booklets, Magazines, CD-ROMs and Web Sites**

by Bob Trubshaw, 2005  
Ref. 929.341 T86h



### **My Ancestor Was a Bastard: A Family Historian's Guide to Sources for Illegitimacy in England and Wales**

by Ruth Paley, 2004  
929.342 P15m

### **Smart Family History: Fast Track Your Family Research**

by Geoff Swinfield, 2006  
929.341 S97s

**Tracing Your Nineteenth Century  
Family History**

by Stuart Raymond, 2005  
929.341 F27t

**United States**

**Family Tree Guide to Finding Your Ellis  
Island Ancestors**

by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, 2005  
929.373 C28f



**Genealogical Resources in New York**

by Estelle Guzik, 2003  
Ref. 929.373 G99g

**Rebellion Losses for  
Upper Canada**

This series of publications comprises lists of petitioners who presented claims to the Government of the Province of Canada for losses sustained in the 1837 Rebellion. The hearings were held in 1849.

- **Brock & Talbot Districts**, 929.3713 B77rb
- **Eastern, Johnstown & Midland Districts**, 929.3713 B77re
- **Gore District**, 929.3713 B77rg
- **Home District**, 929.3713 B77rh
- **Huron District**, 929.3713 B77rhu
- **London District**, 929.3713 B77rL
- **Niagara District**, 929.3713 B77rn
- **Simcoe District**, 929.3713 B77rs
- **Victoria, Prince Edward, Newcastle, and Colborne Districts**, 929.3713 B77rv
- **Western District**, 929.3713 B77rw



**Surrogate Court  
Index of Ontario,  
1859-1900**

The Vancouver Public Library recently added 17 volumes to its Surrogate Court Index of Ontario series (Ref. 929.3713 G44s), completing the 27-volume set. These indexes can be used to determine the existence of estate files on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario. The new volumes include:

- **Brant County**, v.20
- **Bruce County**, v.26
- **Dufferin County**, v.18
- **Elgin County**, v.12
- **Grey County**, v.27
- **Halton County**, v.23
- **Huron County**, v.25
- **Lambton County**, v.15
- **Lanark County**, v.16
- **Leeds & Grenville County**, v.22
- **Ontario County**, v.11
- **Peel County**, v.19
- **Peterborough County**, v.17
- **Prescott & Russell County**, v.14
- **Victoria County**, v.21
- **Waterloo County**, v.13
- **Wellington County**, v.24



## Ontario Census Publications - Latest Arrivals

We are continuing to expand our collection of Ontario census books. The following were added to the collection during July – September 2006.



### 1844 Census

- *Kingston Mission*

### 1851 Census

#### Lennox & Addington County

- *Richmond Township*
- *Sheffield Township*

### 1861 Census

#### Frontenac County

- *Portland Township*

#### Hastings County

- *Hungerford Township*

#### Lennox & Addington County

- *Sheffield Township*

#### Prince Edward County

- *Ameliasburgh Township*
- *Athol Township*
- *Hallowell Township*
- *Hillier Township*
- *Marysburgh Township*
- *Picton*
- *Sophiasburgh Township*

### 1871 Census

#### Hastings County

- *Hungerford Township*

#### Lennox & Addington County

- *Sheffield Township*

### 1891 Census

#### Renfrew County

- *Sherwood, Richards and Burns Townships*
- *Wilberforce & North Algona Townships*

### Multi-Year Census

#### Leeds County

- *Yonge Township [1802-1829]*

## Free Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library



### Getting the Most Out of Ancestry Library Edition

Saturday, November 18  
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Ancestry Library Edition offers a wide range of records for genealogists at all levels. Content is particularly strong for Canada, England & Wales, and the United States. Learn how to get the most from Ancestry at this free hands-on workshop.

Registration is required, and begins on Wednesday, October 25th. To register, please call 604-331-3716, or come to Fine Arts and History on Level 6 at the Central Library.




## Genealogy in Scotland

**Saturday, December 16**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Learn the basics of Scottish genealogical research. This workshop will introduce resources available at the Vancouver Public Library and on the Internet.

Registration is required, and begins on Wednesday, November 22nd. To register, please call 604-331-3716, or come to Fine Arts and History on Level 6 at the Central Library.



### Other Vancouver Public Library Programs of Interest

## Old News

**Wednesday, November 15, 2006**

**2:30-4:30 p.m.**

Explore old Vancouver news stories dating back to the 1860s. Learn to find articles in VPL's large collection of historic local newspapers. This program is free, but registration is required. To register, go to Newspapers & Magazines on Level 6 at the Central Branch, telephone 604-331-3742, or send an e-mail to [info@vpl.ca](mailto:info@vpl.ca).

## Discover Your Past: Local History Resources in Special Collections

**November 22 or December 13, 2006**

**7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Using the resources in the Special Collections Department, we will search and find information on the great Vancouver fire of 1886.

Participants in the workshop will be given a good overview of the local history research tools (indexes, directories, etc.) available in

Special Collections and will be shown a slide show of early Vancouver.

Admission is free but registration is required. Please call **604-331-3778** or come to Special Collections on Level 7 at the Central Library.

## Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland

## 10th Annual Tri-Stake Family History Seminar: Finding Your Roots

**Saturday, October 14, 2006**

**8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Surrey B.C. Stake Centre, 6270 – 126th Street, Surrey, 604-597-9695

- Presented by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. All over the age of 12 are welcome. Bring a bag lunch and view various noon-hour displays.



## 2006 Genealogy Lock-In Fundraiser

**October 22, 2006**

**10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Cloverdale Library, 5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C. 604-576-1384 (ext. 303)

Charge: \$35.00

- Lock yourself into the Cloverdale Library for a day of genealogical research and learning. We will open our doors on this particular Sunday just for genealogy. Obtain one-on-one assistance, take an orientation tour or attend a seminar. Bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and snacks will be provided.

## **Writing Your Family History: From Research to Print**

**4 Thursdays, Nov 2-23, 2006**

**12:30-2:20 p.m.**

Eldercollege at Capilano College, 2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver, V7J 3H5

Speakers: Margaret Ramsay, Elinor Martin and Barbara Lynch

Charge: \$65

- This course is designed to help you make the transition from genealogist to creator and writer. The speakers will provide examples of the kinds of family histories you could create and show you how to select and pull your materials together, blend social history into your narrative, prepare a suitable manuscript and get it into print. For more information, call 604-984-4901

## **Genealogy on the Internet: England**

**November 4, 2006**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Cloverdale Library, 5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C. 604-576-1384 (ext. 303)

Instructor: Jacqui Haines

Charge: \$10.00

- This session will be a lecture with an on screen demonstration. Learn how to make the most of online resources available through the National Archives in Britain. Peruse and use a number of valuable free sites that you may not have discovered yet.

## **Genealogical Resources at U.B.C.**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

**7:30 p.m.**

Edmonds Community Centre – 7282 Kingsway Burnaby, B.C. 604-525-1671

- This general meeting of the British Columbia Genealogical Society is open to both members and non-members. Gretha Warren will speak on the resources available at UBC for family historians. Learn about the Library of Congress cataloguing system and how to access useful materials. Free.



## **High Tech Genealogy: DNA Testing for Family History**

**Saturday, November 25**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

Instructor: Laurie J. Cooke

Cloverdale Library, 5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C. 604-576-1384 (ext. 303)

Charge: \$10.00

- Most of us have heard about how DNA testing has affected forensics and medicine, but how does it apply to family history research? Come and find out at this session: an opportunity to have the complexities of DNA technology translated for lay people, with a focus on the specific benefits for genealogists. Following a basic introduction to DNA, discussion will surround current testing services, costs, methodologies, results analysis and yes, the broader implications...



## **Also Noted...**

### **Harvesting Your Family Tree**

**Kelowna & District Genealogical Society**

September 30, 2006

Kelowna, B.C.

- More information:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~bckdgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bckdgs)



**Region X Annual General Meeting  
Ontario Genealogical Society**

October 11, 2006  
Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

- More information:  
[www.ogs.on.ca/events/regionalmeet.htm](http://www.ogs.on.ca/events/regionalmeet.htm)

**Family Roots 2006: Genealogy,  
Genes, and Gigabytes**  
Hosted by the Alberta Family Histories  
Society

October 13-14, 2006  
Calgary, Alberta

- More information:  
[www.family-roots.ca](http://www.family-roots.ca)

**Region I Annual General Meeting  
Ontario Genealogical Society**

October 14, 2006  
Chatham, Ontario

- More information:  
[www.ogskent.on.ca/meetings.htm](http://www.ogskent.on.ca/meetings.htm)

**Nanaimo Family History Society  
Lecture – Eunice Robinson**  
Nanaimo Family History Society

October 16, 2006  
Nanaimo, B.C.

- More information:  
[www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/events.htm](http://www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/events.htm)

**Region XII Annual General Meeting  
Ontario Genealogical Society**

October 21, 2006  
Trenton, Ontario

- More information:  
[www.rootsweb.com/~canqbogs/meetings.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~canqbogs/meetings.htm)

**The Third Annual Research Academy  
in Salt Lake City**

National Institute for Genealogical Studies  
October 22-28, 2006  
Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

- More information:  
[www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com)

**Region V Annual Meeting and  
Colloquium 2006**

Ontario Genealogical Society  
October 29, 2006  
Toronto, Ontario

- More information:  
[www.torontofamilyhistory.org](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org)

**Region IV Annual Meeting  
Ontario Genealogical Society**

November 4, 2006  
Hamilton, Ontario

- More information  
[www.hwcn.org/link/HBOGS/](http://www.hwcn.org/link/HBOGS/)



**Research Retreat at the LDS Family  
History Library**

Sponsored by My Ancestors Found  
November 13-18, 2006  
Salt Lake City, Utah, U.S.A.

- More information:  
[www.myancestorsfound.com](http://www.myancestorsfound.com)

**22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Salt Lake Christmas Tour  
Everton's Genealogical Helper**

December 3-9, 2006

- More information:  
[www.Genealogy-Tours.com](http://www.Genealogy-Tours.com)



## Cloverdale Library Genealogical Collection Orientations

The Cloverdale Branch of Surrey Public Library has one of the most extensive collections of Canadian genealogical materials in Western Canada. Holdings include a wide variety of books and microfilms covering records from the Canadian provinces and territories. To help users become familiar with the collection, the Cloverdale Library offers monthly orientations:

- The first Saturday of every month  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
Cloverdale Library, 5642 – 176A Street,  
Surrey, B.C.  
Free of charge  
Pre-registration recommended.  
More information: 604-576-1384 (ext. 6)



## How Common is Your Surname?

How common (or not) a surname is has significant implications for one's genealogical research prospects. In the 1881 British census, it's much easier to find Augustus Pimbury than John Smith. (Not surprisingly, only one Augustus Pimbury was enumerated in all of England and Wales. On the other hand, John Smiths born in 1850 alone numbered in the thousands.)

You can't do much about whether an ancestor's name is common or not, but as a curiosity, it's interesting to study the current and historical distribution of surnames, within the population and geographically. In some cases, this may give you a rough idea of the

possible origins of your ancestors, and just as importantly, where not to look for them. One surname mapping tool, for example, shows that in 1891, the majority of **Braithwaites** in England and Wales lived in the neighbouring counties of Yorkshire (34%) and Lancashire (22%). The same tool indicates that there were none at all in Huntingdonshire, Wiltshire, Dorset or seven of the Welsh counties.

The sources below provide information on surname popularity and distribution:

### Ancestry.com

This popular website offers mapping tools that show the following surname distributions. Free to non-subscribers too!

- 1891 census of England and Wales  
[www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/Fact.aspx?fid=6&ln=](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/Fact.aspx?fid=6&ln=)
- 1920 U.S. census  
[www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/Fact.aspx?fid=7&ln=](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/facts/Fact.aspx?fid=7&ln=)

### Surname Profiler

- [www.spatial-literacy.org/UCLnames/Surnames.aspx](http://www.spatial-literacy.org/UCLnames/Surnames.aspx)

Allows you to map distribution of your surname in Great Britain in 1881 or 1998. Also provides international comparisons, including for Canada.

### U.S. Census Bureau

- [www.census.gov/genealogy/www/namesearch.html](http://www.census.gov/genealogy/www/namesearch.html)

Search your last name to see how popular your surname was in the U.S. in the 2001 census. Results show the ranking of your name, the percentage of the population with your name and all names ranked higher than yours.







## Domesday Book - Online!

In early August 2006, the Middle Ages met the Internet as the historic Domesday Book went online. The Domesday Book is the oldest record held by the U.K. National Archives. Based on a survey of England conducted almost 1000 years ago, it is a record of the people and lands ruled by William the Conqueror, who invaded England and established Norman rule in 1066. More than 13,000 places are listed and many place names are still recognizable. Researchers can search the Domesday Book by place or by a person's name, although it is important to keep in mind that only landowners are listed, representing a minority of 11th-century Britons. Summary results are free, although each page - with a translation from the original Latin - costs about \$7.50. For more information, see: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/)



## National Archives - Powerful New Research Tool

The National Archives (U.K.) website now offers a comprehensive search facility. Whereas researchers previously had to search each catalogue and database individually, the new search engine searches 11 catalogues and databases simultaneously. It also searches local and private archival collections beyond the NA. See: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search)

## Moving Here, Staying Here: The Canadian Immigrant Experience

A new online exhibition from Library and Archives Canada provides improved access for genealogists and other researchers to frequently used immigration records, and offers a unique history of Canadian immigration from 1800-1939. See: [www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants/index-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants/index-e.html)



## Métis Ancestors

For genealogists with Métis ancestors, the new Métis National Historic Database offers an online tool with great research possibilities. Although some parts of the website are still in production, it already offers Search and Browse features allowing the user to research individuals by name, birth year, or location. Records are derived from Manitoba affidavits (filed in relation to land claims) and the 1901 Canadian census. The information supplied varies according to record type, but may include the names of a person's parents. <http://sunsite.ualberta.ca/Projects/MNC/>

## Ancestry Library Edition Update



## Unusual Records Online

Ancestry Library Edition (ALE) has added a considerable amount of new content in recent months:

- An index to 1841 English and Welsh census records, with links to digitized images of the original records, is now part of the U.K. census collection, completing access to images and indexes for all available British census years (1841-1901).
- There is also a searchable index to the 1841 Scotland census. Document images, together with indexes and images for other census years are available separately, through [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk).
- While Ancestry Library Edition continues to provide strong coverage of both British and U.S. genealogical records, the amount of Canadian information on the site has increased steadily. In honour of Canada Day, every-name indexed to the 1901 and 1906 censuses with links to online images of original records were added to the database.
- ALE has also updated its collection of online indexes and images of Ontario civil registration records, extending the marriage index to 1922 (it previously ended at 1899). In many cases, digitized images of original marriage records have been added as well. ALE now offers comprehensive access to most Ontario civil birth, marriage and death records.

Free access to Ancestry Library Edition is available at all Vancouver Public Library locations.

Access to some rare and interesting British genealogical sources is available from **The Original Record.com**. Some 2500 historical books with over 10 million entries relating to families in the British Isles and colonies have been scanned and indexed by surname. A surname index can be searched for free, with the option of specifying a range of dates. Each result includes the title of the document, date, and a brief annotation describing the scope and content of the associated record. A preview image is also provided. There is a charge for accessing full images of scanned documents. Prices vary from £2-10 according to the quality of the source, which may be Good, Excellent, Rare, Very Rare, or Unique. Researchers can submit a "wishlist" of surnames in order to be contacted in future when relevant entries are added to the surname index. For more information see: [www.theoriginalrecord.com/](http://www.theoriginalrecord.com/)

## NOT in the Genealogy Section

Census transcriptions, militia lists, surrogate court indexes, Wesleyan baptismal registers, obituary collections, how-to manuals -- these are just a few of the many useful printed materials found in the Genealogy section on Level 6 at the Central Library. But there are materials of genealogical interest to be found in other sections too. These include not only resources that provide useful historical and geographical background information (such as atlases) but also books with nominal lists and registers, biographical sketches and family histories.

Many local histories - housed in the main history area rather than the genealogical collection - include lists of pioneers and detailed information about local families. One such title, for example, Footprints: Pioneer Families of the Metchosin District, Southern Vancouver Island includes a "List of Owners and their Land Holdings as Recorded on the Metchosin District Official Map of 1858" and detailed historical accounts of dozens of individuals and families.

Books about military history or special groups such as Loyalists, Acadians or Métis also contain useful lists. VPL's U.S. history section, for example, includes Loyalists in Arms, 1775-1783: A Short History of the British American Regiments with the Roll of Officers. Another title, Soldiers of the King: the Upper Canadian Militia 1812-1815 is found in the Canadian history section. Both books contain lists of names.



Finding what might be called "non-genealogy books of genealogical interest" in the Library Catalogue (<http://ipac.vpl.ca/>) is not always easy, but here are a few tips:

- Library materials are catalogued according to a controlled keyword vocabulary. The word **genealogy** is an "official" keyword. Using the drop-down list on the search page, try a **Key words in Subject** search strategy, combining **genealogy** with other terms (such as the name of a family or geographical area). Sort your results by call number. Note any that do not have a call number beginning **929**. These books are not in the genealogy section.
- If the original intent of the creator of a book (or other resource) was not primarily genealogical in nature, the word **genealogy** may **not** be part of the library record created for that item. Try alternative search strategies such as:

*[surname]* **diaries**

e.g. Howley diaries

*[surname]* **family history**

e.g. Jackson family history

*[place]* **history**

e.g. Barrington history

*[place]* **biography**

e.g. New Finland biography

*[place]* **pioneers**

e.g. Sherbrooke pioneers

- Other useful keywords include:
  - **archival resources**
  - **militia**
  - **registers**



Managing the genealogical research paper flow can be a challenge. Charts, clippings, certificates, correspondence, research notes, copies from microfilm, and other assorted papers accumulate at an amazing rate. Even if a lot of your information is stored on your computer, there are many items that only exist on paper. Scanning all these documents requires special equipment and takes time. In any case, you should always have a backup of your electronic archives.

The following books provide practical advice on organizing a genealogical research project. All are available at the Vancouver Public Library.

***Let's Get Organized: A Practical Guide for All Aspects of Family History Research***  
by Penelope Janet Christensen, 2000.  
929.1 C55L

***Managing a Genealogical Project: A Complete Manual for the Management and Organization of Genealogical Materials***

by William Dollarhide, 1999.  
929.1 D66m

***Organizing Your Family History Search: Efficient & Effective Ways to Gather and Protect Your Genealogical Research***

by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, 1999.  
929.1 C28o



***30 Seconds: A Guide to Organizing Your Genealogy Files***

by Robert R. Langman, 2001.  
929.1 L28t

**The Genealogical Proof Standard**

From time to time, people - particularly those with little experience in genealogy - make claims to the effect that they were able to trace their ancestors 200 years into the past after spending half an hour on the Internet. Others believe that their ancestor arrived in England with William the Conqueror in 1066 - a very remote possibility.

Unless someone is presenting such conclusions as fact or selling the information, there may be little harm in unsubstantiated genealogical claims. On the other hand, many if not most genealogists want to compile family histories that **accurately** chronicle the story of their family. This requires time, effort and critical thinking. Research must be thorough and sources must be analyzed. Charts and reports need to be accompanied by complete

footnotes and bibliographies - in fact, everything that another person would need to replicate the research process. Experienced genealogists know that it's quite possible to expend a great deal of time (not to mention money) researching a family for several generations, only to conclude, disappointingly, that it wasn't their family line after all.

**The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)** is a useful resource for those who want to maintain high standards in their own research and critically evaluate information shared by others.

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), based in Washington, D.C. was founded in 1964, to promote standards in genealogical research. Its publication, The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual (2000) lists 74 standards, which contribute to a level of credibility known as the **Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS)**. Each conclusion about an ancestor must meet the GPS in order to be considered credible and accepted as "proved".

The GPS has five elements:

- Reasonably exhaustive search
- Complete and accurate source citations
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information
- Resolution of any conflicting evidence
- A soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion

The GPS is considered in more detail in the book noted above, which includes examples of reports based on the GPS. Information is also available on the web:

**[www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html](http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html)**





## Research At a Distance

Despite the extensive availability of high-quality information on the Internet (whether for free or at a charge), many records are not available online. If you live a long way from the place where information about your ancestors is (or might be) located, it can be difficult to do the necessary research for your family tree.

Many libraries, archives and genealogical societies accept queries by telephone, fax, mail, or e-mail. Check their websites for information. Sometimes queries can be submitted online. Requests should be limited to simple questions that can be answered quickly. Include as much relevant detail as you can, and whenever possible, provide a specific reference. Example: "I see from your online library catalogue that you have a copy of British Columbia Gulf Islands Cemeteries, call number 929.5 B86b. Would it be possible for you to see if there is a listing for Joseph Caldwell? I believe he died in 1943."

If you require extensive research or want to have documents copied and mailed to you, you may be able to use fee-based services offered by many libraries, archives, and societies. The InfoAction department at the Vancouver Public Library ([www.vpl.ca/infoaction/](http://www.vpl.ca/infoaction/)), for example, provides a variety of research services and will give you a cost estimate before beginning work. At the B.C. Archives, staff will locate one document such as a will or probate file, provide up to 30 pages of photocopies or microfilm prints, and mail it to you for an all-inclusive fee of \$30.00. The Society of Genealogists in London undertakes searches of its extensive library collection for £15 for half an hour (or portion thereof). Their website lists a wide range of sources which they are able to search on your behalf.

If you do not have specific references or require service beyond what a library, archives or society is able to provide at a reasonable cost, it may be worthwhile to hire an independent researcher. To find an independent researcher:

- Check the website of individual libraries, archives and societies. Many maintain lists of researchers available for hire. The following are examples of three such lists:
  - Hiring a Free-lance Researcher - Library and Archives Canada  
[www.collectionscanada.ca/services/005-2060-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.ca/services/005-2060-e.html)
  - Independent Research Agent Register - B.C. Archives  
[www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/general/res\\_list.htm](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/general/res_list.htm)
  - List of Researchers - Ontario Genealogical Society  
[www.ogs.on.ca/resources/queries/listofresearch.html](http://www.ogs.on.ca/resources/queries/listofresearch.html)

Note that libraries, archives and societies do not necessarily endorse the independent researchers listed on their websites.

- Look at genealogical magazines. Many free-lance genealogists advertise their services in these publications..
- The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) in the U.S. strives to promote a high standard of competence and ethics among genealogical practitioners. It provides an online membership directory. See Find a Certified Person - [www.bcgcertification.org/associates/index.php](http://www.bcgcertification.org/associates/index.php)
- The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), also based in the U.S., similarly provides an online directory of its members: [www.apgen.org/directory/index.php](http://www.apgen.org/directory/index.php)

- Those with research interests in the Maritime Provinces may wish to consult the website of the Genealogical Institute of the Maritimes, which maintains a list of Certified Genealogists and Certified Genealogical Record Searchers:  
<http://nsgna.ednet.ns.ca/gim/cert.htm>
- Genealogists with an interest in Quebec can contact the Bureau québécois d'attestation de compétence en généalogie  
[www.federationgenealogie.qc.ca/index.php?page=bqacg\\_fr&lang=fr](http://www.federationgenealogie.qc.ca/index.php?page=bqacg_fr&lang=fr)
- Those requiring research assistance in the U.K. may be able to find a researcher through the Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives:  
[www.agra.org.uk/](http://www.agra.org.uk/)

Keep in mind that membership in one of the above organizations is not necessarily a guarantee of a researcher's expertise and competence. Professional genealogists are not regulated, and while some organizations require prospective members to complete a rigorous membership application process, others do not.

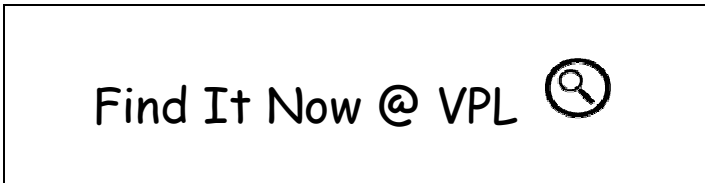


It might also be worthwhile to check the website of the International Commission for the Accreditation of Genealogists ([www.icapgen.org/](http://www.icapgen.org/)). The Commission's accreditation program was established by the Family History Department of the LDS Church in 1964. The website provides a searchable database of accredited genealogists. Many are based in Salt Lake City, so this may be particularly helpful if you need to search the extensive resources of the Family History Library.

The following articles (available for free on the Internet) offer further advice and information on hiring a free-lance researcher:

*Genealogy's 'Alphabet Soup': A Consumer's Guide to Credentials*  
[www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=10370](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=10370)  
*Hiring a Professional Genealogist*  
[www.rootdig.com/professional/index.html](http://www.rootdig.com/professional/index.html)

*What You Should Know Before Hiring a Professional Genealogist*  
[www.genservices.com/docs/HiringAPro.htm](http://www.genservices.com/docs/HiringAPro.htm)



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, Sunday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Simply log on to [www.vpl.ca/finditnow/](http://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.



## Support the Genealogy Collection

Fine Arts and History 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:

Vancouver Public Library Foundation  
350 West Georgia St.  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6B 6B1  
Tel: 604-331-4000  
Email: [foundation@vpl.ca](mailto:foundation@vpl.ca)

Genealogical Resources Newsletter is a free publication of Fine Arts and History, and is distributed in print and by e-mail. If you are not already on the mailing list and would like to receive future issues, please call 604-331-3716 or send an e-mail to [owner-genealogy@vpl.ca](mailto:owner-genealogy@vpl.ca)

**VPL website: [www.vpl.ca](http://www.vpl.ca)**

**Fine Arts and History  
Vancouver Public Library  
350 West Georgia Street  
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6B1  
Telephone: 604-331-3603**

