

## BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVES GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH RESOURCES CHECKLIST

### PUBLISHED MATERIAL

**Family histories.** Look in the library catalogue under the name of the family, e.g. Dunsmuir family.

**City and provincial directories.** Most directories are available on self-serve microfilm reels or as bound photocopies. An inventory is available in the Reference Room.

**Telephone directories.** Complete call slips showing the city and year required. An inventory is available in the Reference Room.

**Crockford's Clerical Directory** (Anglican)  
1868, 1896, 1910-1914, 1916-1918, 1920-1922, 1923-1927, 1929-1936, 1941, 1947-1950, 1953-1968. [NW 283 C938 + year](#)

**Clergy List** (Anglican)  
1882, 1911-1916. [NW 283 C629 + year](#).

**Navy Lists** 1806-1975, with gaps. Many years have quarterly issues. [NW 359 M326 + year](#).

**Army and Militia Lists** 1789-1976, with gaps. Annual, half-yearly and monthly issues. [NW 355 M789 + year](#)

**Canadian Expeditionary Force**, battalion lists, 1915-1917. [NW 355.3 C212 + battalion number or unit name](#).

**Mercantile Navy Lists and Maritime Directory** 1857-1957 with gaps. [NW 359 M553 + year](#).

**Voters Lists**, 1874-1993. [NW 324.1 B862 \(Voters list\) + year + electoral district](#). An inventory is available in the Reference Room. *NOTE: Voters lists less than 25 years old are restricted.*

**Government gazette**, 1859-1860, 1863-1980. For Vancouver Island and British Columbia. Includes appointments, land purchases, licences, etc.

- **Indexes:** [NW 320.05 B862 index + year](#)
- **Government Gazette** (V.I. & B.C.), 1859-1860. [NWs 320.05 V223 + year](#)
- **Government Gazette** (V.I.), 1864-1866. [NWs 320.05 V223g + year](#)

- **British Columbia Gazette** 1863-1980. [NW 320.05 B862 + year + page number](#) [from index].

**1881 Census, Vancouver Island**  
[NW 317.1 C215 1881](#). Also available online at [vihistory.ca/content/census/census.php](#)

**1891 Census, Victoria**  
[NW 317.1 C215 1891](#). Also available online at [vihistory.ca/content/census/census.php](#).

**Canadian Who's Who**  
1910, 1917, 1936-39, 1948-90.  
Call number: [NW 920 C212 + year](#).

**Annual Report of the Public Schools** (Dept. of Education), 1872+. May include names of teachers.

- *Public Schools Reports* self-serve microfilm [D-31](#) (1871-1950).
- *BC Sessional Papers* (self-serve microfilm [D-24](#), [D-25](#), [D-25a](#), [D-26](#) (1872-1982).
- [NW 971.58 B862p](#) (1983-present)

**Annual Report of the Department of Mines**, 1874+. Includes names of miners killed and injured.

- Self-serve microfiche ([D-26](#)), 1874-1878, 1880, 1882-1979.
- *BC Sessional Papers*, 1872-1982 (self-serve microfilm [D-24](#), [D-25](#), [D-25a](#), [D-26](#)).
- [NW 971.35 B862a](#) (1874-1977) and [NW971.35 B862an](#) (1978 +). Indexes: [NW 971.35 B862a](#) (1874-1936, 1937-1953, 1954-1964).
- Online, including indexes, at [www.em.gov.bc.ca/publicinfo/](#) (Annual Report Catalog).

### GOVERNMENT RECORDS

All provincial government records are subject to the *Freedom of Information & Protection of Privacy Act* or other statutory restrictions and may not be accessible without a research agreement.

#### Birth, marriage, and death records

- **Vital events registrations.** All on self-serve microfilm. Consult [online index](#) or microfiche indexes.
  - **Births**, 1872-1903
  - **Marriages**, 1872-1932
  - **Deaths**, 1872-1987
  - **Overseas casualties**, 1940-1945

- **Colonial marriages**, [GR-3044](#), 1859-1872. Certified copies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia marriage records submitted by clergy to the Colonial Secretary. On self-serve microfilm. Use [online index](#).
- **Baptisms**, 1836-1885. [Online index](#) only with information from baptismal registries. The original records remain with the churches.

**Census records.** BC portions only, all on self-serve microfilm. A finding aid and/or [guide](#) is available for each census. The Canadian 1881, 1901 and 1911 censuses are also available online at [www.collectionscanada.gc.ca](#). Only the 1881 census is searchable by name.

- [GR-2017](#). Manitoba and Red River census returns, 1831-1847, 1849, 1856, 1870
- [GR-0469](#). **Canada Census (British Columbia)**, 1881
- [GR-0288](#). **Canada Census (British Columbia)**, 1891
- [GR-2927](#). **Canada Census (British Columbia)**, 1901
- [GR-3261](#). **Canada Census (British Columbia)**, 1911

**Lands records.** See [Lands Records Guide](#) and [Preemption and Homestead Guide](#).

- [GR-0436](#). **Dominion Lands Branch**, 1885-1930  
On self-serve microfilm. Includes applications to homestead in the Railway Belt and the Peace River Block. Use online or hardcopy finding aid.
- [GR-0112](#) and others. **Pre-emption records to 1970**  
Consult Crown Lands binder (No. 15 on top of card catalogues) and nominal card index (incomplete) in Government Records & Historical Manuscripts Catalogue #1 (Old System). The online [Crown Grant Search](#) can be used to locate completed pre-emptions.
- [GR-3096](#). **Crown land grants**, 1869-1930. On self-serve microfilm. Use online [Crown Grant Search](#) or index on microfilm (GR-3097).
- [GR-3139](#). **Crown land grants**, 1851-1878. Use online [Crown Grant Search](#) for 1860-1878.
- [GR-1999](#). **British Columbia. Surveyor of Taxes (Assessment Rolls)**, 1876-1948 (incomplete)

On self-serve microfilm. Consult boxed finding aid to determine taxation district, year and volume, then consult microfilm reel list for microfilm reel number.

### Immigration and naturalization records

- **GR-1547. Canada. Immigration Branch. Central Registry.**  
Self-serve microfilm. Includes files relating to Asiatic and Oriental immigration and child emigration programs; no nominal or subject index. Consult bound finding aid to locate microfilm reel numbers.
- **GR-1739. Canada. Immigration Branch.**  
Ship's passenger lists 1900-1922. See also [NW 929.3711 V645](#) (Victoria ships' passenger lists, 1858-1861 arrivals).
- **County Court and Government Agencies.**  
Naturalization applications and records from County Court registries and Government Agency offices. Search the online textual records index for "naturalization" to find these types of records.

**Wills and estates records.** See separate [Wills](#) and [Probates](#) research guides.

- **GR-1417. Indexes to Victoria probate files and B.C. probated wills** 1861-1981. On self-serve microfilm reels B01990, B11790 to B11794.
- **GR-1052. Probated wills** 1861-1939 and **GR-2009. Probated wills** 1946-1981. On self-serve microfilm. Use indexes (GR-1417) and finding aids to locate will and reel number.
- **Probate case files**, 1861-ca. 1992 (selected court registries). GR-1417 can be used for Victoria probates and to identify where a probate was filed if a will existed. There are nominal lists for several registries, especially for the smaller ones and to 1950 for the larger ones. See research guide, and online and hardcopy finding aids.

### Other records

- **GR-1372. Colonial Correspondence**  
On self-serve microfilm. Letters to the colonial governments of B.C. and Vancouver Island, 1849-1872. Consult the card index, then use the finding aid to convert F[ile] number to a self-serve microfilm reel

number. Note that the index is incomplete (files 1 - 1212a (A - Na) only).

- **Coroner's records**, 1859-1970. See [guide](#) and Binder 7A on top of card catalogues. The main nominal index for inquests between 1879-1937 is self-serve microfilm reel B07895; the chronological register is microfilm reel B07894. Indexes from 1938-1970 are on self-serve microfiche. NOTE: Inquests and inquiries after 1909 are restricted and must be reviewed prior to release.
- **Court records.** Records of civil and criminal proceedings ca. 1849-1980s. See "Court Records Guide" (Binder 7B) on top of card catalogues. NOTE: Some court records can only be searched by staff.
- **GR-3255. Divorce orders.** 1935-1983. On self-serve microfilm. See [GR-3254](#) for index, 1901-1983. For individual court registry divorce records see Binder 7 on top of card catalogue. See also [Divorce Guide](#).
- **Health care records.** Mainly patient case files for provincial institutions such as Essondale, Tranquille, and Woodlands. Consult with the Duty Archivist for access requirements.
- **British Columbia Provincial Police**, 1858-1950. Includes personnel records, correspondence, license applications. Consult Binder 12 on top of card catalogues. Some records are restricted.
- **GR-1489. Confederation Centennial Committee 1967** and **GR-1490. B.C. Centennial '71 Committee.** Records are applications for Pioneer Medallions which include genealogical information. See finding aid.

### PRIVATE PAPERS

**Church registers of baptisms, marriages and burials**  
Check catalogues under church name (e.g. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church); place name (e.g. Victoria, BC. - Christ Church Cathedral); and subject headings "REGISTERS OF BIRTHS, ETC." and "RELIGIOUS RECORDS". NOTE: many religious denominations and orders have their own archives.

**Family papers.** Diaries, correspondence, etc. Check catalogues under the family name.

**Family trees.** The Archives holds only a few. Check manuscript and library catalogues under the family name.

**MS-0700. Frederick William Laing, "Colonial Settlers on the Mainland of British Columbia"** (typescript). On self-serve microfilm reel A00819(1).

**MS-0467. Alexander Begg collection.** Includes three volumes of questionnaires distributed to settlers in the North West Territory in 1884-1885. On self-serve microfilm reels A01267 and A01268.

**Hudson's Bay Company records.** Most are in the HBC Archives ([www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/](http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/)). Use the old manuscript card catalogue as well as the online textual records index for BC Archives holdings.

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Newspaper and Clippings Index

Index to newspaper articles and clippings files on microfilm 1858-1900, 1910s-1982 self-serve microfiche. Search under family name or subject. Asterisked (\*) articles can be found in clippings files on microfilm; for all other references you must retrieve self-serve newspaper microfilms (arranged by place of publication) and locate article by date, page number and article title. Some newspaper/clipping index items refer to Provincial Archives Scrapbooks, 1901-1944, (self-serve microfilm reels D-22).

#### Photographs

The self-serve Photo Reference Room contains envelopes of photographs organized by family (Portrait Files). These may be individual portraits or group pictures, as well as photographs of residences (dwellings).

#### Artist and Photographer files

See reference staff. Lists are kept at the Reference Desk.

#### Sound recordings

Search the online sound recordings database and catalogue for oral history interviews about or of individuals.

**Mailing Address:** Access Services, BC Archives, 675 Belleville St., Victoria, BC V8W 9W2

**Reference Room:** 655 Belleville St., Victoria, BC

**Phone:** (250) 387-1952 **Fax:** (250) 387-2072

**E-mail:** [access@www.bcarchives.bc.ca](mailto:access@www.bcarchives.bc.ca)

**Web site:** [www.bcarchives.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca)

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