

BC Archives
Genealogy Research Checklist

The following is a checklist of records that may assist in your genealogy research. For more detailed information about the resources below, see our comprehensive *Genealogy* research guide on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).

PUBLISHED MATERIALS WITHIN THE BC ARCHIVES LIBRARY

- Family histories** Search the [BC Archives Library](#) using family surname.
- Cemetery listings** Search the [BC Archives Library](#) with the truncated keyword cemeter* together with location or by the name of the cemetery. Database of internments also available via [BC Cemetery Finding Aid](#).
- City and provincial directories** Inventories available in the reference room. Also available online from [Vancouver Public Library](#) and [Internet Archive](#).
- Telephone directories** Inventory available in the reference room.
- Crockford's Clerical Directory** (Anglican) 1868, 1896, 1910-1968, with gaps [NW 283 C938](#)
- The Clergy List** (Anglican) 1882, 1911-1916 [NW 283 C629](#)
- The Navy list** 1806-1975 [NW 359 N326n](#)
- The Royal Navy list** 1879-1916 [NW 359 R888r](#)
- The Mercantile Navy list and maritime directory** 1857-1977 [NW 359 M553](#)
- Army list** 1789-1976 [NW 355 M789](#)
- Annual volunteer and service Militia list of Canada** 1866-1925 [NW 355 C212](#)
- Defence forces list (Canada)** 1928-1939 [NW 355 C212d](#)
- Canadian Expeditionary Force** [NW 355 C212](#) For digitized CEF personnel files visit [Library and Archives Canada](#)
- Who's who in British Columbia** ca. 1930-1953 [NW 920 W628b](#)
- Edgelow's who's who in British Columbia** 1969 [NW 920 W628b 1969](#)
- Who's who in who's whos** An index to biographical dictionaries of British Columbians [NW 920 W628m](#)
- BC voters lists** 1874-1993, with some gaps [NW 324.1 B862](#). See *Voters' lists* inventory on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).
- The Canadian parliamentary guide** 1862-1912, 1973 [NW 328.71 C214a](#)
- Canadian parliamentary guide** various years [NW 328.71 C214](#)
- The British Columbia gazette**, 1859-1860, 1863-1980 [NW 320.05 B862](#) Also available online from 1859-1985 via [Internet Archive](#).
- Public accounts of British Columbia** 1880-1997 [NW 336.711 B862p](#). Also available within the *BC Sessional Papers*, available online via [UBC Open Collections](#).
- Annual Report of the Public Schools** (Dept. of Education) 1872-1945 May include names of teachers [NW 371.0171 B862](#).
- Annual Report of the Department of Mines** 1874-1959 Includes names of miners killed and injured [NW 971.35 B862a](#). Also available within the *BC Sessional Papers*, available online via [UBC Open Collections](#).

VITAL EVENT REGISTRATIONS

- Registrations of births (after 120 years), marriages (after 75 years), and deaths (after 20 years)** Search via the [Genealogy Database](#)
- To order registrations that were not microfilmed or are more recent, contact [Vital Statistics](#).

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

- Divorce orders (1877-)** See *Divorce Records* guide on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#) or use our [Divorce order reproduction form](#).
- Coroners' inquiries (1859-1970) and coroners' inquests (1859 to 1967)** See *Coroner's Records* guide and *Coroner's Index 1859-1939* on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).
- GR-1372 - Colonial correspondence, 1852-1872** All records have been digitized and can be searched online by year and last name or consult the card catalogue within the reference room to search by subject.
- Probate case files (1859-2000) and wills (1861-1980)** See *Probate Case Files* and *Wills* guides on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).
- Court records of civil and criminal proceedings (ca. 1849-1980s)** Includes orders, judgments, and cause books and some case files and minute books. See *Court Records* guide on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).
- Health care records** Mainly patient case files for provincial institutions such as Essondale (Riverview), Tranquille, and Woodlands. Access restrictions apply. Contact privacy@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca to request possible access.

Land records

- GR-3139** – Crown land grants, 1851-1878
- GR-3097** – Crown land grants, 1869-1930
- GR-3096** – Crown land indexes, 1869-1930
- GR-3140** – Crown land auctioneers' agreements, 1899-1914
- GR-0436** – Land settlement records for Railway Belt and Peace River Block, 1885-1949
- GR-1999** – Property tax assessment rolls, 1876-1948 (incomplete)
- GR-0112** – Crown land pre-emption records, 1859-1971
- BC government [Historic Crown Grant Search](#) An online index of Crown Land grant records (incomplete)
- Also see *Land Records* and *Pre-emption and Homestead* guides on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#).

Immigration and naturalization records

- GR-1547** - Central registry of the Immigration Branch, 1873-1968
- GR-1739** – Immigration Branch ship's passenger lists, 1900-1922
- The British Colonist, Victoria, Vancouver Island, 1859-1860: Victoria, ship's passenger departures, 1859-1861* [NW 929.3711 B862d](#)
- Victoria ships' passenger lists, 1858-1861 arrivals* [NW 929.3711 V645](#)
- Passenger lists, 1865-1922. Available online via [Library and Archives Canada – Passenger Lists](#)
- Home children [juvenile emigration], 1869-1932. Available online via [Library and Archives Canada – Home Children](#).

British Columbia Provincial Police records

- GR-0055** - Superintendent of Provincial Police correspondence inward, 1891-1910. Includes a list of constables' names and stations.
- GR-0091** - Provincial Police personnel records, 1858-1863; 1894-1950. Consists of personnel records including applications, oath books, pay lists, and nominal rolls. Some records are restricted.

Centennial pioneer medallion records

- GR-1489** - Pioneer medallion application forms, 1966-1967. Fully digitized.
- GR-1490** - Pioneer medallion application forms, 1970. Fully digitized

PRIVATE RECORDS

- Church registers of baptisms, marriages, and burials** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) and the old manuscript (Old MS) card catalogue within the reference room by church name (e.g., St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church) or subject (e.g., "registers of births", "religious records"). Visit [Memory BC](#) to search for other BC church record holdings.
- Family papers** Search by family name for diaries, correspondence, and family trees via the [BC Archives Collection](#) and the Old MS card catalogue within the reference room.
- [MS-0700](#) - Notes on Colonial farm settlers on the mainland of British Columbia [1858-1871], 1939.
- [MS-0467](#) – Letterbook [March 1894] and questionnaires [distributed to settlers in the North West Territory 1884-1885], 1884-1894. Includes one volume completed by women settlers.
- Hudson's Bay Company records.** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) and the Old MS card catalogue for "Hudson's Bay Company". Visit the [Hudson's Bay company archives](#) at the [Archives of Manitoba](#) for additional records.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Photographs, paintings, drawings, and prints** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Graphic Material" within the General Material Designation drop-down menu.
- Sound recordings** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) for sound recordings and oral history interviews. Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Sound Recording" under General Material Designation.
- Moving images** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword for archival film and video records. Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Moving Images" under General Material Designation.
- Maps and plans** Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword for maps, plans, and architectural plans. Filter results by clicking on Advanced Search and selecting "Cartographic Material" under General Material Designation.
- Newspapers** See the *BC Newspapers* inventory on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#) for a list of microfilmed newspapers or search online:
 - [BC Historical Newspapers](#) (1859-1995)
 - [British Colonist](#) (1858-1980)
 - [Victoria Daily Times](#) (1884-1944)
 - [ProQuest](#) for access to *The Province* (1894-2010), *The Times Colonist* (1884-2010), and *The Vancouver Sun* (1912-2010)
- Vertical clippings files (ca. 1930-1981)** Contain newspaper articles and other records about noteworthy individuals or subjects. Search the *Vertical File Index* on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories webpage](#)

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- Census records** Available online after 92 years via [Library and Archives Canada - Censuses](#)
- Newspapers at the Legislative Library of BC** Historical BC newspapers, bound or on microfilm. Search their [catalogue](#) or see their [Guide to historical newspaper holdings](#).