



Vancouver Public Library

# Genealogical Resources

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

Issue #20 - Summer 2007



## 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](http://ipac.vpl.ca)

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

### General

#### **Trace Your Roots with DNA: Using Genetic Tests to Explore Your Family Tree**

by Megan Smolenyak, 2004  
929.1 S66t



### Canada

#### **French-Canadians of the West: A Biographical Dictionary of French-Canadians and French Métis of the Western United States and Canada**, 3 vol.

by Peter J. Gagné, 2000

Ref. 929.3712 G13f

### Ontario

#### **1842 Census: Wainfleet Township, Lincoln County**

by Richard Hirst, 1992

Ref. 929.3713 L73W140 1842

#### **Chippewa Half-Breeds of Lake Superior**

by Gail Morin, 1998

Ref. 929.3714 M85c

#### **Marriages of Stormont County: Crysler, Finch, Ingleside, Moose Creek, St. Andrew's West: Ontario, Canada**

by Julien Hamelin, 1997

Ref. 929.3713 S88ha

#### **Understanding the Archival Reference Code in the Ontario Land Records Index: How to Find the Reel of Microfilm You Need**

Archives of Ontario

Ref. 929.3713 A67ou

### British Isles

#### **Family and Local History Handbook**

by Robert Blatchford, 2001

929.341 G32

#### **Family History on the Move: Where Your Ancestors Went and Why**

by Roger Kershaw, 2006

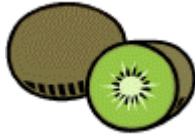
929.341 K41f



#### **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide**

by John Grenham, 2006

929.3415 G82t2



## New Zealand

### ***New Zealand Beginner's Guide to Family History Research***

by Anne Bromell, 2004  
929.393 B96n

### ***Whakapapa: An Introduction to Māori Family History Research***

New Zealand Society of Genealogists. Māori Interest Group, 2006  
929.393 N53w

## Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library

Genealogy programs at the Central Library will resume in Fall 2007.

## Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland

### **Bring and Brag – What Did You Find During the Summer?**

#### **Mission Genealogy Club**

Thursday, September 27, 2007

7:00 p.m.

33215 2nd Ave. Mission, BC

- More information:

<http://www.missionarchives.com/genealogy/club/club.html>



## Also Noted...

### **BYU Family History and Genealogy Conference**

July 31 – August 4, 2007

Provo, Utah

- More information:

<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwgen/>

### **Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe 2007 Convention**

August 10-12, 2007

Calgary, Alberta

- More information:

<http://www.sggee.org/>



### **Dutch Family History Workshop**

August 10, 2007

Toronto, Ontario

- More information:

<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/>

### **Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference**

August 15-18, 2007

Fort Wayne, Indiana

- More information:

<http://www.fgs.org/2007conf/FGS-2007.htm>

### **Fifth Annual National Family History Fair**

September 13, 2007

Gateshead, England

- More information:

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

## British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa – Annual Seminar

September 14-16, 2007

Ottawa, Ontario

- More information:

<http://www.bifhsgo.ca/Conference2007.htm>

## Seventh Annual West Coast Summit on African-American Genealogy

September 14-16, 2007

Phoenix, Arizona

- More information:

<http://www.bfqhs.net/>

## Ancestors in the Archives Seminar

September 15, 2007

Smithers, British Columbia

Speakers: Dave Obee, author and journalist, Ann ten Cate, archivist and outreach coordinator, B.C. Archives

- More information:

<http://www.cangenealogy.com/bvgs/>

## Seattle Genealogical Society Fall Seminar

September 29, 2007

Seattle, Washington

- More information:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~waseags/program.html>



## New from Ancestry

The following records are now available in **Ancestry Library Edition** at all VPL locations:

### British Army WWI Pension Records 1914-1920 Release 1

These War Office records from the National Archives (U.K.) relate to British and Commonwealth soldiers who fought between 1914-1920. About 100,000 records have been

scanned and digitized to date. The records are among 1.5 million records of servicemen which have survived from about 5 million original records. The project is expected to be complete by the end of 2008.

### Slave Registers of Former British Colonial Dependencies, 1812-1834

The 1807 Abolition of Slave Trade Act made the trade in slaves from Africa to the British colonies illegal, although it did not abolish slavery. To combat illicit transportation following the Act, many British colonies began keeping registers of black slaves who had been “lawfully enslaved”. Copies of the colonial slave registers were sent to the Office for the Registry of Colonial Slaves, established in 1819. Registration generally occurred once every three years and continued to 1834, when slavery itself was officially abolished.

The records now available in **Ancestry** contain the slave registers from Barbados for 1834. Eventually the database will cover three million slaves in South Africa, Sri Lanka, and the Caribbean.

### U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880

1850 – 1880 U.S. census records include mortality schedules enumerating those who died during the previous year. Many of the records, previously available only on microfilm, have now been digitized and indexed in **Ancestry**. Note that the census year began on June 1, so the available mortality schedules include the following years:

- June 1, 1849 - May 31, 1850
- June 1, 1859 – May 31, 1860
- June 1, 1869 – May 31, 1870
- June 1, 1879 – May 31, 1880



## Hidden Gems



For those with Canadian roots, the Historical Atlas of Canada presents a vast amount of interesting and useful information in a visual format.

The atlas, published between 1987-1993 comprises three volumes:

- Volume I: From the Beginning to 1800
- Volume II: The Land Transformed 1800-1891
- Volume III: Addressing the Twentieth Century 1891-1961

The maps are supplemented by charts, graphs, drawings and text, covering a huge range of topics of potential interest to Canadian genealogists. Themes range from British garrisons in which an army ancestor might have been posted to religious adherence across the country.

The Historical Atlas of Canada (911.71 H67m) is available on Level 6 at the Central Library and at several Vancouver Public Library branches.

## B.C. Historical Photograph Database

Photographs provide a compelling visual impression of the lives of your ancestors. If you have B.C. ancestors, you can explore thousands of historic images of the province by using the British Columbia Archival Information Network's list of links to **British Columbia Historical Photographs Online**.

- <http://abc.bc.ca/abc/archphot.html>



## Ontario Genealogy Society Provincial Index (OGSPI) - Update

OGSPI is an ongoing project of the Ontario Genealogical Society that involves compiling information about individuals from censuses, birth, marriage and death registers, references in books, land records, ship lists, military records and other sources. Created in 1997, the index currently includes over 2.8 million names and continues to grow. Users can contribute data using most word processor programs. Recently, OGSPI completed a transcription of Ontario 1891 census records.

It takes time to become familiar with OGSPI and to use it effectively – but with the wealth of information that is contained in the database, it's worth a look for all genealogists with Ontario roots.

- <http://www.ogs.on.ca/ogspi/welcome.htm>

## Brian W. Hutchison Genealogical Scholarship



The Alberta Family Histories Society has announced the availability of the above scholarship, in the amount of \$500, to be awarded to a Canadian resident. The scholarship is to be used towards the cost of tuition and books, for the recipient to study the field of genealogy and family history in a recognized educational or accreditation program. The scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2008. The deadline for applications is December 31, 2007. More information is available at

<http://www.afhs.ab.ca/scholarship/>

## Full Access to Ancestry.com No Longer Available at FHCs

For the past 7 years, patrons of LDS Family History Centres worldwide have had free access to the complete **Ancestry.com database**, otherwise available only by personal subscription. Ancestry.com's parent company, The Generations Network, however, recently announced the termination of this arrangement following an unsuccessful negotiation between the LDS and the Network. Some databases remain available, notably 1841-1891 English and Welsh census records, 1880, 1890 and 1920 U.S. census records, World War I draft cards and some smaller databases.

Patrons of Family History Centres in the Lower Mainland (Vancouver, Burnaby, Surrey and Abbotsford) can use the closely related electronic database **Ancestry Library Edition** at Vancouver Public Library locations.



## Ancestry.com vs. Ancestry Library Edition - What's the Difference?

**Ancestry.com** is an extremely popular U.S.-based subscription database for genealogists. There are also Canadian, U.K., Australian and German versions (**Ancestry.ca**, **Ancestry.co.uk**, **Ancestry.com.au** and **Ancestry.de**) which offer the same content as **Ancestry.com**, but are arranged differently to highlight Canadian, U.K., Australian and German sources.

**Ancestry.com** and its mirror sites are only available from home, by personal subscription. Genealogists often visit the Vancouver Public Library because they've heard that we have

**Ancestry.com**. In fact, we have **Ancestry Library Edition**, a library version of **Ancestry.com**, which is almost but not EXACTLY the same. The following is a brief guide to similarities and differences.

### Core Resources in Common

Most information in **Ancestry.com** is also found in **Ancestry Library Edition**. Among the most popular and useful resources:

#### **Canada:**

- Census records - 1851, 1901, 1911
- Canadian Genealogy Index, 1500s-1900s

#### **Ontario:**

- Birth records, 1869-1907
- Marriages, 1857-1922
- Deaths, 1869-1932

#### **British Isles:**

- English and Welsh census records - 1841-1901
- Indexes to English and Welsh civil registration records, 1837-1983
- Pallot's Baptism Index for England: 1780-1837
- Pallot's Marriage Index for England: 1780-1837
- Indexes to Scottish census records - 1841-1871, 1891

#### **U.S.**

- Census records - 1790-1930
- World War I Draft Registration Cards - 1917-1918
- Social Security Death Index

### Exclusive to Ancestry.com

*The following content is exclusive to **Ancestry.com** and its mirror sites. It is not available in **Ancestry Library Edition**. To access these resources, a home subscription to **Ancestry.com** or a mirror site is required:*

### **Biography & Genealogy Master Index**

An index to millions of people profiled in biographical sources. **Note:** VPL has a separate subscription to the BGMI, accessible to Vancouver Public Library cardholders in the library or from home.

### **Family and Local Histories Collection**

A large collection of histories of specific families and places, primarily U.S.

### **Freedman's Bank Records, 1865-1874**

An index to Freedman's Savings and Trust Company's registers of signatures of depositors. The bank was established to create an institution where former slaves and their dependents could deposit their money.

### **Historical Newspaper Collection**

More than 16 million pages from over 1000 different newspapers across the U.S., U.K. and Canada dating back to the 1700's.



### **Obituary Collection**

A compilation of obituaries published in newspapers and collected from various online sources. Comprises the **Canada Obituary Collection** and **U.S. Obituary Collection**

### **Passenger and Immigration List Index**

An annually updated index to lists of passengers who arrived in United States and Canadian ports from the 1500s through the 1900s. **Note:** A print version is available at the Vancouver Public Library in the genealogy section (Ref. 929.37 P28f)

### **PERiodical Source Index**

An extensive subject index covering genealogy and local history periodicals written in English and French (Canada).

### [Ancestry.com for Free](#)

Some **Ancestry.com** resources are available to any user for free. These features are not included in **Ancestry Library Edition**, but

*anyone can access Ancestry.com at the library or from home and use them without a subscription.*

### **Ancestry Community**

Includes **Message Boards** and a **Members Directory**.



### **Learning Center**

In the Learning Centre, you can follow links to centres on specific topics such as Census Records, Birth, Marriage and Death Records and others. You can also subscribe to the **Ancestry Weekly Journal** or explore one of the following sub-sections:

- **Family Facts** – A set of tools for finding information related to surnames. For example, you can create maps showing the distribution of a surname in England and Wales in 1891 and the U.S. in 1920.
- **Learn How to Do Your Family History** Browse or search Ancestry.com's vast archive of information on topics such as Record Sources, Technology, and others. The archives are derived from a variety of sources, including the Ancestry Daily News, magazines published by Ancestry.com, and postings by Ancestry.com's online columnists.
- **Today @ Ancestry.com** Recent news, tips, and other information from **Ancestry.com**.

### **Store**

A wide variety of genealogy materials can be purchased through **Ancestry.com's** online store. These include **Books, Records, Software, Photos, Maps, Gifts**. There is a special section for **Irish Resources**.

## Mitchell and Kenyon

If you have roots in Edwardian England (1901-1910), a set of old films discovered in the mid-1990s offers a fascinating visual impression of the world of your ancestors.

The films were produced by Mitchell and Kenyon, a late Victorian and Edwardian film company which was commissioned by traveling fairground operators to make “local topicals” shown at fairgrounds and other venues in the United Kingdom, mainly between 1900-1913. The footage seen in local topicals was shot in surrounding areas in an effort to capture images of as many local people as possible. The hope was that they would later visit fairgrounds and pay to see moving pictures of themselves.

The discovery of Mitchell and Kenyon’s footage in an empty photographic shop in Blackburn, England in 1994 and its subsequent restoration have been described as “a near (if not parallel) equivalent to the finding of Tutankhamen's tomb or the Dead Sea Scrolls.” Amounting to an impressive 28 hours of viewing time, the films provide an unparalleled social record and visual impression of the lives of ordinary middle and working class British people during the Edwardian period.

Following the discovery, the British Film Institute undertook the expensive and painstaking process of restoring the films, while the National Fairground Archive at the University of Sheffield carried out extensive research to date and contextualize them. The British Film Institute’s website (<http://www.bfi.org.uk/features/mk/>) provides extensive information on the project.

The Vancouver Public Library recently acquired a new book about the Mitchell & Kenyon films, as well as a DVD featuring selected footage:

**Electric Edwardians: the Story of the Mitchell & Kenyon Collection** (2006)  
Toulmin, Vanessa  
791.4361 T72e

**Electric Edwardians: The Lost Films of Mitchell & Kenyon** (2006)  
DVD 791.437 M68e

## Charles Booth Online Archive

For genealogists with roots in late 19<sup>th</sup>-century London, the Charles Booth Online Archive provides an exceptional opportunity to explore the places and times in which your ancestors lived.

Charles Booth (1840-1916) was a Victorian Englishman with a strong interest in social conditions. His [Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London](#) between 1886 and 1903 was one of several social surveys taken in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, but is the only one for which the original notes and data have survived.

Although the survey was published in several editions, Booth did not include information about individual interviewees in the finished volumes. Information about individuals is, however, found in the original [Inquiry](#) notebooks, now at the London School of Economics Archives. The collection also includes poverty maps, coloured street-by-street to indicate levels of poverty and wealth. The Booth archives have been re-catalogued and made available online at <http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>. The site includes a family history guide with tips on how to use the website to find individuals in the **Charles Booth Online Archive**.





## Ancestors on Board - The Next Ten Years

**AncestorsOnBoard.com** (see article in [Genealogical Resources Newsletter - Issue #19, Spring 2007](#)) has added a further decade of passenger lists to its database. Coverage now extends from 1890-1919, including 11.3 million names on 71,600 lists. Eventually the database will include more than 30 million names up to 1960.



## California Digital Newspaper Collection

Those with roots and connections in California may be interested in the new California Digital Newspaper Collection at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). During the first phase of the project, now underway, over 100,000 pages of California newspapers covering the period from 1900-1910 are being digitized. Newspapers include the [San Francisco Call](#), the [Amador Ledger](#), the [Imperial Valley Press](#), and the [Los Angeles Herald](#). Some digitized issues of the [San Francisco Call](#) are already available and fully searchable online.

- <http://cdnc2.ucr.edu/>

## IGI - Sources and Batches

The International Genealogical Index (IGI) is one of the key tools offered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on their FamilySearch website. The Index is a vast compilation of genealogical data gleaned from many sources. Coverage is uneven, and it is important to verify any genealogical data you

find in the IGI in original sources. Even so, the IGI can provide important clues for your family history research.

To access the IGI:

- Point your browser to <http://www.familysearch.org>.
- Click on the **Search** tab at the top centre of the screen.
- Click on the **International Genealogical Index** link at the left.

### Check the Source

When reviewing records found through an IGI search, always click on the **Source** link at the bottom. This will show you the origin of the information. In many cases it will be parish registers, for example:

**Parish registers, 1654-1853** Church of England. Parish Church of Broughton (Buckinghamshire)

Click on the title link. This will take you to the full record in the Family History Library Catalog. From this record, you can access **Film Notes**. Use this information to order the microfilm through your local Family History Centre.

In many cases the **Source** is a record submitted by a church member or derived from another source. These may provide valuable clues as you search for other original records, but does not indicate the source of specific information.

### Batch Numbers

Some IGI searches retrieve large numbers of results, especially if the name is common or a fairly narrow date range is not specified. Results are also inflated by the fact that similar names as well as exact matches are retrieved. ("Using exact spelling" is an option, but can only be done using particular combinations of search variables).





**Batch Numbers** offer a useful method of refining a search. Searching by Batch Number, you can find individuals sharing a specific characteristic (such as the same surname) within a subset (Batch) of records rather than the entire IGI database. To search Batches, begin with a global IGI search. When you find a reference of possible interest, open it and click on the Batch number at the bottom. This will return you to the IGI search screen. The batch number will appear in the **Batch Number** box. You can now search this batch of records by entering the surname (or other variable) in the search form.

Alternatively, use a tool created by Hugh Wallis. **IGI Batch Numbers – British Isles and North America** covers England (including Isle of Man), Scotland, Ireland, the Channel Islands, Canada and the U.S.A. and is available at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers.htm>



## Genealogy Fiction

Can't get enough of genealogy? Try the following novels, most of which are available at the Vancouver Public Library:

[Always Time to Die](#) (2005)

Lowell, Elizabeth

The murder of a man from a prominent New Mexico family pits a genealogist against his family in this romantic suspense novel.

[The Bonjour Gene](#) (2005)

Marzan, J.A.

The death in the South Bronx of a drug dealer from a Puerto Rican family of French origin sparks introspection concerning their lineage among members of his family

[The Dallancy Bequest](#) (2005)

Barclay, Tessa

Intrigue and romance develop after a genealogist near Oxford, England begins helping a Canadian unravel his past.

**Series:**

*In the Garden trilogy*

Roberts, Nora

Genealogy figures prominently in the second title, [Black Rose](#). A young widow, Roz Harper, hires a genealogist to track the identity of a ghost that haunts her Tennessee mansion.

- [Blue Dahlia](#) (2004)
- [Black Rose](#) (2005)
- [Red Lily](#) (2005)

*Natasha Blake mystery series*

Mountain, Fiona

Natasha Blake is an "ancestor detective" who lives in the English Cotswolds.

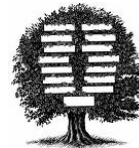
- [Pale as the Dead](#) (2002)
- [Bloodline](#) (2004)

*Torie O'Shea mystery series*

MacPherson, Rett

The main character in this series is a genealogist and local historian.

- [A Veiled Antiquity](#) (1998)
- [A Comedy of Heirs](#) (1999)
- [A Misty Morning](#) (2000)
- [Killing Cousins](#) (2002)
- [Blood Relations](#) (2003)
- [In Sheep's Clothing](#) (2004)
- [Thicker Than Water](#) (2005)
- [Dead Man Running](#) (2006)
- [Died in the Wool](#) (2007)



## Joining a Family History Society

For family historians, joining a genealogical or family history society can be very rewarding. Genealogy societies provide an opportunity to meet others who may be able to give you tips and ideas. Many hold regular meetings and

offer special lectures and workshops on topics of genealogical interest. Some have large lending libraries of specialized genealogical materials. Genealogy societies also offer inquiry and research services and produce publications, which are usually reasonably priced.

Even if your primary genealogical interest is outside the area or region in which you live, your local society may have useful resources and services. Sometimes there are sub-groups for those with specific geographical interests, such as the British Isles.

You can also join societies located in other provinces and countries. There are genealogical societies for all Canadian provinces, for every county in the British Isles, and for all U.S. states. Membership fees are usually reasonable and include a subscription to the group's magazine. Through a genealogical society, you can share information with other members – who may include some of your relatives. Many people involved in genealogical societies are experts in local sources.

To help you find a society to join, the Cyndi's List genealogy portal has a comprehensive listing of societies and groups -- browse the **Societies & Groups Index** at <http://www.cyndislist.com/society.htm>.

askaway



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, British Columbia's **askaway** 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 <http://www.vpl.ca/finditnow> and click on **Chat** (next to the **askaway**

banner) 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 [majordomo@vpl.ca](mailto:majordomo@vpl.ca) with the subject **subscribe** and **SUBSCRIBE genealogy** in the body of the message.

VPL website: <http://www.vpl.ca>

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