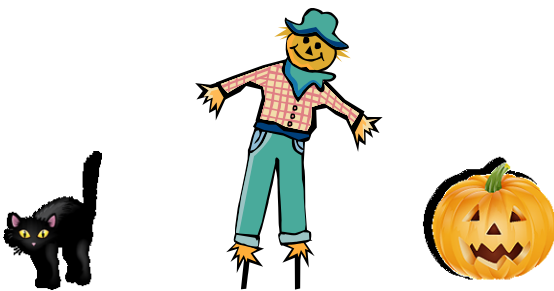# Genealogical Resources

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

Issue #28 – Fall 2009

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

More Dating Old Photographs, 1840-1929
929.1 F1982m

British Columbia

Planning a Genealogical Trip to the Vancouver Area, 2nd ed.
By Jacqueline Haines, 2008
929.3711 V223H1p1

Ontario

Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records, 4th ed.
by Brenda Dougall Merriman, 2008
929.3713 A11M57g4

Newspapers and Genealogy: A Beginner's Guide
by Don Hinchley, 2008
929.3713 A11H6n

Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library

Tracing Your Ancestors in Continental Europe
Tuesday, December 15, 2009
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Alma VanDusen Meeting Room

Get started on researching your Continental European ancestors at this free introductory workshop.

Pre-registration is required and begins on **Tuesday, November 17th.** For more information, please contact Fine Arts and History at **604-331-3716.**

Genealogy in Scotland
Monday, January 25, 2010
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Alma VanDusen Meeting Room

Celebrate Robbie Burns Day by learning how to explore your Scottish roots at this free workshop.

Pre-registration is required and begins on **Wednesday, December 23rd.** For more information, please contact Fine Arts and History at **604-331-3716.**

Other Vancouver Public Library Programs of Interest

Internet Basics
Thursdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2009
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Level 7 Computer Lab

Learn about what's available on the Internet and how to find it. We'll talk about browsers, navigation, and effective searching during this two-hour, hands-on course.

Computer Basics or equivalent experience is required.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, please contact Quick Information Service at **604-331-3603.**

Email Basics
Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24, 2009
6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Level 7 Computer Lab

Set up your own web-based email account and learn the basics of sending and receiving email in this 90-minute, hands-on course. All exercises use free Gmail service.

Computer Basics and Internet Basics or equivalent experience is required.

Pre-registration is required and begins on **Thursday, October 1st.** For more information, please contact Quick Information Service at **604-331-3603.**

Search Smart
Wednesdays, November 4, 18, 25, 2009
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Level 5 Computer Lab

This two-hour, hands-on course will introduce you to the library catalogue and a full-text database and show you search strategies and techniques for using them effectively.

Basic computer skills required.

Pre-registration is required and begins on **Thursday, October 1st.** For more information, please contact Quick Information Service at **604-331-3603.**

Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland

Nikkei Family History Workshops
National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre
6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, B.C.
Charge: $10.00 per workshop

Sharing & Networking
Thursday, October 15, 2009
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Discovering Your Next Steps
Thursday, October 29, 2009
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to delve further into your family history? The Japanese Canadian National Museum is offering two workshops to guide beginner, intermediate and advanced family historians to their next steps. Come to these workshops and benefit from the experience of researchers, historians and writers and apply it to your own personal research.

Please pre-register by calling **604-777-7000 ext. 109**. More information: **www.jcnm.ca/special-events**

Finding Your Roots Tri-Stake Seminar
Saturday, October 17, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Surrey Tri-Stake Centre
6270 - 126th Street, Surrey, B.C.
Charge: $5.00 (lunch: optional)

This annual all-day event will offer workshops on a wide range of topics including DNA and genealogy, digital scrapbooking, Loyalist ancestors, Eastern European genealogy, Family Search and many other subjects of interest to genealogists.

www.findingyourroots.ca

Digging Up the Dead on All Hallows' Eve: Finding Interments, Headstones and Obituaries
Saturday, October 31, 2009
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Surrey Public Library, Cloverdale Branch
5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C.
Charge: $10.00

What better way to spend All Hallows' Eve than learning how to dig up cemetery records, plan a headstone hunting trip, or locate death notices. These records can be very informative, in great demand and one would think, easy to obtain. However, the process ranges from very easy to very challenging.

Join us for this grave research and discover how to unearth burials and memorials.

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

United Kingdom Roots
Saturday, November 14, 2009
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Surrey Public Library, Cloverdale Branch
5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C.
Charge: $10.00

Join us for a session with Chris Longley, president of the Abbotsford Genealogical Society. Chris will share her expertise on researching United Kingdom records, with a focus on England and Scotland – appropriately, on Prince Charles's birthday!

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

Family History Show and Tell!
Saturday, November 21, 2009
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Surrey Public Library, Cloverdale Branch
5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C.
Free

People documenting their family history have produced some amazing creations well beyond the standard binder full of records – quilts, digital collages, cemetery books and 3D artefact frames, for example. This session is an opportunity to showcase your wares, share your ideas, or just drop in and discover new ways to illustrate your own family story. Perhaps you'll find an excellent Christmas gift idea too.

Participants will be given up to 10 minutes to have the floor for *Show and Tell*. A laptop with the Internet and a projector will be available to demonstrate online projects, for example, family history websites and digital collections. Tables will be available to display materials. Do join us and don't be shy – *you don't have to talk if you prefer not to* – just bring your creations for viewing.

Please call **604-598-7328** or email **genealogy@surrey.ca** for more information.
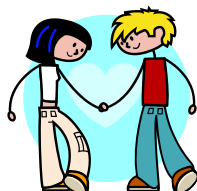

Also Noted...

Dave Obee Seminar
October 3, 2009
Vernon & District Family History Society
Vernon, B.C.

- More information:
  www. vdfhs.com

Relatively Speaking – 2009 Victoria Genealogical Society Seminar
October 24, 2009
Trinity Presbyterian Church
Victoria, B.C.

- More information:
  www. victoriags.org

International Black Genealogy Summit: Reconnecting Lost Links
October 29-31, 2009
Fort Wayne, Indiana, U.S.A.

- More information:
  www.blackgenealogysummit.com

Czechoslovakian Conference
October 14-17, 2009
Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

- More information:
  www.cgsi.org

Digital Images of B.C. Birth Registrations Now Online!

At the beginning of September, FamilySearch's **Record Search Pilot** site launched a new database comprising B.C. birth registration records, 1854-1903. This represents all historical B.C. birth registrations currently released to the public.

While a free searchable online index to historical B.C. civil registration records has long been available on the B.C. Archives website (**www. bcarchives.gov.bc.ca**), the new **Record Search Pilot** database allows users to search by the names of both or either parents, a feature not previously available. Moreover, whereas full registration records – which contain much more information than provided in the indexes – were previously only available on microfilm at the Vancouver Public Library and a number of other repositories, **Record Search Pilot** provides – for the first time – free access to digital images of the records.

Similar databases for historical B.C. marriage and death registrations are currently being compiled.

Record Search Pilot is completely free and is available at **www.familysearch.org**

New British Columbia 1901 Census Database

www.bcgs.ca/1901/1901bc.aspx

The B.C. Genealogical Society has launched an online database of B.C. 1901 federal census records. The database can be searched by **Surname**, **Given Name** and **Birth Year**. Results indicate **Surname**, **Name** (given), **Sex**, **Colour**, **Relate** (relationship to head of household), **Marital** status, **BDate**, **Age**, **BPlace**, **Race**, **Nationality**, **Relig**ion and **Occup**ation.

While 1901 B.C. federal census records are available in other databases, the quality and structure of databases varies, making this a useful alternative source to check for B.C. ancestors.

1916 Census Records

The microfilm version of the **1916 Census of the Prairie Provinces** is now available in Fine Arts and History on Level 6 at the Central Library. These records cover Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

New Ontario Vital Events

The latest release of microfilm indexes to Ontario birth, marriage and death records is now available at the Vancouver Public Library. These indexes cover the following vital events:

- Births, 1912
- Marriages, 1927
- Deaths, 1937

References located using the indexes provide essential information which can be used to order microfilm copies of full original registration records from the Archives of Ontario through interlibrary loan.

While indexes and digital images of most Ontario birth, marriage and death records since 1869 are now available through **Ancestry Library Edition**, records for 1910-1912 births, 1925-1927 marriages and 1935-1937 deaths are available exclusively on microfilm.

News from
ancestry library edition

Drouin Collection Arbitration

In 2007, Ancestry launched a digital version of the Drouin Collection, comprising millions of records from microfilmed registers of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish congregations in Quebec. In 2008, a nominal index was added, greatly improving access to the collection. Now the future of Ancestry's Drouin Collection database is in question. The custodians of the original microfilms, the Institut généalogique Drouin have taken Ancestry to arbitration, citing lack of full and proper indexing of the Drouin Collection as placed online by Ancestry.

In early August, the arbitrating judge sided with Drouin and declared that Ancestry had failed to meet its contractual obligations. Ancestry has 60 days to remedy the situation and will lose its license from the Institut Drouin should it fail to do so.

For now, the Drouin Collection has been taken offline and is not available to Ancestry users.

World War Two POW Records

In late August, Ancestry launched a new online collection of World War II prisoner-of-war information. **UK, British Army Prisoners of War, 1939-1945** comprises over 100,000 records of World War II British and Commonwealth POWs. The records are associated with personnel imprisoned between 1939 and 1945 in Germany, Austria and Poland and were compiled by German military authorities according to the 1929 Geneva Convention, which requires opposing forces to notify each other of captured combatants. The records include many Canadians.

The database can be searched by **First Name**, **Last Name**, **Regiment**, **Camp Location** and **Keyword(s)**. Individual results include **Name**, **Rank**, **Army Number**, **Regiment**, **POW Number**, **Camp Type**, **Camp Number**, **Camp Location**, **Record Office** and **Record Office Number**.

There are no digital images associated with the index.

Jewish Family History Records

Ancestry has expanded its collection of online Jewish family history records. The addition of these new records has been made possible through collaboration with the **American Jewish Historical Society** and the **Routes to Roots Foundation**. The American Jewish Historical Society maintains records that document the American Jewish community in the Americas from the 16th century to the present while Routes to Roots specializes in Jewish research in Eastern European archives.

The new databases include:

- **AJHS Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922**
- **AJHS Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787-1861**
- **AJHS Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674-1860**
- **AJHS Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816-1845**
- **Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878-1934**
- **New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860-1934**

Caribbean Slave Records

In mid-July, Ancestry launched a significant online database collection derived from Caribbean slave records encompassing nearly two hundred years of St. Croix-Virgin Islands history. The database is a product of the **St. Croix African Roots Project**, initiated by Virgin Islands History Associates in 2002 to consolidate records that document the population, families and individuals on St. Croix during the period of Danish rule. The database reflects historical records found in American, Danish and Virgin Islands archives.

The first database in the collection – now available online – is **U.S. Virgin Islands, St. Croix Slave Plantation and Head Tax Lists, 1772-1821**. The database is comprised of digital images and is not indexed. Future documents to be scanned and added will include:

- **Church Records 1744-1917**
- **Emancipation Records 1848**
- **Free Persons of Color Records 1740-1834**
- **Immigration Records 1850-1917**
- **Labourer Lists 1849-1917**
- **Movement of Plantation Workers 1848-1870**
- **Property Inventories 1755-1848**
- **Slave Trade Shipping Records 1749-1802**
- **Vaccination Records 1823-1853**
- **Vital Statistics 1820-1917**

Hidden Gems

Alberta, Formerly the Northwest Territories: Index to Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1870 to 1905, Volume I (1995)
Edmonton Branch, Alberta Genealogical Society
Ref. 929.37123 A33a

The book is a key to two separate collections released by Alberta Vital Statistics in 1989 and held by the Provincial Archives of Alberta (PAA). The first collection, Accession 89.90, comprises birth registrations from 1870 to 1890 (as well as a single 1857 record). Because civil registration was not introduced in the Northwest Territories until 1889, many of the records are delayed registrations. The second collection, Accession 89.440 includes birth registrations from 1898 to 1904 and marriage and death registrations from 1898 to 1905. Entries include **Surname**, **Given Names**, names of **Parents OR Spouse** (if applicable), **Sex**, **Event Type** (birth, marriage or death) and **Date**, **Place** and **Bx-File-Reg**. The latter is a file reference that can be used obtain full birth, marriage or death registration details from the PAA.

Alberta, Formerly a Part of the North-West Territories: An Index to Birth, Marriage, and Death Registrations Prior to 1900 (1999)
Edmonton, Documentary Heritage Society of Alberta in cooperation with the Provincial Archives of Alberta
Ref. 929.37123 A33b

Despite its similar title and scope, this work is complementary to the previous title and does

not provide duplicate information. The book is a key to information in records associated with the first system of civil registration introduced in the Northwest Territories in 1889. Initially, five divisional registrars maintained records but the system expanded until 1897 when a new central registry and second registration system were introduced. The records of the first system were deposited in the Provincial Archives of Alberta although the collection is not complete (for example Calgary marriage records are missing). The information found in this book corresponds to Provincial Archives of Alberta Accessions 89.451 and 93.203. Each entry includes the individual's **Name**, **Associated Name** (if applicable), **Event & Date**, **Place Registered** and **Reference**. Again, the latter can be used to obtain the full birth, marriage or death registration record from the PAA.

News from the Canadian Genealogy Centre

Canadian Naturalization Records

A new version of the Canadian Genealogy Centre's **Canadian Naturalization 1915-1932** database has been released with the names of 206,731 individuals who applied for and were granted status as naturalized Canadians. References from the database can be used to request copies of actual naturalization records, which are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

The database draws on all naturalization lists published in the Canada Gazette between 1915-1932. The Canada Gazette is a weekly government publication reporting on activities of the Government of Canada. Database entries are linked to digital images of Gazette pages. Details associated with each individual and published in the Canada Gazette typically include:

- Name
- Country of origin or for a wife/child, the relationship to the person being naturalized
- Date that the certificate was issued, or the date that the oath of allegiance was taken
- Occupation
- Residence
- Certificate number and series

While everyone born in the United Kingdom or another Commonwealth country was a British subject and retained that status if they immigrated to Canada, the database is a valuable source of information for genealogists with roots outside the Commonwealth whose ancestors had to apply to become naturalized British subjects.

News from Family Search

Swedish Church Records Project

FamilySearch and **Svensk Arkivinformation**, a division of the National Archives of Sweden, have announced the launch of the largest online indexing initiative undertaken by FamilySearch to date.   The project will engage Swedish volunteers throughout the world to help create a searchable, free online index to historic parish registers of Sweden, encompassing over 400 million names in records spanning a period of 200 years. The project will begin with records from Örebro, Uppsala, and Södermanland counties.

The digital images and indexes will eventually form part of FamilySearch's **Record Search Pilot** suite of databases.

New Records Added to Record Search Pilot

FamilySearch's impressive **Record Search Pilot** site continues to grow as new databases are created and existing ones are updated, offering unprecedented free access to an international range of genealogical data.

New or recently updated **Record Search Pilot** databases include:

Arkansas, U.S.A.
- County Marriages, 1837-1927

Brazil
- Pernambuco Civil Registration, 1889-2003

British Columbia, Canada
- Birth Registrations, 1854-1903

Czech Republic
- Northern Moravia, Opava Archive

Hungary
- Pest-Pilis-Solt-Kis-Kun, Budapest Civil Registration, 1895-1972

Illinois, U.S.A.
- Cook County Marriages, 1871-1920

Mexico
- Chihuahua Catholic Church Records, 1622-1958

Minnesota, U.S.A.
- State Census, 1895

New York, U.S.A.
- State Census, 1892
- State Census, 1905

Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
- Philadelphia Marriage Indexes, 1885-1951

United Kingdom
- England, Cheshire Non-Conformist Records, 1671-1900

Record Search Pilot is available for free
http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch

News from Ontario

Wellington County

The **Wellington County Museum & Archives Virtual History Book Project** was undertaken in 2004 in celebration of Wellington County's 150th anniversary. The project has digitized a collection known as the Tweedsmuir Histories. The Tweedsmuir Histories reflect the efforts of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario, which in the 1920s established a committee for Historical Research and Current Events that encouraged Women's Institutes to compile scrapbooks to record the history of their local community. This laid the groundwork for the Wellington County Tweedsmuir History books collection.

The searchable, digitized books can be viewed online at **www.wcm.on.ca/tweedsmuir/ index.php**

Early Families Project of North Bay, Ontario

In 2006, the University of Nipissing in North Bay, Ontario began to collect the histories of the area's First Families. The oral histories of five families – those of William Milne, Patrick M. Bourke, John William Deegan, John W. Richardson and Robert Rankin – are now available online, reflecting the work of students in collaboration with genealogists from the Nipissing Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

www.nipissingu.ca/icsoh/ currentprojects_earlyfamilies.htm

Online Guide to Research in Elgin County, Ontario

A detailed guide to genealogical research in Elgin County, Ontario is now available online. **Discovering Your Roots in Elgin: A Guide to Genealogical Resources in Elgin, County, Ontario** by James L. McCallum, edited by Jean Bircham, provides detailed information on history, place names, cemeteries, census records, newspapers, church records, vital statistics (other than church records), land records, wills and estate files, directions and maps, assessment and collectors' rolls, voters' lists, organizations, family histories, military records and court records.

The guide is an online version of a published book of the same title available for $12.00 + $1.80 for postage and handling from the Elgin County Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society, Box 20060, St. Thomas, Ontario, N5P 4H4.

www.elginogs.ca/discover/introduction.htm

Brant County, Ontario Digital Collections

A professional archivist has been hired by the County of Brant Public Library to create a digital local history collection for Brant County. The County of Brant Public Library Digital Collections will be an ongoing program that preserves and records historical images and documents to create a comprehensive digital archive of the county's history.

The initial collection to be digitized will be the Capron collection, a set of documents associated with Hiram "King" Capron, founder of the settlement of Paris in Brant County.

Canadian Genealogy & Historical Links are Back

A popular Canadian genealogy and history portal is back after being offline for several years. **Canadian Genealogy & Historical Links** points to almost 1800 databases and now includes a blog. The site has also been re-organized to make the links more accessible. In addition to **National** links, there are separate sections for each province as well as additional categories for **Acadian**, **Archives**, **Census**, **Cemeteries**, **Loyalist**, **Military** and other links. The portal also includes a listing of Personal Pages, as well as a search function and New Listings area.

http://islandnet.com/~cghl

- **Boundary Bay Cemetery (2)**
- **Fort Langley Cemetery (26)**
- **Fraser Cemetery, New Westminster (3)**
- **Gabriola Island Cemetery (9)**
- **Houston Municipal Cemetery (110)**
- **Kelowna Municipal Cemetery – Pioneer Section (87)**
- **Kelowna Municipal Cemetery (113)**
- **Mountain View Cemetery, Duncan (13)**
- **Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver (9)**
- **Musselwhite Cemetery, Abbotsford (9)**
- **Ocean View Burial Park, Burnaby (1)**
- **St. Mary's Anglican Church Cemetery, Duncan (3)**
- **St. Peter's Anglican Cemetery, Quamichan / Duncan (11) ,**
- **St. Peter's Cemetery, Port Alberni (6)**
- **Tofino Cemetery (26)**
- **Ucluelet Cemetery (104)**

Canadian Headstone Photo Project

www.canadianheadstones.com

A new project has been launched with the goal of providing online access to headstone information from every Canadian province as well as the U.S.A. and Ireland.

Each entry in the database includes a picture of the headstone, a transcription and the date that the information was submitted to the database. Notes provide additional information that may be very helpful to genealogists.

Only a limited amount of Canadian material is currently available on the site and volunteers are being sought to participate in the project.

B.C. cemeteries represented and the number of photos / transcriptions added so far include:

Canada's National Cemetery Announced

Beechwood Cemetery has been declared Canada's first National Cemetery and a National Historic Site. The cemetery, Ottawa's largest, was started in 1873 and also houses the RCMP Memorial Cemetery, the National Military Cemetery of the Canadian Forces and numerous soldiers from the Northwest Rebellion of 1885.

The cemetery is planning a reference centre to assist visitors and families researching their roots. Meanwhile, individuals wishing assistance in tracing their family tree can call for an appointment (if extensive research is required, a fee may apply).

Queries can be sent to **genealogy@beechwoodcemetery.com**

Additional information on the cemetery is available at **www.beechwoodcemetery.com**

Irish Census Update

www.census/nationalarchives.ie

1911 census records for all Irish counties are now available on the National Archives of Ireland's free **Census of Ireland 1911** website. With this expansion, the database covers the entire island of Ireland.

The site will be re-developed this fall to include transcription of all data in each household census form, adding information on religion, occupation, relationship to head-of-household, literacy status, marital status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses and child survival.

Records of the 1901 census of Ireland, with full transcription, will be launched in late 2009 – early 2010.

The Army Children Archive (TACA)

www.archhistory.co.uk/taca/home.html

Researching military families can be challenging because of the peripatetic nature of their lifestyles. To use the example of the census – a key source for most genealogists – it can be difficult to know where a family might have been because they were often on the move. At the same time, this flux and change means that the lives of such families were colourful and interesting.

A great deal of military material is now available online but this information often doesn't tell the story of what it was like to grow up in these circumstances. Thus, in late 2007, **The Army Children Archive** was set up to chronicle the lives of military children from the 17th century to the present day. The site has attracted interest from a broad spectrum of family, social, military and educational historians as well as former and current army children and their families, a number of whom have contributed personal information, stories, memories, photographs and reflections. Sections include **Lives & Times** (personal stories), **On the Move**, **Postings**, **Accommodation**, **Healthcare & Hospitals**, **Schooling**, **Memories & Miscellanea**, **Famous Army Children** and more.   The **History Matters** section provides a guide to researching military family history not only in the United Kingdom, but also in India, Jamaica, Malta and other locations.

New York Birth Records
1901-1907 Index
Now Online

www.italiangen.org/NYCBirthsearch.asp

www.germangenealogygroup.com/ NYCBirthSearch.asp

A free online index to New York City births 1901-1907 is now available through the efforts of the German Genealogy Group and Italian Genealogical Group, both of which are international organizations with a strong base in the New York metropolitan area.

The database, available through either of the URLs above, is not limited to those of Italian or German origin and provides the Family Name, Given Name, Month of Birth, Day of Birth, Year of Birth, Certificate Number, County, and Soundex associated with each individual. Images of the original records associated with the database are available on microfilm at the New York City Municipal Archives or the Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Searches may be done by Last Name, First Name or Initial, and Certificate Number and limited by date and / or county (Kings, Queens, Bronx, Manhattan or Richmond).

Spotlight on… Canadian Parliamentary Divorces

Prior to 1968 divorces in Canada were granted only by private acts of the Government of Canada. Although there are records of these private acts back to 1840, just five divorces were granted by the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada prior to Confederation in 1867.

Canada Gazette Notices

Between 1867 and 1968, a person who wished to obtain a divorce was required to place a notice of intent to petition the government for an Act of Divorce in the Canada Gazette, Part I and in two newspapers in the district or county where the petitioner resided. The notice had to appear for a six-month period.

Divorce notices were published weekly in the Canada Gazette, Part I, which is available at the Vancouver Public Library (Ref. 328.7 C211).

To search for a divorce notice in the Gazette, first request the relevant annual index at the information desk on Level 6. When you receive the index, look under **ADVERTISEMENTS - APPLICATIONS TO PARLIAMENT**. Divorce notices are listed with corresponding page numbers, e.g.
Banfield, Eric   3438

Once the index has confirmed that a divorce notice was published during the corresponding year, you can request the annual volume(s) of the Gazette (Ref. 328.7 C211) and look up the notice on the page cited.

Acts of Divorce

Petitions to the government for Acts of Divorce included details such as the date and place of the marriage and events which had caused it to founder. In cases of adultery or bigamy, a co-respondent was often named. If the petition was eventually allowed, Parliament would pass an Act of Divorce nullifying the marriage. Between 1867 and 1963, a transcript of the Act was published in the annual Statutes of Canada. Between 1964 and 1968, details were published in the Journals of the Senate of Canada.

Information from the transcripts published in the annual Statutes of Canada and later in the Journals of the Senate of Canada has been compiled into a database under the title **Divorce in Canada (1841-1968)**. The database is available free of charge on the Canadian Genealogy Centre website (**www.genealogy.gc.ca**). It also includes details of the five divorces granted prior to Confederation and published in the Statutes of the Province of Canada and Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada.

Each divorce listed in the database includes Name of Petitioner and Name of Spouse as well as a Source, Reference and Citation to one of four sources.

In most cases, the source is available at the Vancouver Public Library. Usually, it is the annual volumes of the Statutes of Canada in which the divorce acts was published. To locate the act, ask for the relevant annual volume(s), of the Acts of the Parliament of the Dominion of Canada. (Ref. 345.7 C21a) at the information desk on Level 6 at the Central Library. When you receive the annual volume(s) the Citation will be the number of a specific chapter (act) within the volume. For example, Reference 1889, Citation 110 refers to Chap.110 in the annual statutes for 1889. The same process can be used to locate divorce acts published in the earlier Statutes of the Province of Canada.

If the source was the Journals of the Senate of Canada, these can be consulted at the Vancouver Public Library, although the information published in the Journals is much briefer than what appears in the Statutes. To locate divorce records in the Journals of the Senate, ask for the relevant annual volume of the Journals of the Senate of Canada (Ref. 328.7 C21js) at the information desk on Level 6 at the Central Library. When you receive the annual volume, look at the table of contents at the front to locate the index to "Annulments and Dissolutions of Marriages." Search the index to find the person in whom you are interested (in the case of women, look for both the maiden and married surname). The following is an example of a reference from the 1964-1965 Journals of the Senate:

Walker, Murray Hutchison
- **Petition, 636; – reported, 644; adopted, 659.**
- **Resolution 521; – presented, 659; adopted, 665**

In the above example, 636 and 521 are numbers assigned to the Petition and Resolution. The remaining numbers represent the page numbers in the Journal on which the information relevant to the divorce appears.

If the source is the Journals of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Canada, these are not available at the Vancouver Public Library but can be consulted at the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University. Divorce acts listed in the Journals or in the other three sources cited above can also be ordered from Library and Archives Canada.

Additional Information

Hugh Armstrong's Genealogy Site includes a section on **Canadian Parliamentary Divorces, 1926-1946** with a detailed overview of the history of divorce in Canada (see the **Introduction**). The site also has an **Index**, mainly based on the Canada Gazette and Statutes of Canada but it is only a nominal listing, with no further references or information.

www.cangenealogy.com/armstrong/index.htm

British Columbia GenWeb includes summaries of **Orders Issued in Divorce and Matrimonial Causes, 1877-1931** by the **Victoria [B.C.] Supreme Court Registry.**

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canbc/ vic_divorce/vic_div.htm

Genealogy Word Search Puzzle

Find and circle these genealogy-related words in the puzzle below:

Canada	Citation	Confederation	Database
Dissolution	Divorce	Gazette	Government
Index	Marriage	Newspapers	Nominal
Notices	Parliament	Petition	Petitioner
Reference	Search	Source	Spouse
Surname	Transcript		

R	N	P	S	P	S	G	I	N	D	E	X	C	A
E	O	E	O	A	E	O	S	N	I	E	N	I	O
F	M	T	U	R	A	V	N	N	S	P	N	T	I
E	I	I	R	L	C	E	D	E	S	E	T	A	I
R	N	T	C	I	A	R	I	W	O	T	U	T	N
E	A	I	E	A	N	N	V	S	L	I	S	I	R
N	L	O	I	M	A	M	O	P	U	T	P	O	G
C	O	N	F	E	D	E	R	A	T	I	O	N	A
E	N	P	A	N	A	N	C	P	I	O	U	U	Z
N	P	E	S	T	C	T	E	E	O	N	S	R	E
D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E	R	N	E	E	T	T
P	I	C	R	T	R	A	N	S	C	R	I	P	T
N	O	T	I	C	E	S	U	R	N	A	M	E	E
M	A	R	R	I	A	G	E	S	E	A	R	C	H

Google for Genealogists – 1: Search Engine Tips

Google (**www.google.com**) is the Internet's most popular search engine. Although it doesn't focus specifically on genealogy or family history, Google's mission **"to organize the world's information and make it universally available and useful"** means that it has a great deal to offer the many genealogists in its global audience.

The most basic use of Google is to enter and execute a search strategy using the input box on the Google home page. When creating a search strategy, very slight changes in how it is structured can dramatically affect your results. For example, a search for **Thomas Lockerby genealogy** finds 117,000 matches, while **+Thomas +Lockerby +genealogy** narrows results to 7740 and **"Thomas * Lockerby"** genealogy finds just 3 matches.

So how can you search Google more efficiently to find the most genealogically useful links? Understanding Google commands and operators is a good first step.

Google Commands and Operators

QUOTATION MARKS (" ")
Quotation marks retrieve results in which **exactly the same string of characters** occurs as appears inside your quotation marks and in **exactly the same order and proximity.** The following are examples of how quotation marks can be used in a Google search to narrow results:

> **"Archibald Wilson"**
>
> **"Wilson, Archibald"**
>
> **"Archibald Wilson" Ontario**
>
> **"Archibald Wilson" AND "Mary Featherstone"**

WILDCARD (*)
The wildcard operator directs Google to find results that include any character or string of characters that occur in place of the asterisk. Thus, a search for "**Archibald * Wilson**" will pull in pages on which the following character strings occur:

> **Archibald Duncan Wilson**
>
> **Archibald D. Wilson**
>
> **Archibald Wilson**

OR (|)
The OR operator locates **any** record in which words in the query appear. This may be useful if a name has frequent variants, for example:

> **Lindon OR Linden OR Lyndon OR Lynden**

The pipe symbol (|) may be used instead of OR.

NOT (-)
This is a negative operator which directs Google to exclude any results which contain the specified word or phrase. The negative operator is a **single hyphen**. No space should appear between the negative operator and the search term. The negative operator is useful if you are searching names that have other common meanings or associations, e.g.

> **Halifax -nova -scotia**
>
> **Trudeau family -pierre -elliott -prime -minister**

PLUS (+)
The plus-operator instructs Google not to stem search terms. Stemming occurs when Google locates not only the exact word entered but also related words. For example, if the search word is **die**, Google stemming also finds web pages in which the word **dies** or **died** appears. If you use the plus-operator, this does not happen. For example, a search for **"Archibald Wilson" +bakery** will <u>not</u> pull in pages on which the word **baker** or **bake** appears.

TILDE (~)

The tilde sign is used to locate synonyms for a specific key word. For example, the query below will retrieve web pages on which the word **genealogy** appears as well as pages on which the phrase **family history** is seen.

"Archibald Wilson" ~genealogy

Top Tip

While the operators described above may be combined with search terms in almost limitless ways, genealogists should at a minimum always use the search strategy demonstrated in the example below when searching for an ancestor in Google:

"Archibald Wilson" OR "Wilson, Archibald" OR "Archibald * Wilson"

Sample Strategies

. . . searching for Richard Robertson of Cheshire, England (not Cheshire, New Hampshire):

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
(83,200,000 results)

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
~genealogy
(84,200 results)

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
+genealogy
(15,400 results)

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
+genealogy cheshire
(441 results)

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
+genealogy cheshire
-"new hampshire"
(112 results)

"Richard Robertson" OR "Robertson, Richard" OR "Richard * Robertson"
+genealogy Cheshire
-"new hampshire"
(58 results)

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** 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**