



Vancouver Public Library

Genealogical Resources

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

Issue #21 - Winter 2008



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

Genealogical Jargon for Family Historians
by Stuart A. Raymond, 2005
929.341 R27g

Canada

Biographical Resources of the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Vol. 2. Resource for Genealogy
by Elizabeth Briggs, 2003
Ref. 971.2X H88ba

Militiamen who Applied for Pensions in 1875 in Canada
Canada. Parliament. House of Commons, 1998
Ref. 929.371 M64c

Tracing Your Aboriginal Ancestors in the Prairie Provinces: A Guide to the Records and How to Use Them
by Laura Hanowski, 2006
929.3712 H24t

Saskatchewan

Births, Deaths, Marriages from Regina Leader, 1914-1916
by Janis Bohlken, 2006
Ref. 929.37124 M34d

Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors: A Guide to the Records and How to Use Them, 3rd ed.
by Laura Hanowski, 2006
929.37124 T75h2



Quebec

A Genealogical Guide to the Catholic Churches of the Province of Quebec
by Robert J. Quintin, 1994
Ref. 929.3714 Q79g

Index to the 1871 Census of Quebec: Shefford County
compiled by R. Neil Broadhurst, 1992
Ref. 929.3714 S54A11cb 1871

Ontario

A Beginner's Guide to Ontario Genealogy

by Fraser Dunford, 2007

929.3713 A11D9b

Index to the Ontario Genealogical Society's Families: Volume II, 1998-2006: Selected Subjects

by Roger William Gaffield Reid, 2007

Ref. 929.3713 A11R3ia

Marriages 1800-1908, the Cathedral Church of St. James (Anglican), Toronto, Ontario

Ontario Genealogical Society, 1991

Ref. Micro-fiche 929.3713 T68S13m

Rosar-Morrison Funeral Home Records, Toronto, Ontario, 1869-1923

Ontario Genealogical Society, 2000

Ref. Micro-fiche 929.3713 T68R78ro

New Brunswick

1891 Census: Northumberland County, New Brunswick, Canada: A 'True' Transcription

New Brunswick Genealogical Society.

Miramichi Branch, 200?

Ref. 929.37152 N87N53c 1891

An Index of Taxpayers in the Town of Moncton, New Brunswick in 1884

by Marilyn Shaw-Guisset, 2004

Ref. 929.37152 W53M73s 1884

An Index of Taxpayers in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, in 1890

by Marilyn Shaw-Guisset, 2004

Ref. 929.37152 W53M73s 1890

Anglican Church Baptism Registers (1822-1838 and 1838-1885): Chatham Parish, Northumberland County, New Brunswick

New Brunswick Genealogical Society.

Miramichi Branch, 2004

Ref. 929.37152 N87N53ba



North America

German Mercenary Expatriates in the United States and Canada

by Clifford Neal Smith, 2006

Ref. 929.37 S64g

British Isles

Discover Your Roots: 52 Brilliant Ideas for Exploring Your Family and Local History

by Paul Blake, 2006

929.1 B63d



Early Modern Genealogy: Researching Your Family History, 1600-1838

by Paul Chambers, 2006

929.341 C44e

Family History on the Web: A Directory for England and Wales

by Stuart A Raymond, 2006

929.342 R27f

My Ancestor Was a Lawyer

by Brian Brooks, 2006

929.341 B87m

The Scottish Family Tree Detective: Tracing Your Ancestors in Scotland

by Rosemary Bigwood, 2006

929.3411 B59s

Tracing Your Family History: How to Get Started

by Kathy Chater, 2007

929.341 C49t

Who Do You Think You Are? : Trace Your Family History Back to the Tudors

by Anton Gill, 2006

929.341 G47w

Europe

Ukrainian Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide

by John D. Pihach, 2007

929.3477 P63u

Jewish Research

A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania

by Sam Aaron, 2005
929.34793 A11g

Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library



Getting the Most Out of Ancestry Library Edition

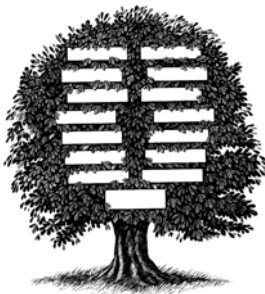
Thursday, February 21, 2008
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This hands-on workshop will offer an overview of one of the most amazing electronic genealogy resources available and introduce tips and techniques for using it effectively.

Canadian Census Records

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
10:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.

This free workshop will provide an in-depth look at historical Canadian census data and explore the many resources available for locating individuals and families in these essential records.

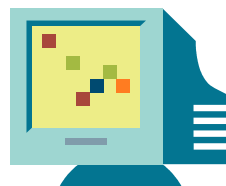


Other Vancouver Public Library Programs of Interest

Virtual VPL: The New Library Website

In early February the Vancouver Public Library will launch its redesigned website. Drop-in for a free one-hour, hands-on session and learn where to find all your favourite resources on the new site. New tools and features will be introduced.

This workshop will be offered several times. Please call 604-331-3603 for class dates and times. Class size is limited. Come early to ensure a seat.



Search Smart

Monday, February 4 & 18, 2008
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13 & 27, 2008
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This free hands-on class introduces the library catalogue and a full-text database and shows you search strategies and techniques for using them effectively. Basic computer skills required. This program is free, but registration is required. To register, go to Newspapers & Magazines on Level 5 at the Central Branch, telephone 604-331-3742, or send an e-mail to info@vpl.ca.

Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland



Archival Treasures for Genealogists

Saturday, February 9, 2008

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cloverdale Branch, Surrey Public Library,
5642-176A Street, Surrey, B.C.

Instructor: Ryan Gallagher

Charge: \$10.00

- Find out what treasures our local Archives hold for Surrey family historians – School Registers, Personal Letters and Correspondence, Manuscripts, Pre-Emption Maps, Voter's Lists, Community Group Minutes and Membership Lists, Directories, Historical Photographs – you might be surprised! Ryan Gallagher, Reference Specialist at the Surrey Archives, will talk about these unique resources and how to find them.

Please pre-register by calling 604-598-7328, or emailing genealogy@surrey.ca. Payment is required upon registration.



B.C. Ethnic Communities

Saturday, February 23, 2008

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Cloverdale Branch, Surrey Public Library,
5642-176A Street, Surrey, B.C.

Instructor: Diane Rogers

Charge: \$10.00

- People who left their countries behind for new lives elsewhere often migrated to the same places, forming special communities in the new homeland. Learn about the groups that came to British Columbia, the new communities they forged, the stories and legacies they created, and what records are available for them.

Please pre-register by calling 604-598-7328, or send an e-mail to genealogy@surrey.ca. Payment is required upon registration.

Also Noted...

BYU Computerized Family History and Genealogy Conference

March 14-15, 2008

Provo, Utah

- **More information:**
<http://ce.byu.edu/cw/cwcompu/>

Gene-O-Rama 2008

March 28-29, 2008

Ottawa, Canada

- **More information:**
<http://ogsottawa.on.ca/geneorama/>

"Recently" Released Ontario Civil Registration Indexes Now Available at VPL

Each year a new annual set of Ontario civil birth, marriage and death records and related indexes is released and goes on sale. Vancouver Public Library acquires the indexes, which genealogists use to identify and place interlibrary loan requests for Archives of Ontario microfilms containing images of the original records.

Normally, there is a delay between when the records and indexes are released and when they become available for purchase. This year, they were not received at the Vancouver Public Library until shortly before the lengthy strike. Since this is the first newsletter to appear since Summer 2007, we are belatedly pleased to tell you that the following Ontario civil registration indexes are now available on Level 6 at the Central Branch:

- Births – 1910
- Marriages – 1925
- Deaths – 1935

With New Year 2008 already underway, we look forward to ordering the next set of indexes at the earliest opportunity.



Hidden Gems



Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867

compiled by Leonard H. Smith, Jr. and Norma H. Smith, 1992
Ref. 929.3716 S65n



Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867. Volume II

compiled by Leonard H. Smith, Jr. and Norma H. Smith, 1994
Ref. 929.3716 S65nb

Genealogists with ancestors who arrived in Nova Scotia before Confederation may find useful information in these two volumes, which consolidate a vast amount of data on individual immigrants to Nova Scotia collected from a variety of sources.

Part 1 of the first volume is derived from 46 manuscripts, including many passenger lists. Most are housed at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia although some of the manuscripts are located in other repositories. Part 2 is based on references to individuals found in 467 articles published in Nova Scotia genealogical and historical periodicals.

Part 1 of the second volume is derived from references to Nova Scotians found in 51 articles published in non-Nova Scotia genealogical and historical publications. Part 2 is based on references found in facsimile publications of personal diaries and journals.

Legal Matters Related to Genealogy

A series of articles recently published in the Ontario Genealogical Society's **Families** journal provides an excellent introduction to legal aspects of genealogy such as privacy and personal data protection and copyright. The author, Dr. Margaret Ann Wilkinson, is a professor in the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario. The four articles are particularly valuable because they explore legal aspects of genealogy from a Canadian perspective. The series is entitled Legal Matters Related to Genealogy and appears in four issues of **Families** as follows:

Part 1: Privacy and Personal Data Protection for Genealogy

Families 46:1 (February 2007) 14-17.

Part 2: About the Business of Genealogy

Families 46:2 (May 2007) 21-26.

Part 3: Cemeteries as Information Sources in Genealogy

Families 46:3 (August 2007) 26-33.

Part 4: Copyright in Genealogy

Families 46:4 (November 2007) 21-28.

Families is available at the Vancouver Public Library.



New VPL Genealogy Pages

Two new genealogy information pages have recently been added to the VPL website:

Standards and Proof

Explains the importance of maintaining a high standard of proof in genealogical research and suggests useful books on the subject.

Divorce Records

Describes online and microfilm resources available at the Vancouver Public Library relating to divorce in Canadian and particularly B.C.

Cloverdale Branch - Surrey Public Library Publishes New Edition of Canadian Guidebook

The Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library has published a new edition of its useful book, **Canadiana Genealogical Resources: A Guide to Materials Held at Cloverdale Library**. The 15th edition offers a comprehensive guide to the extensive genealogical holdings of the Cloverdale Library as well as a large amount of useful information on Canadian records in general. The new edition is priced at CAN \$29.95, including tax, postage and handling. For more information call the Cloverdale Library at **604-598-7328** or e-mail **GenealogyResearch@surrey.ca**

The Story of Dunbar: Voices of a Vancouver Neighbourhood

The Story of Dunbar, recently published by Ronsdale Press, offers a portrait filled with historical information and numerous anecdotes about individuals associated with this westside Vancouver community. The book's range spans a period of time from the earliest traces of human settlement in the area (about 3000 years ago) to the 1990s. Many photographs and a comprehensive index enhance the book. Essential reading for anyone with family roots in the Dunbar area.

Copies are available at the Vancouver Public Library (971.133 S88s) or may be purchased from Ronsdale Press for \$39.95.

www.ronsdalepress.com/catalogue/dunbar.html

UBC Student Yearbook Photograph Collection

From the time that U.B.C. first opened its doors in 1915-16 until 1966, the Alma Mater Society published a student yearbook. *The Annual* -- renamed *The Totem* in 1926 -- eventually suspended publication after 49 volumes.

1750 photos published during *The Totem's* 50-year run can now be viewed online at

http://angel.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/index_student.php. The searchable web gallery offers a rich selection of photos chronicling the university's life and includes many photos of faculty members as well as group photographs of student executives, sporting teams, cheerleaders, fraternities and others. The names of individuals in group photos are not listed, but for anyone with family history connections to U.B.C., this site is worth a look.

News from the Canadian Genealogy Centre

Ancestors Search Now Available

One of the outstanding features of the Canadian Genealogy Centre website is its rich suite of free databases. Many can be searched by name, but until recently, each database had to be searched individually. The Canadian Genealogy Centre has now introduced a feature that allows simultaneous searching of multiple databases. **Ancestors Search** can be done with Exact Match turned on or off. Results are organized according to broad categories such as Immigration and Citizenship or Military. **Ancestors Search** can be accessed through the Canadian Genealogy Centre (www.genealogy.gc.ca) or directly from Library and Archives Canada's homepage (www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html).

The following databases are covered by **Ancestors Search**:

Births, Marriages and Deaths

- Divorce in Canada (1841-1968)
- Upper and Lower Canada Marriage Bonds (1779-1865)

Census and Enumerations

- Federal Census of 1871 (Ontario Index)

Immigration and Citizenship

- Citizenship Registration Records for the Montreal Circuit Court (1851-1945)
- Home Children (1869-1930)
- Immigrants at Grosse-Île (1832-1937)
- Immigration Records (1925-1935)
- Immigrants from the Russian Empire (LI-RA-MA Collection)
- Montreal Emigrant Society Passage Book (1832)
- Port of New Westminster Register of Chinese Immigration (1887-1908)
- Upper Canada and Canada West Naturalization Records (1828-1850)

Land

- Gaspé Land Commission (1626-1841)
- Lower Canada Land Petitions (1626-1865)
- Western Land Grants (1870-1930)



Military

- Courts-martial of the First World War
- Soldiers of the First World War - CEF (1914-1918)
- Soldiers of the South African War (1899-1902)
- Ward Chipman, Muster Master's Office (1777-1785)



Irish Census Records – Free Online Access!

On December 3, 2007, the National Archives of Ireland launched the first stage of its **1901 and 1911 Census Digitisation Project**. The first stage includes digitized images of 1911 census records for Dublin City and County, together with a complete nominal index. The records can also be browsed geographically by place. The database is available for free at www.census.nationalarchives.ie/

The **1901 and 1911 Census Digitisation Project** is the result of a partnership between the National Archives of Ireland and Library and Archives Canada, considered a world leader in the field of document digitization.

More from Library and Archives Canada . . .

Oral Histories of the First World War: Veterans 1914-1918

A new web exhibition by Library and Archives Canada offers first-hand accounts of the experiences of the First World War from veterans of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

Oral Histories of the First World War: Veterans 1914-1918 is based on a CBC radio series, **In Flanders Fields**, which aired in the 1960s. The exhibition comprises both digitized radio recordings and transcripts. The selected accounts explore seven themes: Second Ypres, Vimy Ridge, War in the Air, The Somme, Trench Warfare, Passchendaele, and Perspectives on War. For the many Canadian genealogists whose ancestors joined up in World War I, the web exhibition offers a compelling way of gaining insight into the soldiers' experiences.

www.collectionscanada.ca/first-world-war/interviews/index-e.html

The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf

Library and Archives Canada has produced an online exhibition of Irish-Canadian documentary materials entitled **The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf**. Like the **1901 and 1911 Census Digitisation Project** (see above), **The Shamrock and the Maple Leaf** reflects an active and ongoing cultural collaboration between LAC and the National Archives of Ireland. The exhibition is a rich source of contextual information for those researching Irish-Canadian roots.

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ireland/index-e.html

Who Do You Think You Are?

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) launched a new genealogy series in October 2007. **Who Do You Think You Are?** offered viewers a chance to watch 13 celebrities make individual journeys into family history. The Canadian celebrities profiled included Mary Walsh, General Lewis Mackenzie, Chantal Kreviazuk, Sonja Smits, Steven Page, Margot Kidder, Shaun Majumder, Randy Bachman, Scott Thompson, Don Cherry, Measha Brueggergosman, Margaret Trudeau, and Avi Lewis. Each documentary episode followed along as one celebrity worked with genealogists and archivists, sometimes travelling as far as India or Poland to explore their family roots.

The series, developed in collaboration with Library and Archives Canada, emulates a British Broadcasting Corporation series of the same name that has been wildly popular, running into several seasons and spawning three books. The Australian Broadcasting Corporation is planning a similar endeavour.

There is no word on yet future plans for CBC's **Who Do You Think You Are?** or when previously aired episodes might re-run or become available on DVD. Check the program's website for detailed reprises of each episode and further information.

www.cbc.ca/whodoyouthinkyouare/show.php

News from Ancestry

Ancestry is a popular genealogy database available to home subscribers as **Ancestry.com**. A mirror site highlighting Canadian content is available as **Ancestry.ca**. Vancouver Public Library subscribes to a library version entitled **Ancestry Library Edition**.

Early Canadiana Genealogy and Local History Collection Online

Canadiana.org (formerly the Canadian Institute for Historical Microreproductions or **CIHM**) is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving and providing access to early Canadian publications. **Canadiana.org** initially established the **Early Canadiana Research Collection**, reproducing and distributing historical publications on microfiche.

For Canadian genealogists, a notable subset of the original **Early Canadiana Research Collection** is the **Genealogy and Local History to 1900** collection. A printed bibliography of this collection is available at the Vancouver Public Library (Ref. 929.1X G46g).

Recently, **Ancestry.ca** and **Canadiana.org** announced a partnership to digitize the **Genealogy and Local History to 1900** collection and make it available through **Ancestry**.



Canadian Passenger Lists to Be Indexed

Ancestry.ca will be collaborating with Library and Archives Canada (LAC) to produce a comprehensive nominal index to Canadian passenger records covering the period from 1865-1935.

Digitized copies of all of the records are already available on the Library and Archives Canada website but cannot be searched by name. The new partnership between LAC and **Ancestry.ca** will initially focus on indexing Quebec City passenger lists from 1870-1890, which comprise more than 750,000 names.

LAC and **Ancestry.ca** will then continue to build a nominal index to the entire Canadian passenger list collection, including the ports of Halifax, St. John's, Vancouver, Victoria, and North Sydney.

Ancestry.ca and LAC also plan to provide electronic access to border crossing records from the U.S. to Canada (1908-1935) and other Canadian immigration records.

Scottish Census Records on Ancestry Library Edition

Transcriptions and indexes to all Scottish census records, 1841-1891, are now available in **Ancestry**.



United Church Archives Find a New Home

The United Church Archives (Toronto) will move to a new location in 2008. The Archives are part of a network of regional archives in 10 locations across Canada. Holdings of the Toronto branch include records of United Church conferences in southern Ontario as well as previous records of the churches that amalgamated to create the United Church of Canada in 1925 (mainly Methodist and Presbyterian).

After many years at the Victoria University campus of the University of Toronto, the new home of the United Church Archives will be at the United Church of Canada's General Council Office, 3250 Bloor Street West in the west-end of Toronto. The new location is close to major transportation routes, including the Islington subway station, and will offer on-site parking.

Because of the move, the collection will be temporarily unavailable after December 21, 2007. The reading room is due to open at its new location on May 5, 2008. For more information, check the United Church Archives (Toronto) website at www.united-church.ca/archives.

Anglo-Celtic Connections



For regular updates on matters of interest to Canadian genealogists with British routes, John Reid's **Anglo-Celtic Connections** blog is a must. New postings appear almost daily. See <http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/>

New "Hidden" Birth, Marriage and Death Records for England and Wales Now Online

A new source of birth, marriage and death information for England and Wales is now online as the result of a collaboration between the National Archives (U.K.) and S&N Genealogy Supplies, a genealogy digitization company.

The **Official Non-Parochial BMDs Service** (www.bmdregisters.co.uk) offers access to information from unpublished registries covering the period from 1564-1865, and is especially useful for locating records of births, marriages and deaths prior to the start of civil registration in 1837. The scope of the website includes records of millions of Nonconformists - individuals who belonged to religious denominations that did not conform to the established Church of England (Anglican).

The first phase of the **Official Non-Parochial BMDs Service** includes the following records:

- Royal Hospital Chelsea (1682 onwards)
- Royal Hospital Greenwich (1694 onwards)
- Dr. Williams Library (1742-1865)

- Presbyterian, Independent and Baptist Registry (1742-1837)
- Wesleyan Methodist Metropolitan Registry (1818-1838)
- Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, Hackney (1712 onwards)
South London Burial Ground, Walworth (1819-1837)
- Necropolis Burial Ground, Everton, Liverpool (c1825-1837)



Also included in the initial launch are 200,000 birth certificates from the Protestant Dissenters Registry and 50,000 birth certificates of Metropolitan Wesleyan Methodists.

Future plans include the addition of many more hidden records from a variety of sources, including records of British births, marriages and deaths abroad, registers of births, deaths and marriages at sea and others.

Basic searching is free, but users must register to use the **Advanced** search feature and buy credits to view full record details and digitized images.



Ancestors on Board - The Next Twenty Years

AncestorsOnBoard.com (see *Genealogical Resources Newsletter - Issue #19, Spring 2007*) has added a further two decades of passenger lists to its database. Coverage now extends from 1890-1939. Eventually the database will include more than 30 million names up to 1960. The newest release includes more information than found in previous decades, including the last address of each passenger in the U.K.

DoVE. . . Delayed!

A British government scheme to provide online access to all post-1837 birth, marriage and death records has suffered a massive setback. The expensive **Digitisation of Vital Events (DoVE)** scheme was intended to put 250 million records online by May 2008. Completion is now not expected until mid-to-late 2009.

Meanwhile, the Family Records Centre in London, which provided access to original paper indexes, is slated to close at the end of March. The closure was planned in anticipation of the online search facility becoming available in March 2008. With the delay, the indexes have been transferred and can now be consulted at the National Archives at Kew.

Genealogists planning trips to London should take note, but delays in the DoVE scheme are not likely to affect genealogists doing remote research. Visitors to the Vancouver Public Library can still search the indexes using **Ancestry Library Edition** or consult the searchable online version of the indexes, **FreeBMD** (www.freebmd.org.uk/). As in the past, it continues to be necessary to order (and pay for) copies of the original records.

When DoVE is complete, it will be possible to view British vital event records online.



Irish Times Online Archive



The Irish Times recently announced a full online archive of the newspaper. Two formats are available: **Digital** (comprising digital scans of newspapers from 1859 to present) and **Text** (covering the period from 1996 to present).

Keyword searching of the **Digital Archive** is free and results show a small portion of the scanned text. A subscription is required to access full digitized articles, www.ireland.com/search/



New Census Search Feature

It is now possible to search census records using two forenames that you expect or hope to find in one household. This should greatly reduce the number of hits when searching for historic census records. For example, if you want to search for a household in which you know the names of both the husband and wife, you can now enter both forenames.

As a caveat, users should be aware that the search function is based on names appearing on a single census page. Thus, a search may match entries from different households if both forenames appear on the same page, even though they are in different households. Also, the search will not return results from households spread over two pages in which each of the members appears on a different page.

For more information on this new feature, see www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?1316

Search for Unrecorded Mother's Maiden Surname in Statutory Death Registers

When searching **Scottish Statutory Death registers**, it is now possible to search for the mother's maiden surname. These surnames were recorded on the original Death registers but were not entered in the original indexes that were derived from the registers (and later digitized). The GROS is in the process of entering the surnames in the modern electronic indexes. It is now possible to search by mother's maiden surname, although it will not be found if it has not yet been entered into the indexes.

For more information on this feature, see www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?1301

News from *Scotland's People*

Corrected Entries Now Online

Scotland's People (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) recently announced that RCE images can now be viewed online.

RCE stands for **Register of Corrected Entries** or (since 1965) **Register of Corrections**. Once a birth, marriage or death was registered and entered in a Statutory Register, it would not be corrected if an error was found or new information became available. Instead, a separate new entry would be made and entered in a separate register, after being approved by a sheriff. A cross-reference to the amended entry would then be added to the original entry in the Statutory Register.

If there is an amended entry, it can now be viewed online. If such an entry is available, a "View RCE" button will direct the researcher from the original to the amended entry.

For more information and examples see www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?r=551&1314.

Recently Noted Websites for U.K. Research

Free Online Historical Directories of England and Wales

www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/about.asp

A free online digital library of local and trade directories for England and Wales covering the period from 1750-1919 is available. **Historical Directories**, a project of the University of Leicester, provides high-quality digital reproductions of the directories. The library can be searched by location, decade, or keyword.

India Office Records

A new website from the British Library, **India Office Records: Family History Sources**, provides guidance to genealogists researching British families in South Asia and related areas from the early 17th to the mid-20th centuries.

Resources include an **India Office Family History Database** (<http://indiafamily.bl.uk/UI/>) with access to about 300,000 records of British and European people in India between 1600 and 1949. The database is free and provides detailed transcriptions of information in each record. Copies of original records can be ordered online.

Online Graveyard Tours

www.ukgraves.info/

Photo albums of over 200 cemeteries in England and Scotland are available online. The albums mainly represent Berkshire, Hampshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, and West Sussex, with some from other parts of England as well as Scotland. While there are few photographs of individual graves, the albums give a wonderful sense of the final resting places of many British ancestors.

British Military Genealogy

www.military-genealogy.com/

Information on British ancestors who died during World War I and World War II is available in 4 databases derived from casualty lists and rolls of honour. The database provides more details than provided in the online records of the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**. Searching is free but there is a charge to view full record details and images from the rolls of honour.

OPC Scheme – Kudos to Dorset

The **Online Parish Clerks** scheme (OPC) is a collection of county-based projects with the aim of extracting and transcribing information from the records of various parishes and making them freely available online.

OPC projects currently exist for Cornwall, Cumberland & Westmorland, Dorset, Hampshire, Lancashire, Somerset, Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire. Dorset recently reached an impressive milestone, with more than one million records transcribed corresponding to approximately 275 Dorset parishes.

For a list of links to county pages in the OPC scheme, go to www.genuki.org.uk/indexes/OPC.html

Archives Hub

www.archiveshub.ac.uk/

A searchable online directory of collections held at university and college (and some other) archives in the U.K. is available through the **Archives Hub**. The directory provides information about an extensive range of resources of possible interest to genealogists and local historians.

Materials held by university and college archival repositories may include collections of personal papers, details of associations or

unions to which an ancestor belonged, or items relating to a location in which he lived. Examples of specific items to be found include diaries, membership lists, staff records, diaries and other information. For example, a search for William Parsons in Nottingham identified a collection of “Diaries and letters of William Parsons, solicitor of Nottingham, and his son Frederick, solicitor of Nottingham and farmer of Coachford, Ireland, 1830-1886” in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham. In some cases, item-by-item listings of the full contents of specific collections are provided.

The **Archives Hub** can be browsed or searched by keyword. Search results provide full contact and access information to the archives’. Materials must be consulted on-site.



British Historical Population Reports

www.histpop.org/

Detailed background information on the history of civil registration and census-taking in England and Wales is available in **Histpop – The Online Historical Population Reports Website**. About 200,000 pages of census and registration material as well as many ancillary documents are available on the website.

Histpop site does not include genealogical data, except for some examples from enumerator’s books and other documents. The site is useful, though, in providing insights and background to the procedures used to collect the results, which may help decode information found in the records. Documents found in **Histpop** include detailed instructions to enumerators, examples of returns distributed to householders, maps of registration districts and other information. The project is hosted by the **UK Data Archive** at the **University of**

Essex and is funded by **Joint Information Systems Committee** as an **Arts and Humanities Data Service – History** project.



Air Ministry Combat Reports (1939-1945)

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/ww2aircombat.asp

This new set of online documents from the National Archives is important viewing for genealogists with ancestors who were British pilots or navigators during World War II and took part in air fights.

The combat reports were completed by pilots immediately after landing and record important details of each mission. Reports include technical information about the types of aircraft involved, time, place, height and number of aircraft, range at which attack was carried out and likely casualties. Pilots also added personal narratives of events.

The index can be searched for free but there is a charge to view digitized original records.

The Long Long Trail

www.1914-1918.net/

Hailed as one of the best World War I resources on the web, **The Long Long Trail** is the work of a British amateur enthusiast who lost a grandfather in the war. In addition to a large amount of information about the army, as well as specific battles, and battlefields, the site offers a **Researching British Soldiers** feature with specific tips for locating information on soldiers who survived as well as those who died. A detailed **Soldier’s Life** section offers insight into the experiences of soldiers from enlistment to demobilization.

Small and Special

www.smallandspecial.org/

Family historians with London ancestors may be interested in exploring **Small and Special**, a website associated with the Hospital for Sick Children at Great Ormond Street.

The main feature of the site is **The Great Ormond Street Historical Patient Database**, a free resource derived from hospital's **Admission Registers** for the period from 1852-1914, which survived intact. Users can search for children by name, age, sex, and address. Future plans include the addition of the surviving **Registers for Cromwell House**, which was the Hospital's convalescent home at Highgate, from 1869-1910.

The website also includes information about doctors and nurses at the hospital and a photo gallery.



City of London Burials

An index to **City of London Burials, 1742-1904** is now available on the findmypast.com/ website. The database contains details of burials in all but one of 98 churches within the City of London (the "square mile"). The one excluded church is the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula in the Tower of London. The database also includes burials from burial grounds and the ring of parishes on the fringes of the City of London. It currently contains about 350,000 entries. Searching is free but a subscription is required to view full details.

U.S. Genealogy Alert

An agreement recently announced between the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and FamilySearch sets the stage for the digitization of millions of U.S. historical documents over time. The bulk of the digitized images and their related indexes will be available for free on www.familysearch.org/

FamilySearch will be operating specialized digital cameras 5 days a week at the National Archives in Washington D.C. and intends to expand to regional NARA facilities at a later date. The pilot project, currently underway, focuses on 3150 Civil War widow pension application files (approximately 500,000 pages).

FamilySearch Labs: "Future Tools to Dig Up the Past"

<http://labs.familysearch.org/>

Although not yet officially launched, **FamilySearch Labs** -- a **FamilySearch** initiative showcasing new family history technologies -- is available for preview and invites your feedback. **FamilySearch Labs** projects include:

Record Search

Free access to a wide range of record collections. Most are digitized and many are indexed and are searchable using a very attractive and easy-to-use interface. The project is in a pilot stage, and to search the records you must register as a **Record Search Pilot Participant** (free).

Record collections now available in **FamilySearch Labs - Record Search** include:

Census and Lists

- 1850 United States Census
- 1850 United States Census (Mortality Schedule)
- 1850 United States Census (Slave Schedule)
- 1880 United States Census
- 1895 Argentina Census
- 1900 United States Census
- 1930 Mexico Census

Migration

- New York Passenger Arrival Lists (Ellis Island) 1892-1924

Military

- United States, World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

Court and Legal Records

- England, Cheshire, Register of Electors
- Freedman Bank Records 1865-1874
- Maryland, Cecil County Probate Estate Files 1851-1940

Vital Records

- England, Diocese of Durham Bishops' Transcripts ca. 1700-1900
- Freedmen's Bureau Virginia Marriages ca. 1815-1866
- Georgia Deaths 1914-1927
- Ohio Deaths 1908-1953
- Ontario Deaths 1869-1947
- Texas Death Index 1964-1998
- U.S. Social Security Index
- Utah Death Certificates 1904-1956

Standard Finder

Names, dates and places are often recorded in non-standard ways in different kinds of records over time. **Standard Finder** allows users to search for a standardized name, date or place based on individual input.



Pedigree Viewer

This feature allows users to upload their own information and to generate and navigate complete pedigrees, up to 12 generations.

Research Wiki

The **FamilySearch Research Wiki** allows users to contribute to a large compendium of research information. Content can be viewed or contributed in 8 languages, and the site includes an "Ask an Expert" feature as well as online discussion groups.

Life Browser

The Life Browser allows users to organize, view and share genealogical information, pictures, records and stories about ancestors. Input is presented in visually rich **Life Pages**, including timelines, photographs, and more.

FamilySearch Indexing

Users volunteer to extract family history information from digital images of historical documents to contribute to the creation of searchable indexes that will be available to anyone for free. Current projects include the 1871 Canadian census.

The News Box



Buried within the **FamilySearch Labs** (see previous item) is a source of genealogy news worth checking on a regular basis. The News Box is part of the **Research Wiki** and can be accessed directly at <http://familysearchwiki.org/u-s-and-canada/training-corner/the-news-portlet>

PaperofRecord.com - Free Online Access to Historical Newspapers

www.paperofrecord.com/

PaperofRecord.com provides access to a large and growing searchable archive of historical newspapers. After registering for free, users can search newspapers from many countries: U.K., U.S., Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Chile, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Mexico, and of course, Canada. The online collection includes newspapers from B.C., Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Saskatchewan and Yukon. Holdings of individual newspapers vary greatly. For example, there are over 77,000 pages from the *Perth Courier* (Ontario), 1834 to 1987, but only 583 pages from the *Palladium* (Charlottetown, P.E.I.), 1843-1845.

Individual newspapers can be searched by keyword or browsed by date. Results are linked to digitized images of the newspapers.

Reconnecting Families Separated by the Shoah

A non-commercial online tool has been developed to facilitate contact between members of families separated by the Shoah (Holocaust) and their descendents.

The site is derived from two million pages of Shoah survivors' testimony collected by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority (www.yadvashem.org/) in its **Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names**. Using a link on the **ShoahConnect** web page, users can install/upgrade the Google Toolbar (if necessary) and add a special

ShoahConnect button. The button allows users to associate their e-mail address with specific **Pages of Testimony** and facilitates contact between people associated with the same pages, with some privacy protection.

For more information see
www.shoahconnect.org/

Digital Genealogist



An electronic magazine on technology for genealogists, **Digital Genealogist**, began its 2nd year of publication with the November/December Volume 1, Number 7 issue. The magazine is a good source of information on new websites, genealogy and more. Each issue comprises a number of articles, regular columns and software and other reviews. Annual subscriptions cost \$20 (U.S.) for six issues. To view a sample issue or subscribe go to

www.digitalgenealogist.com/index.html

Roots Television . . . and RootsTube



Roots Television, first noted in the Winter 2007 issue of this newsletter, is an online television program featuring family history programming. Programs offered on **Roots Television** are mostly free and cover a wide range of topics. Recent additions include interviews with Cyndi Howell's, creator of **CyndisList**, and John Grenham, author of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* as well as programs on tracing medical heritage, Spanish parish records, preserving family pictures, research how-tos and many other topics.

Roots Television recently introduced **RootsTube**, allowing genealogists to upload their own videos to the website. To upload genealogy-related footage to **RootsTube**, go to www.rootstelevision.com/index.html

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 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

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 with the subject **subscribe** and **SUBSCRIBE genealogy** in the body of the message.

VPL website: www.vpl.ca

**Fine Arts and History
Vancouver Public Library
350 West Georgia Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 6B1
Telephone: 604-331-3716
E-mail: vplhis@vpl.ca**