



Vancouver Public Library

# Genealogical Resources

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

Issue #24 - Fall 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](http://ipac.vpl.ca)

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

### General

**Family History Cultures and Faiths: How Your Ancestors Lived and Worshipped**  
by Michael Gandy, 2007  
929.1 G19f

**Genealogy Online for Dummies**, 5th ed.  
by Matthew Helm, 2008  
929.10285 H47g3

### Ontario

**1891 Census of Lyndoch Township, Division K, Renfrew County, Ontario**  
The Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group, 2007  
Ref. 929.3713 R41L98u 1891

**1891 Census of Matawatchan Township, Renfrew County, Ontario**  
The Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group, 2007  
Ref. 929.3713 R41M42u 1891

### Quebec

**Microfilms et Microfiches Disponibles Aux: Archives National du Québec : Catalogue de Vente**  
Archives Nationales du Québec, 2006  
Ref. FRE 929.3714 M6265f

**Recensement de 1851. Volume 2, Paroisse La-Prairie-de-la-Madeleine**  
Société de Recherche Historique Archiv-Histo, 1995  
Ref. FRE 929.3714 R29srb

### British Isles

**The Beginner's Guide to Tracing Your Roots: An Inspirational and Encouraging Introduction to Discovering Your Family's Past**, rev. and updated 2nd ed.  
by Diane Marelli, 2007  
929.341 M32b

**The Female Line: Researching Your Female Ancestors**  
by Margaret Ward, 2003  
929.1 W26f

**Inventory of the Books of the General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland**  
by James R. Reilly, 2000  
929.3415 R36r

**Rooted in Scotland: Getting to the Heart of Your Scottish Heritage**  
by Cameron Taylor, 2007  
929.3411 T23r

## **Tracing Your Yorkshire Ancestors**

by Rachel Bellerby, 2006  
929.3428 B44t



### **Australia**

#### ***Finding Families: The Guide to the National Archives of Australia for Genealogists***

National Archives of Australia, 1998  
929.394 N17f



### **Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library**

#### **Canadian Church Records**

**Thursday, November 13, 2008**

**2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Canadian church records are an important source of genealogical information, especially for years prior to the beginning of civil registration. Learn more about these records and how to find them at this free workshop.

Registration is required, and begins on Wednesday, October 29th. To register, please call **604-331-3716**, or come to Fine Arts and History on Level 6 at the Central Library.

#### **Key Websites for Canadian Genealogy**

**Wednesday, December 17, 2008**

Explore two extremely useful websites for researching our Canadian roots: the Canadian Genealogy Centre and the Library and Archives Canada.

Registration is required, and begins on Wednesday, November 26th. 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**

#### **Asians, First Nations and the History of the Vote in B.C.**

**Tuesday, October 28, 2008**

**7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

Until the mid-20th century Asians and First Nations were not allowed to vote in B.C. Please join us for a panel discussion about the history of exclusion and how it has impacted British Columbians.

Registration is required. To register by e-mail: [info@cchsbc.ca](mailto:info@cchsbc.ca)

For more information please contact the Vancouver Public Library at **604-331-3603**

Sponsored by Chinese Canadian Historical Society of B.C.



## **Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland**

#### **Community Names**

**Saturday, October 25**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Surrey Archives

17671 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

Cloverdale, Whalley, Hazelmere, Newton, Sullivan – where did these names come from? This workshop will provide you with a great introduction to Surrey's history by learning about the origins of the names of the places we call home.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please call **604-592-6956**.



## **1888 Lantern Tour of Irving House, New Westminster**

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

Irving House

302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, B.C.

Cost: \$5.00

For more information, call **604-527-4640**

## **Pioneer Profiles**

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Surrey Archives

17671 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

From clearing the land, to herding cattle to New Westminster, early Surrey settlers did not have it easy. Get an in-depth look at some of Surrey's earliest settlers, find out where they lived, why they came and what legacies they left behind.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please call **604-592-6956**.

## **Surrey's Photographic History**

**Saturday, November 15**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Surrey Archives

17671 – 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

Interested in the history of Surrey? You'd be amazed how much you can learn from photographs! Sit back and relax while you're introduced to Surrey's history with a fantastic photograph slideshow featuring some of the Archives' best images.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, please call **604-592-6956**.

## **BC 150! Some of Our History**

**Thursday, November 27, 2008**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mission Genealogy Club

Meeting Room - Fraser Valley Regional  
Library, Mission Branch

33247 – 2nd Avenue, Mission, B.C.

For more information, e-mail

**MissionGen@gmail.com**



## **Land Ahoy! You See Land, but Where are the Records?**

**Saturday, November 29, 2008**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Surrey Public Library, Cloverdale Branch

5642-176A Street, Surrey, B.C.

Charge: \$10.00

Land records for your ancestors can be a wonderful addition to the family history collection. But what kind of information is on a deed or a petition? Can land information help with genealogy mysteries? Who holds the records and how do we obtain them? It depends! Finding land titles and related documents can range from a simple task, to a challenging, time consuming misadventure. Make a good start by attending this session before pursuing the documents.

Please pre-register by calling **604-598-7328**, or by emailing **genealogy@surrey.ca**.



## **'Looking at New Westminster's Beginnings' Exhibit**

**Running until December 31, 2008**

New Westminster Museum & Archives  
302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, B.C.

From Simon Fraser's first voyage down the River in 1808 to the 1858 discovery of gold on the river this exhibit explores British Columbia's early years. It will take you on a journey through half a century of BC history, before the onslaught of thousands of men and women who came seeking their fortune. The journey ends in 1858 with the establishment of British Columbia and New Westminster as its capital the following year. Exhibit closes December 31, 2009.



## **Canadian Voices**

**Thursday, January 22, 2009**

**7:00 p.m.**

Mission Genealogy Club  
Meeting Room - Fraser Valley Regional  
Library, Mission Branch  
33247 – 2nd Avenue, Mission, B.C.

**For more information, e-mail**

MissionGen@gmail.com

## **Also Noted...**

### **8th Annual British Institute**

**October 6-10, 2008**

Salt Lake City, Utah

More information, see:

- [www.isbgfh.org/institute.html](http://www.isbgfh.org/institute.html)

### **30th Anniversary Seminar**

**Saturday, October 25, 2008**

**8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

Victoria Genealogical Society  
UVic Cadboro Commons Building –  
Arbutus/Queenswood Room  
Victoria, B.C.

**Speakers:** Penny Christensen and Dave Obee

For more information, visit:

[www.victoriags.org/08sem.htm](http://www.victoriags.org/08sem.htm)

### **2008 Irish Studies Symposium**

**November 3-4, 2008**

Ottawa, Ontario

More information, see:

- <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazrr/gazrr152.htm>

### **Ryan Taylor Memorial Lecture**

**Saturday, November 1, 2008**

Ottawa Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society  
Ottawa, Ontario

Speaker: Rick Bell, member of the Central  
Ontario Network for Black History

More information, see:

- [www.ogsottawa.on.ca/genmeetings.php](http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca/genmeetings.php)



### **Genealogy in London: A Workshop About Searching for Londoners and Other British Ancestors**

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society  
Toronto, Ontario

More information, see:

- [www.torontofamilyhistory.org/london.html](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/london.html)

**The Underground Railroad**  
**Thursday, November 13, 2008**  
Niagara Peninsula Branch, Ontario  
Genealogical Society  
Thorold, Ontario

More information, see:

- [www.ogs.on.ca/niagara/events.php](http://www.ogs.on.ca/niagara/events.php)



## **Hands-On Early Ontario Land Records**

**Saturday, November 15, 22, 29, 2008**  
Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society  
Toronto, Ontario

More information, see:

- [www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html)

## **Vancouver Public Library Launches B.C. Directories Database**



Digital versions of historic British Columbia directories are now available on the Vancouver Public Library website through a project funded by the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre's B.C. History Digitization Program. The online collection comprises over 60 directories spanning the period from 1860-1901. Coverage includes province-wide directories and directories for individual municipalities. The directories can easily be browsed using the detailed table-of-contents at the left of each screen. To access this free new resource, go to [www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php](http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php)

## **News from ancestry**

Ancestry Library Edition, produced by Generations Network, is available for free at all Vancouver Public Library locations. During the past few months, there have been several exciting new developments at Ancestry.

### **Database of Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935 Launched**

In mid-September, Ancestry launched an online database of Canadian passenger lists, spanning the years from 1865-1935. The database, which documents the arrival of passengers at Canadian ports, contains more than 7.2 million names. The passenger lists have been fully indexed and digitized, allowing users to search the database and link to images of original records associated with individual passenger names. Canadian ports of arrival represented in the database include Halifax, Saint John, North Sydney, Quebec City, Montreal, Vancouver, Victoria, and even some East Coast U.S. ports where some passengers arrived before proceeding overland to Canada. The main immigrant nationalities were British, Irish, Ukrainian, Russian, German, Chinese and Polish.



### **1891 Canadian Census Records Now Online**

In July Ancestry launched the first comprehensive electronic database of Canadian 1891 census records ever released. The database includes 4.5 million names and is fully searchable. Entries are linked to images of original census records.

## News from Library and Archives Canada

### Drouin Records Indexed by Name

The Drouin Collection is named for Gabriel Drouin, a notary and genealogist who in the 1930s microfilmed registers kept by Roman Catholic, Protestant and Jewish congregations in Quebec. The millions of records in the Collection are a major source of information on births, marriages and deaths in Quebec from 1621-1967.

In 2007, online access to digitized records of the Drouin Collection became available through a partnership between Ancestry and the Université de Montréal. In its initial phase, the database could only be searched using broad parameters such as place and denomination. Recently, however, a nominal index has been added, allowing users to search for individuals by name. This major improvement enables much more efficient searching.

Related Ancestry databases provide similar access to Quebec notarial records and to records from French-Canadian parishes in Ontario, the Maritimes and New England.



### Ancestry to Host London Records

Ancestry has secured exclusive online rights to the largest collection of London records in existence. The agreement between Ancestry and the City of London permits Ancestry to digitize and host key records from the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts collections. The collections include parish records, school records, electoral registers, wills, lists of workhouse labourers and a comprehensive list of those granted "Freedom of the City." While the project is expected to take several years, the first records are expected to launch in early 2009. Parish records, Poor Law documents and London school admissions will be prioritized.

### Second World War Service Files: Canadian Armed Forces War Dead

Over 1,159,000 men and women served in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II. While most records associated with these individuals are sealed due to privacy restrictions, service files of 44,093 individuals who died between 1939 and 1947 are open to the public. The collection covers those killed in action, those who subsequently died of injuries related to service, and those who died as a result of accident or illness while in service.

A new database created by Library and Archives Canada facilitates access to these files. Searches of the database provide information about each individual including age, date of birth, date of death, rank, unit, force, and service number. In some cases extra information, such as the names of the deceased individual's parents and / or spouse is also included. Using information located in the database, genealogists can order photocopies of actual service files from Library and Archives Canada.

The database is available at [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/001056-130-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/001056-130-e.html)



### **New 1881 Canadian Census Database**

In August, Library and Archives Canada launched a new online database, [Census of Canada, 1881](#). While LAC already provides access to online images of the 1851, 1901, 1906 and 1911 censuses, the records can only be searched geographically. The new 1881 census database is the first LAC census database to include an index allowing users to search for individuals by name.

In making the announcement, Library and Archives Canada acknowledged the important contributions of Statistics Canada and FamilySearch. FamilySearch is the non-profit organization based in Salt Lake City, Utah that created the original index to the 1881 Canadian census and made it available to Library and Archives Canada.

The database is available at [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/)

### **1916 Census Released**

In August, Library and Archives Canada released records of the [1916 Census of the Western Provinces](#). The records cover the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. A similar census had taken place 10 years previously in 1906.

Records of the [1916 Census of the Western Provinces](#) have not been digitized and are currently available only on microfilm (32 reels). The microfilms have not been acquired by the Vancouver Public Library, but VPL card holders can borrow the reels using VPL's interlibrary loan service. To identify the microfilm you need, see the [List of microfilm reel numbers for the 1916 census](#) on the Library and Archives website: [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.008-e.html](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.008-e.html).

The VPL online inter-library loan form is available at: <http://vpl-rss.vpl.ca/>

### **Doukhobor Family Research Initiative**

Library and Archives Canada and Jonathan J. Kalmakoff, creator of the Doukhobor Genealogy Website ([www.doukhobor.org](http://www.doukhobor.org)), have announced a strategic partnership aimed at making more resources available to Canadians interested in online Doukhobor family research.

The project will initially focus on identifying Doukhobor archival material available at LAC and creating a thematic guide. The guide will be available online at no cost. A specialized web page for Doukhobor genealogy will also be developed and hosted on the Library and Archives Canada website.

## **Deeply Rooted: The Story of One Senator's Battle to Preserve the Historic Census Results**

Senator Lorna Milne is well-known to the Canadian genealogy community for her tireless efforts to secure uncensored public access to historical Canadian census records. She and a small but determined group of Canadians were ultimately successful in reversing a decision by the Government of Canada to permanently withhold access to historical census records. The process of securing public access to post-1901 census records took seven years and involved many obstacles and delays. The full story is recounted by Senator Milne in a book recently published online, [Deeply Rooted: The Story of One Senator's Battle to Preserve the Historic Census Results](#). To access the account, go to <http://sen.parl.gc.ca/lmilne/data/reports/Deeply%20Rooted.pdf> (PDF)



## Toronto Star Historic Photographs

Almost 52,000 historic photographs from the Toronto Star newspaper are available online at [www.torstarphotos.com](http://www.torstarphotos.com). The database comprises images representing life in Toronto for the past century. Searching and previewing photographs is free. Preview images include a large "Toronto Star" watermark but prints without the watermark can be purchased in a wide range of sizes.



## Hidden Gems

The Ontario Photographers List (1851-1900)  
Ref. 770.9713 P55o

The Ontario Photographers List. Volume 2. (1901-1925)  
Ref. 770.9713 P55oa

The Western Canada Photographers List (1860-1925)  
Ref. 770.9712 P55w

Although not intended specifically for genealogical purposes, the above series may be useful when attempting to connect ancestors and places in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Yukon Territory. Compiled from municipal and business directories, each title lists the names and operating dates of thousands of professional photographers and photographic studios in hundreds of villages, towns and cities.

The series offers a possible solution for genealogists faced with unlabelled, undated photographs. If the name of the photographer or studio appears on the photo, it may be possible to associate it with a specific location and range of dates . . . perhaps taking the

researcher one step closer to positively identifying that elusive ancestor.

## Record Search Pilot -



As described in previous issues of this newsletter, FamilySearch continues to develop its free online collection of indexed genealogical data with links to digitized images of original records.

New and updated collections include:

- 1870 U.S. Census
- Germany Baptisms, 1700-1900 (no images)
- Germany Marriages, 1700-1900 (no images)
- Spain, Avila Diocese, Catholic Parish Records, 1530-1935
- Vermont Probate Files, 1791-1919

Collections in the process of being added or updated include:

- 1860 U.S. Census
- Cheshire Church of England Records, 1538-1907
- Quebec Catholic Parish Registers, 1621-1900

FamilySearch also continues to welcome the participation of volunteer indexers in this ongoing project.

To view and search all record collections or find out more about participating as a volunteer, go to:

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/>





## Free Online Access to Griffiths Valuation

Online access to Griffith's Valuation, a detailed record of people and property in mid-19th-century Ireland, is now available free of charge. The information had previously been available for a fee on subscription websites, but funding from the Library Council of Ireland has now made the records widely available at no cost.

Due to the mass destruction of 19th-century Irish census records, Griffith's Valuation is a very important "census substitute." The Valuation covers the period from 1847-1864 and documents every landholder and householder in the 32 counties of Ireland.

The new database includes a fully searchable index. Results are linked to image scans of the original document and to maps showing the location of each landowner or householder.

[http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv\\_start.php](http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv_start.php)



## Deceased Online

[www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com)

A new central database of statutory burial and cremation data for the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland provides access to records that were previously available only through registers held separately by burial authorities and crematoria.

Launched in July 2008, Deceased Online comprises records dating from 1837 onwards and can be searched for free.

Summary results include the name of the deceased and date and site of burial. The availability of extra information is also indicated. Users can view this "extra information" by purchasing credits. Extra information may include:

- Full register details
- Grave details and other burials in the grave
- Burial/cremation register scan
- Photograph of a Memorial
- Photograph of a Grave
- Map(s) to show the position of a grave or memorial
- Scan of a Book of Remembrance page

The site is new and so far includes only data associated with the **Kent & Sussex Crematorium** and the **Tunbridge Wells Borough Cemetery**.

## Putting Your Name on the Map



[www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/](http://www.publicprofiler.org/worldnames/)

A new site set up by geographers at University College London claims to "provide a remarkable tool for tracing family history and also a powerful aid for governments to keep track of intra-national and international migrations."

Using Worldnames, the user can type in a surname and generate a global map showing the frequency-per-million of the surname in 26 countries. Clicking on the name of an individual country displays more detailed results-by-country which can be further filtered to show results for individual administrative divisions such as counties and provinces. The site also shows the Top Countries, Top Regions, Top Cities, and Top Forenames associated with the selected surname.

The database contains 1.8 million individual surnames and covers most of Europe and Anglophone countries as well as Japan, India and Argentina. Most of the rest of the globe is unrepresented.

## GENUKI Church Database

[www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb/](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/churchdb/)

GENUKI is one of the best-known and most popular websites for British Isles genealogical research. Although its information resources are organized primarily according to a geographical hierarchy, the site includes many added features. One useful such feature is the GENUKI Church Database. Using the database, genealogists can enter a place name or Ordnance Survey grid reference and optionally specify a county name. Results show the names of churches in descending order beginning with the one closest to the specified location. Results can also be displayed on a Google map.

Users are invited to contribute further details about each church, including exact location, name of the street or road on which is located, details as to whether it is operational or has closed, pictures, year of foundation, URL (if available), and information about its graveyard.



## More Parish Records at Findmypast.com



The popular British subscription website **findmypast** recently expanded the coverage of church registers in its Parish Records Collection. Available records now cover the period from 1538-2005 and include baptism, marriage and burial data.

For more information see [www.findmypast.com/](http://www.findmypast.com/)

## Online Courses for British Research

The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (ISBGFH) and the British company Pharos Teaching and Tutoring have launched a series of online courses for those researching their roots in the British Isles. Through this initiative, the ISBGFH hopes to make educational opportunities available to those who are unable to travel to Salt Lake City, Utah to attend the British Institute presented there annually by the Society.

Courses are open to anyone and are available at varying fees, approximately £45 (CAN \$85) each.

More information:

### International Society for British Genealogy and Family History

- [www.isbgfh.org](http://www.isbgfh.org)

### Pharos Tutors

- [www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)

## Jewish Genealogy



For genealogists researching Jewish ancestry, FamilySearch has created a new page of **Jewish Family History Resources**. While the page includes many resources of common interest to all genealogists, it also offers resources of particular interest to Jewish genealogists. These include a new in-depth guide to **Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors: From the United States to Europe, 1850-1930** and a recently updated **Jewish Genealogy Research Outline**. To access the Jewish Family History Resources page, look for the link on the FamilySearch homepage at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

## Encyclopedia of Genealogy Updated

The online **Encyclopedia of Genealogy** has been revised and has a new look-and-feel. The **Encyclopedia**, created by well-known genealogy blogger Dick Eastman, is similar to the famous **Wikipedia**, comprising freely available content created by its readers. To view the updated Encyclopedia and contribute your own expertise and experience, go to [www.eogen.com/](http://www.eogen.com/)



## DNA and Genealogy

Many genealogists use DNA technology to trace their roots - and in some cases, bore through brickwalls. Genealogy-related DNA research is based on "Y" DNA which is passed down from father to son, with only minor mutations occurring every few generations. If two males carry identical Y-DNA, this means that they have a common male ancestor. The challenge then is to identify this common male ancestor using documentary evidence.

The following article published in a leading genealogy magazine about a year ago and available at the Vancouver Public Library uses informative case studies to explore and illuminate the subject of Y-DNA-based genealogical research:

- Bockman, Jeffrey A. "Breaking a Brick Wall: Drilling Down for DNA", Everton's Genealogical Helper, September/October 2007, p. 28-35.

This magazine is available on Level 6 at the Central Branch of the Vancouver Public Library.



The following book also delves into this subject:

- Pomery, Chris. DNA and Family History: How Genetic Testing Can Advance Your Ancestral Research, 2004.  
929.1 P78d

# Blogs and Podcasts for Genealogists

Blogs and podcasts are among the new Internet tools that can be used to share and distribute genealogy information.

## Blogs

A blog is a website, typically maintained by an individual, that is regularly updated with entries that are posted in reverse chronological order. Some blogs offer news and commentary while others are similar to personal diaries.

The following genealogy-themed blogs are an excellent way of keeping up with what's new in the genealogy world. Most have new postings every day.

### Ancestry Insider

<http://ancestryinsider.blogspot.com/>

An unofficial blog written by an **Ancestry.com** and **FamilySearch** "insider."

### Anglo-Celtic Connections

<http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/>

Maintained by John Reid of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, this blog is a useful source of news and other information for Canadians with roots in the British Isles.

### Dear Myrtle's Genealogy Blog

<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

Touted as an essential source of breaking news and insight.

### Genealogy Insider

<http://blog.familytreemagazine.com/insider>

An upbeat, informative blog by Diane Haddad, editor of Family Tree Magazine.



## Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

<http://blog.eogn.com>

A popular independent blog providing news, announcements, reviews, and discussion of important genealogical issues.

You can also create your own blog using one of several free online services (to find such a service, Google "**create blog**"). Blogs have a variety of potential uses for genealogists. They can be used, for example, to share information and track progress on research projects related to specific surnames or locations. Genealogical associations can also use blogs to provide members with running updates on upcoming events and other activities.



## Podcasts

Podcasts are a widely used method of disseminating music, information and educational material in audio format ("vodcasts" using video are also becoming popular). Podcasters create programs which are essentially pre-recorded shows that are then made available on the Internet.

Anyone can access and download a pod from its website to his or her computer. From there, the file can be transferred to an MP3 player (the Apple family of MP3 players, including the famous iPOD are possibly the best known MP3 players, but many other brands are available).

Once the podcast has been loaded on the MP3 player, the user can listen to it at his or her convenience - while riding the bus, working out, or lying on the beach.

Most podcasts are free and for those who don't have an MP3 player, it is possible to listen directly at the pod's web address or burn the program onto a CD that can be played in a car or on a portable CD player.

Genealogists with MP3 players can take advantage of a variety of interesting and useful genealogy podcasts. Popular genealogy podcasts include the following:

**Genealogy Guys Podcast**  
<http://genealogyguys.com>

**Genealogy Tech Podcast**  
[www.genealogytechpodcast.com](http://www.genealogytechpodcast.com)

**Dear Myrtle's Family History Hour Genealogy Podcast**  
<http://podcasts.dearmyrtle.com/>

**Irish Roots Cafe**  
[www.podcastalley.com/podcast\\_details.php?pod\\_id=39998](http://www.podcastalley.com/podcast_details.php?pod_id=39998)

## Fraudulent Genealogies

For serious genealogists, evidence and proof is of primary importance when establishing the facts concerning one's ancestral line. The process can be rigorous but ultimately satisfying. Others, however, are easily tempted by the prospect of discovering their roots with little or no effort. These individuals are susceptible to opportunists offering products for sale such as family coats-of-arms (a misnomer, as authentic coats-of-arms are issued to individuals, not families) and items purporting to present ancient family lineages.



Although fraudulent genealogy abounds, it is not new. Perhaps its best-known practitioner was Gustav Anjou (1863-1942) who was employed by many families on the East Coast of the U.S. to research their genealogies. His

clients were pleased by the detailed reports he produced concerning their lineages. Anjou's fees were high and he did well. The problem was that he made up some of the facts. Although Anjou genealogies mostly cited documents that actually existed and included the information that he said they did, he sometimes nullified the accuracy of an entire genealogy by including a reference to an invented, uncited document in order to support other connections and linkages that he wanted to make. At the time, Anjou was respected and the results of his tainted work seeped into the collective body of U.S. genealogical research.

Although Anjou committed his errors deliberately, genealogy fraud is sadly often unintentional, especially in the era of online genealogy. Many inexperienced genealogists rush their way through genealogy databases, making linkages between individuals which seem logical but which have not been corroborated and are inaccurate. The results of this "research" are accepted as fact and exchanged with others – often by e-mail – who may similarly pass it along uncritically. Claims of having traced one's family back 7 generations and identified thousands of ancestors after 30 minutes of Internet research are, unfortunately, not uncommon.

Whether such misrepresentation occurs intentionally or otherwise, the lesson is clear for serious genealogists who want to avoid adding fake branches to their family tree. Whatever its source, information should never be accepted at face value. All data should be critically evaluated and verified and wherever possible, reference should be made to original documents.

For additional information on genealogy fraud, past and present, see [www.familychronicle.com/Fraudulent.html](http://www.familychronicle.com/Fraudulent.html)

An interesting article by Dick Eastman concerning genealogy hoaxes is available online at [www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=5362](http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=5362)

You can also Google "**safe genealogy**" to quickly locate an informative article on the same subject by Kimberly Powell.

For further information and advice on how to avoid genealogy fraud and what to do if you are scammed, see "**Pssst . . . Wanna Buy Your Name?**" (**National Genealogical Society - Consumer Protection Committee**) [www.ngsgenealogy.org/comconsumerpsst.cfm](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/comconsumerpsst.cfm)

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/about/details/askaway](http://www.vpl.ca/about/details/askaway) and click on **Chat** (below 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.

**askaway..**  
Real people. Real help. 

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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.

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