



Vancouver Public Library

Genealogical Resources

An occasional newsletter of the
History & Government Division
Vancouver Public Library

Issue #2 - September 2002

Recent Additions to the Collection

Items listed below without a REF. designation may be borrowed. Call 604-331-3603 to place a hold, or place your hold online at www.vpl.ca REF. items must be used in the library.

1881 Canadian census of B.C. [No.] 187, New Westminster, Subdivision B-North
indexed by Lorne W. Main
(REF.929.3711 M22in)

[British Columbia cemeteries list]
published by the B.C. Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, 2001
(REF.929.5 B8621c)

The complete beginner's guide to genealogy, the Internet and your genealogy computer program
by Karen Clifford, 2001
(929.10285 C63c)

Emigrants and expats: a guide to sources on UK emigration and residents overseas
by Roger Kershaw, 2002
(REF.929.341 K41e)

Family and local history handbook, 5th ed.
published by Genealogical Services Directory, 2001
(REF.929.341 G32)

Family names and family history
by David Hay, 2000
(929.4 H61f)

The genealogist's computer companion
by Rhonda R. McClure, 2002
(929.10285 M12g)

A genealogist's guide to discovering your English ancestors: how to find and record your unique heritage
by Paul Milner, 2000
(929.342 M65g)

A genealogist's guide to discovering your female ancestors: special strategies for uncovering hard-to-find information about your female lineage
by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, 1998
(929.1 C28d)

A genealogist's guide to discovering your Germanic ancestors: how to find and record your unique heritage
by Chris Anderson, 2000
(REF.929.343 A54g)

The genealogist's Internet
by Peter Christian, 2001
(929.10285 C55g)

Here be dragons, too!: more navigational hazards for the Canadian family researcher: a companion to Here be dragons!
by Althea Douglas, 2000
(929.1 D73ha)

The Public Record Office introduction to the joys of family history: [all you need to start your family search]
by Simon Fowler, 2001
(929.1 F78j)

Researching Canadian land records
by Sharon L. Murphy, 2001
(REF.929.371 M97r)

Researching Canadian religious records

by Ryan Tailor, 2001

(REF.929.371 T24r)

Cemetery transcriptions from the British Columbia Genealogical Society

Dawson Creek, BC and Peace River District cemeteries

recorded by the Peace River Roots Group, [2000]

(REF.929.5 D27b)

Mountain View Cemetery: index of monumental inscriptions

1997

(REF.929.5 M928h)

Surrey Centre Cemetery, Surrey, B.C.: monumental inscriptions, office records

[Margaret "Dolly" Hannay, publication chairperson], 1998

(REF.929.5 S96h)

Upper and Lower Nicola cemeteries: Nicola Valley, BC

compiled by Pamela J. Hambrook, 2000

(REF.929.5 N63h)

Genealogy Workshops

The History and Government Division offers free genealogy workshops. Fall topics and dates are as follows:

- **Getting Started in Genealogy**
Saturday, September 14,
9:00-11:00 a.m.
- **Genealogical Resources at the Vancouver Public Library**
Thursday, September 26
1:30-3:30 p.m.
- **Chinese-Canadian Genealogy**
Saturday, November 9
9:30-11:00 a.m.

To register, please call 604-331-3603 and ask for the History Division. Participants should be

familiar with basic computer operations, such as using a mouse, etc.

B.C. Genealogy and History Day

The Vancouver Public Library will be hosting its second annual B.C. Genealogy and History Day on **Saturday, November 2, 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m.** In addition to displays featuring a wide variety of local genealogy and history groups, there will be workshops on genealogical and historical topics. It's all free, so mark your calendar now!

Pre-Confederation Marriage Records

The History Division has received a new microfilm resource of interest to B.C. researchers: **Pre-confederation marriage records, 1859-1872**. This resource comprises about 800 records of marriages that occurred in the Colony of British Columbia and the Colony of Victoria during the time period indicated. Surname and place-of-marriage indexes are provided at the beginning of the reel.

Ontario Vital Events

1905 birth records, 1920 marriage records, and 1930 death records were due to be released this year. However, a labour disruption at the Archives of Ontario earlier this year has delayed the production and sale of the microfilm records. When they become available, we will post a message on our website.

New Booklet from the National Archives of Canada

The National Archives of Canada has produced the 14th edition of its perennially helpful publication, **Tracing Your Ancestors in Canada**. The revised version is 48 pages long, and covers topics including Published Sources, Census Records, Military and Naval Records,

Loyalist Sources, Aboriginal Peoples, Records of Citizenship and Naturalization and much more. Free copies may be requested by calling the Genealogy Reference Desk at the National Archives, toll-free 1-866-578-7777.

1901 Census

Genealogists can now access the 1901 census on the National Archives of Canada website. The database consists of scanned images of the entire census – much like viewing the microfilm on your computer screen. There is no nominal index, but it is possible to narrow your search geographically. Access the site at: http://www.archives.ca/02/020122_e.html It is strongly recommended that you use Internet Explorer when accessing this database.

Post-1901 Census

As noted in the last edition of this newsletter, there is a public debate surrounding the release of post-1901 Canadian census data. To date, no resolution has been reached on the issue. For more information, please visit the Post-1901 Census Project website at: http://www.globalgenealogy.com/Census/Index_f.htm

Canadian Genealogy Centre - 2003

The Canadian Genealogy Centre will go online in early 2003 – the result of a partnership between the National Archives of Canada, the National Library of Canada, the Department of Canadian Heritage, and a network of partners, including user groups from the genealogical community. The Centre will provide a unique point of access to Canadian genealogical resources on the Internet, offering its clients authoritative content, research tools and other services. <http://cgc-ccg.archives.ca>

Hudson Bay Company Reunion

The Lower Fort Garry Volunteer Association (Manitoba) is attempting to locate and contact the descendants of Hudson Bay Company employees who settled in the Red River Settlement or who worked specifically out of Lower Fort Garry. A reunion is slated for the summer of 2005. Descendants are encouraged to contact the Chair of the 2005 Reunion Committee:

- Barbara Gessner
5491 Highway #9
St. Andrew's, Manitoba
R1A 2W8

Learning Genealogy Online

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, in partnership with the Faculty of Information Studies, University of Toronto offers a series of Web courses that lead to Certificates in Genealogical Studies. Specializations include Canada, the U.S., England, Ireland, and Germany. Scotland and Denmark will be available shortly. More information at: www.genealogicalstudies.com

Chinese-Canadian Genealogy

In May, the Vancouver Public Library offered its first workshop on Chinese-Canadian Genealogy. The program was presented as part of Asian Heritage Month, and One Book, One Vancouver, a city-wide book club based on *The Jade Peony* by Wayson Choy.

The program was very popular, and was repeated in August. It will be offered again in November – see **Genealogy Workshops** above for full details.

Chinese-Canadians have a long history of immigration and settlement in British Columbia. The first Canadian-born Chinese person, Won Alexander Cumyhow, was born in Port Douglas in 1861.

However, although anyone searching for ancestors may hit a stone wall, there are special obstacles for those interested in tracing their Chinese-Canadian roots. Many relate to social conditions and government policy of the time. Prejudice and discrimination was open, pervasive and official, and it affected the way in which the presence of Chinese immigrants and settlers was documented. For example, individuals were often recorded in simply as "Chinaman" in sources such as census returns.

The government also imposed all kinds of legislative controls on the Chinese population. For example, in 1875, the Chinese were removed from the voters' list, and in 1884, they were barred from acquiring Crown Land. As a result, the Chinese do not appear in sources such as land records. And whereas civil registration in B.C. began in 1872, Chinese births, marriages and deaths were officially excluded until 1897. Moreover, the head tax charged to Chinese migrants made it virtually impossible for them to bring their families, making it very difficult to reconstruct family groups from census returns and other records.

Chinese nomenclature also creates challenges for Chinese-Canadian family historians. The number of Chinese surnames is relatively small, and many individuals share the same name. As well, many took a "Western" name in addition to their Chinese name. Furthermore, cultural and linguistic barriers may have resulted in errors on the part of officials who recorded information in birth, marriage and death registrations and other records.

Despite the considerable obstacles, however, there are number of sources of potential use to Chinese-Canadian genealogists, including the *General Register of Chinese Immigration*, which recorded detailed individual information about Chinese immigrants arriving in Canada between 1887-1949. Information about Chinese people is also found in sources such as civil registration records, census returns, and cemetery lists.

Genealogical Chuckle

Family historians with access to the LDS 1881 British census on CD-ROM might want to take a moment to look at the family of Robert Goodman, born in Maidstone.

The entry is bizarre and almost certainly fictional. Robert Goodman is age 52, while his wife, Cecily is 97. Goodman's occupation? "International Playboy", handicap: Lunatic. His son Robert – just 12 years younger – is described as a "Ponce". As for the servants in the household – there are many, all of with far-flung birthplaces, such as Timbucktoo, Afghanistan, and "Penal Colony, Australia".

It's been speculated that pranksters who had access to the records – perhaps in the 1950s – found a blank page in the original enumerators' returns, and decided to put their own hand in. We'll probably never know. However it got there, the entry was duly transcribed with the rest of the census.

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Vancouver Public Library Genealogy Web Pages:

<http://www.vpl.ca/branches/LibrarySquare/his/Genealogy/Genealogy.html>

