



Vancouver Public Library

Genealogical Resources

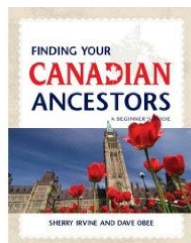
An occasional newsletter provided by
Fine Arts and History
Vancouver Public Library

Issue #26 - Spring 2009



VPL Genealogy Contest!

Explore 12 free sources of online Canadian genealogical data. Answer twelve questions correctly and enter a draw to win a copy of the new book, ***Finding Your Canadian Ancestors***, an excellent comprehensive guide to Canadian genealogy by Sherry Irvine and Dave Obee.



Contest ends May 15th

For more information or to enter online, go to
www.vpl.ca/find/details/cigc_main

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.

Canada

Names of Emigrants: From the 1845-1847 Records of James Allison, Emigrant Agent at Montreal

Ontario Genealogical Society. Ottawa Branch. Irish Research Group, 1994
Ref. 929.3713 A11N1o

British Columbia

Boothroyd & Inkasaph Cemeteries: Boston Bar, BC, Canada

by Joan Blakeborough, 2007
Ref. 929.5 B63b

Ontario

Townships of the Province of Ontario, Canada: A Complete Index of the Townships in all the Counties and Districts

by Muriel Gartner, 2007
Ref. 929.3713 A11G24t1

United States

Secrets of Tracing Your Ancestors

by W. Daniel Quillen, 2009
929.1 Q67s1

British Isles

Collins Guide to Scots Kith & Kin: A Guide to the Clans and Surnames of Scotland,

Rev. ed.
by Cherrie Osborne, 2008
929.4 O81s2

Tracing Your Dublin Ancestors, 2nd ed.
by James G. Ryan and Brian Smith, 1998
929.34183 R98g



Tracing Your Kerry Ancestors, 3rd ed.
by Michael H. O'Connor, 2001
929.34196 O18g

Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors
by Margaret Franklin, 2003
929.34194 F83g

Tracing Your Mayo Ancestors
by Brian Smith, 1997
929.34173 S64g

Tracing Your Scottish Family History
by Anthony Adolph, 2008
929.3411 A23c

B.C. Vital Events - Latest Update Now Available!

The latest release of B.C. civil registration records is now available. These records comprise 1933 marriages and 1988 deaths. The newly released records are on microfilm, and are available on Level 6 at the Central Library. The Library also has all previously released B.C. birth, marriage and death records, back to 1872.



Genealogy Programs at the Vancouver Public Library



Getting the Most Out of Ancestry Library Edition

Level 7 Computer Training Room
Tuesday, May 12, 2009
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

This vast website, available free at all Vancouver Public Library locations, offers a wealth of online genealogical data from around the world. Learn more about Ancestry Library Edition and how to search it effectively at this free workshop.

Participants should be familiar with mouse operations and basic Internet searching.

Registration is required. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Fine Arts and History at **604-331-3716**.

Using FamilySearch

Level 7 Computer Training Room
Wednesday, June 17, 2009
10:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

The Utah-based FamilySearch website offers detailed information about the holdings of the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City as well as an increasing amount of free online genealogical data. Learn more about this key resource at this free workshop.

Participants should be familiar with mouse operations and basic Internet searching.

Registration is required and begins Wednesday, May 20. Space is limited. For more information, please contact Fine Arts and History at **604-331-3716**.

Programs Elsewhere in the Lower Mainland

Dave Obee Genealogy Seminar

Saturday, May 2, 2009

10:15 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Abbotsford Genealogical Society
Meeting Room, Clearbrook Library
32320 George Ferguson Way, Abbotsford, B.C.
Charge: \$20.00

Presentations will include:

- The Errors of our Ways
- Newspapers in Family History Research
- Tracing Forward to Find Distant Cousins
- Destination Canada (Immigration)

Pre-registration required. Send cheque to:
P.O. Box 672
Abbotsford, B.C.
V2T 6Z8

Tracing Your Australian Connections: How to Locate an Australian in Your Family

Saturday, May 9, 2009

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Surrey Public Library, Cloverdale Branch
5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C.
Charge: \$10.00

Genealogy Librarian David Berry, working at Cloverdale on exchange from Sydney Australia, will share his expertise on this topic. The session will include a survey of readily available online sources for Australian research, and an overview of Australian history, including convict transportation and immigration and where to find the records.

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

Payment required upon registration.

Also Noted...

5th Tri-Annual International Calkins Family Reunion

April 30-May 2, 2009

Syracuse, New York, U.S.A.

- More information:
Email: minmin@nbnet.nb.ca



From the Printed Page to the Digital Age May 29-31, 2009

Ontario Genealogical Society
Oakville, Ontario

- More information:
www.ogs.on.ca/conference/index.html

Prince George Genealogical Society – Seminar 2009

June 13, 2009

Prince George, B.C.

- More information:
[http://members.tripod.com/
pg_genealogy_society/welcome.htm](http://members.tripod.com/pg_genealogy_society/welcome.htm)





International Convention of Germans from Russia

June 14-21, 2009

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

Medicine Hat, Alberta

- More information:
www.ahsgr.org/convention.htm

Cloverdale Library Collection Orientations

The Cloverdale Branch of Surrey Public Library has one of the most extensive collections of Canadian genealogical materials in Western Canada. Holdings include a wide variety of books and microfilms covering records from the Canadian provinces and territories. To help users become familiar with the collection, the Cloverdale Library offers monthly orientations:

- The first Saturday of every month
- 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Cloverdale Library, 5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, B.C.
- Free of charge
- Pre-registration recommended.
- More information: 604-576-1384 (ext. 6)



Hidden Gems

The McCabe List: Early Irish in the Ottawa Valley

Elliott, Bruce S.

Ref. 929.3713 A11M12e

Based on an important genealogical document discovered by Belfast genealogist John McCabe, The McCabe List is an outstanding resource for those with Irish ancestry in eastern Ontario and western Quebec.

The original list was a petition drawn up by Irishmen working on the first section of the Rideau Canal near Bytown (Ottawa) in 1829. Names were gathered in response to inquiries by a British parliamentary committee exploring whether or not poor families in Ireland might be drawn to Canada if they were offered advances on passage money, land and provisions. The petitioners indicated that they approved the government plan and would be willing to reimburse the cost of having their near relations join them. Each of the almost 700 records includes the signature or mark of the petitioner, their county, parish, and town, village or townland of origin in Ireland, the size of their family, and detailed information on the names and residences of their Irish relatives.

News from the Canadian Genealogy Centre (Library and Archives Canada)

1891 Canadian Census Records Online

In February 2009, the Canadian Genealogy Centre launched its new **Census of Canada, 1891** database. The historical census records are searchable by name and other parameters. Results include PDF and JPEG links to digital images of the original census schedules. The site also provides extensive explanatory information about the 1891 census and detailed Search Help. As the first comprehensive database of 1891 Canadian census records available anywhere, the launch of this new resource is a significant event for genealogists tracing Canadian roots.

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html

“Suggest a Correction” Feature Introduced

Canadian Genealogy Centre databases now include **Suggest a Correction** so that genealogists can submit recommended changes and other revisions. This feature is very useful, given the margin of error typical of historical genealogical records. As experienced genealogists know, mistakes occur at many stages, from the time that the records are actually created until they are transcribed and entered into modern computer databases.

When using Canadian Genealogy Centre databases and studying specific results – for example, the census entry relating to a particular individual – look for the **Suggest a Correction** link at the bottom. Click on it if there is an inaccuracy or discrepancy that you would like to draw to the attention of Library and Archives Canada staff. Clicking on the link generates a form that includes the actual record to which you are referring. This feature makes it very easy to suggest corrections and contribute to improving the accuracy of these important resources.

News from  ancestry.ca

Ancestry is a popular database available to Vancouver Public Library users at all branch locations through Ancestry Library Edition and to home subscribers as Ancestry.ca.

*For more Ancestry news, see also **News from FamilySearch** (below).*



Ancestry Announces Global Project to Preserve Deteriorating Historical Canadian Records

Ancestry has launched the Canadian arm of the World Archives Project. As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, Ancestry and the Federation of Genealogical Societies have jointly initiated a project aimed at creating indexes to genealogical information through the participation of volunteer contributors (for more information see www.ancestry.com/worldarchivesproject)

The first Canadian records to be digitized and indexed as part of this project will be **Ontario, Canada Marriage Registers by Clergy 1896-1948**. The records include about 24,000 names from registrations compiled under the Registration Act of 1896.

Irish Canadian Emigration Records, 1823-1849

One week before St. Patrick's Day, Ancestry launched a series of online records based on a book entitled Irish Emigration to New England Through the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick, 1841-1849 by Daniel F. Johnson. The database comprises 7000 names, fully indexed with original images. The names were found in the papers of two Canadian emigration agents, James Allison and A.J. Buchanan. The records include lists of emigrants, orphan records and other documents. Results are linked to digital images of original documents.

Poor Law Records Database Launched

Ancestry recently launched an important new database of London records. **London, England, Poor Law Records, 1840-1938** comprises many types of records including admission and discharge books of workhouses, registers of individuals in the infirmary, creed registers, school registers, registers of children boarded out or sent to various other institutions, registers of apprentices, registers of lunatics, registers of servants, registers of children, registers of relief to wives and children, registers of inmates, registers of indoor poor, and registers

of deserted children. The records cover the London boroughs of Camden, Islington, Lambeth, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Wandsworth and Westminster. Records are searchable by Borough, Poor Law Union and Keyword. Results are linked to images of original records.

Ancestry secured exclusive rights to digitize and host these and other key records from the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library Manuscripts collections in 2008.

Searchable Indexes to U.K. Birth Records Now Available

A collaborative effort between Ancestry and FreeBMD has resulted in the availability of online access to 134 million entries in the birth indexes of the General Register Office (GRO) in London. Although digital versions of the indexes had been available for some time, searches only retrieved lists of all the pages on which a searched name might appear, requiring a great deal of cumbersome browsing.

The birth indexes are available in two searchable Ancestry databases, and span almost 180 years of British civil registration records, from 1837-2005.

- **England & Wales, FreeBMD Birth Index, 1837-1915**
- **England & Wales, Birth Index: 1916-2005**

Using the new databases, it is possible to search for individuals by name and follow links to digital images of specific pages from the original indexes. The reference associated with each entry can be used to order the corresponding full registration record (online, by telephone or by mail) from the General Register Office, London, U.K.

Similar nominal indexes to marriage and death records are also planned.



British Directories

Ancestry has launched two extensive collections of information from historical British directories:

British Phone Books, 1880-1984

This database comprises 1800 telephone directories from the British Telecom Archives. The directories date from 1880, the year after the public telephone service was introduced in the United Kingdom, to 1984. Almost every county in England is represented and there are also many Scottish, Irish and Welsh directories. Earliest places represented are for Dublin and London. The directories are fully searchable with links to digital images of original directory pages.

U.K., City and County Directories, 1600s-1900s

This database contains almost 8 million entries from British trade directories. The directories provide information on British tradespeople, gentry, clergy, and "persons of note." Tradespeople encompasses a wide range of individuals, from famous entrepreneurs such as Henry Harrod to chimney sweeps and "leech importers." The earliest directory in the collection is The London Directory of 1677 but by 1820, directories were being printed for every county.

U.K. Doctors' Records Online

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the General Medical Council (U.K.), the records of 1.5 million registered medical professionals have been made available on Ancestry. **UK Medical Registers, 1859-1959** includes details of all British doctors who were approved after compulsory registration was introduced to curb quackery.

The online registers can be searched by First Name, Last Name, Publication Year and Keyword. Digital images of the registers include the Date of Registration, Name, Residence, and Qualifications of each individual.

Late 20th-Century U.S. Records Available

Names, addresses, ages and possible family relationships of people who lived in the U.S. between approximately 1950-1990 can now be searched in Ancestry's **U.S. Public Records Index**. The database of almost 535 million names and addresses was built from a variety of city directories and other public records.

U.S. Civil War Databases

In February, Ancestry commemorated the 200th birthday of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln by adding 5 new databases to its Civil War collection. The new databases include:

- **Abraham Lincoln Papers** (approx. 20,000 names)
- **Confederate Applications for Presidential Pardons, 1865-1867** (approximately 15,000 names)
- **Georgia, Confederate Pension Applications, 1879-1960** (approximately 63,000 names)
- **New Orleans, Louisiana, Slave Manifests, 1807-1860** (almost 598,000 names)
- **U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles** (approximately 4.2 million names)



New Jewish Records Online

Millions of Jewish records, including immigration and Holocaust records, are now available through new partnerships between Ancestry and two leading Jewish heritage organizations:

Databases provided in partnership with the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee:

- **Jewish Transmigration Bureau Deposit Cards, 1939-1954** (approximately 59,000 names)
- **Munich, Vienna and Barcelona Jewish Displaced Persons and Refugee Cards, 1943-1959** (approximately 85,000 names)

Numerous databases have also been provided in partnership with JewishGen, including the following:

- **Holocaust: Schindler's Lists** (approximately 2000 names)
- **Jewish Given Name Variations** (reference tool)
- **JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry** (approximately 1 million names)
- **JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database** (approximately 196,000 names)
- **Poland: Jewish Records Indexing – Poland Vital Records Database (Births)** (approximately 563,000 names)
- **Poland: Jewish Records Indexing- Poland Vital Records Database (Deaths)** (approximately 484,000 names)

News from FamilySearch

Canadian Census Indexes Project

In collaboration with Ancestry and with help from volunteers, FamilySearch has launched indexing projects focusing on 1861, 1871 and 1916 Canadian census records. In the case of 1861 and 1871, these projects will provide the only comprehensive access to these records yet available. The indexes will be available for free at www.familysearch.org

New Collections Added to *Record Search*

FamilySearch continues to add new indexes and images to its outstanding free **Record Search** site.

An exceptional new resource is the **Ireland Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958**. This new database covers all of Ireland and includes indexes to Protestant marriages (1845-1958) and to birth, marriage and death indexes for all denominations from 1864-1958 (1959 for Northern Ireland).

Pre-1921 records can be ordered from the General Register Office, Republic of Ireland, Joyce House, 8-11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2, Eire (www.groireland.ie). Northern Ireland birth, marriage and death records (1922 onwards) can be ordered from the General Register Office (Northern Ireland), Oxford House, 49.55 Chichester Street, Belfast, BT1 4HL, Northern Ireland (www.groni.gov.uk)

Other recent additions to **Record Search** include the following records:

Argentina

- 1869 National Census

Arkansas, U.S.

- Marriages [Part 1]

California, U.S.

- San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1835-1931

Canada

- 1861 census
 - Prince Edward Island
 - Nova Scotia
 - New Brunswick

Costa Rica

- Church Records, 1595-1992

Germany

- Burials, 1500-1900

Illinois, U.S.

- Cook County Birth Certificates
- Cook County Death Certificates

Massachusetts, U.S.

- Death Records, 1906-1915

Mexico

- Aguascalientes Catholic Church Records, 1616-1961
- Chihuahua Church Records
- Guanajuato 1930 Mexico Census
- Guerrero – Censo de Mexico de 1930
- Queretaro – Censo de Mexico de 1930

Netherlands

- Births and Baptisms
- Marriages
- Deaths and Burials

New Hampshire, U.S.

- Early to 1900 births

Philippines

- Marriages

South Dakota, U.S.

- 1915 State Census
- 1925 State Census

United States

- 1920 Census
 - Alabama
 - Arizona
 - Arkansas
 - California
 - Colorado
 - Connecticut
 - Florida
 - Illinois
 - Massachusetts
- 1850 Census
 - Alabama and Indian Population
- 1850 United States Census (Slave Schedule)
 - Alabama, Missouri, South Carolina
- 1850 United States Census (Mortality Schedule)
- 1870 Census
 - Kentucky (Part 2)

West Virginia, U.S.

- Births
- Deaths
- Marriages

New Home for Archives of Ontario

The Archives of Ontario is moving to a new site on the Keele campus of York University. The state-of-the-art building will help preserve the province's heritage for future generations.

The new facility is scheduled to open on Thursday, April 2 at 8:30 a.m.

The new address is:

Archives of Ontario
134 Ian Macdonald Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 2C5



Ontario Genealogical Society Call for Papers 2010 Conference

The Ontario Genealogical Society has issued a call for papers to be presented at its 2010 annual conference which will be held on May 14-16 next year. The theme is "Essentials, Innovations and Delights." Proposals are invited for lectures on any aspect of genealogical or social research in Canada and/or countries of origin. Proposals are also invited for special in-depth programs that are being planned on Italian and Dutch ancestry. The deadline for proposals is May 1, 2009. For more information see www.ogs.on.ca/conference2010

All-Obituary Cable Channel Planned

Quebec entrepreneur Gerald Dominique has announced plans to launch "*Je me souviens*," a channel dedicated to broadcasting digital obituaries. The channel will charge a fee to broadcast obituaries, prayers, hospitalization notices and messages of thanks. Dominique has obtained a license from the CRTC and plans to expand the channel to the rest of the country as "Remember the Name." The obituary channel will begin broadcasting by summer 2009. A similar channel, Etos TV, was launched in Germany in 2008 with considerable fanfare.



Canadian Mayflower Descendants

In 2010, the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Judy Swan, the Governor General of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (U.S.), will visit Canada to help celebrate the event.

The Society, which is based in Toronto with colonies in B.C., Alberta, and Nova Scotia runs various activities and maintains a New England research collection at the North York Public Library. It also publishes a newsletter, [Canadian Pilgrim](#).

For more information about the Society, please contact:

Robert W. White (B.C. Colony Regent)
3468 Chesterfield Avenue
North Vancouver, B.C.
V7N 3N3

1911 U.K. Census Update

As reported in the previous issue of this newsletter, public release of 1911 U.K. census records began in early 2009, three years ahead of the originally scheduled release date of January 2012.

At launch, about 80 percent of the records were available. In early April, it was announced that all English counties are now complete. Scanning of Welsh records has commenced and some Welsh data is expected to be available within the next 4-6 weeks.

British Fee-Based Sites - Highlights

Marriage Registers of St. Andrew Holborn, London

The subscription website British Origins now includes indexes to 92,000 names from the marriage registers of St. Andrew Holborn, London, covering the years from 1754-1812. St. Andrew Holborn was one of the largest parishes in London and was subsequently split into five smaller parishes. The records are invaluable for genealogists with ancestors in central London. Some are not available in other key sources, such as the International Genealogical Index and Boyd's Marriage Index.

<http://tinyurl.com/5dpx28>

Non-Conformist Records

Over 600,000 entries from the registers of dissenting churches from the last 200 years have been added to the National Archives website for non-conformist registers.

<http://bmdregisters.co.uk>

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Service Records

Genealogists tracing British naval ancestors who served in World War I can now search a new online resource available on the National Archives website. The new database comprises 40,000 detailed records associated with members of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/rnvr.asp

ScotlandsPeople Centre Opens

One-stop shopping for Scottish family history researchers is now available in Edinburgh. The ScotlandsPeople Centre in Edinburgh is open for business. The new centre on Princess Street represents a collaboration between the General Register Office for Scotland (GROS), the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) and the Court of the Lord Lyon. Thanks to the new Centre, genealogists no longer have to visit each institution separately. For more information, see

www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk



Get-A-Map (U.K. Ordnance Survey)

Free online access to small-scale maps of the U.K. is available from the venerable Ordnance Survey. Entering a place name generates a small map pinpointing the location. Users can then zoom-out to see the location in its broader geographical context.

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite

PRONI Introduces Online Catalogue

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has introduced an online catalogue of the over 1 million items held in its archives. The records can be searched by keyword, accession number and date and in many cases include full transcriptions. The PRONI eCatalogue is available at:

www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/ecatalogue.htm

PRONI also plans to release an online pre-1858 wills database and pre-1900 Ulster directories in the near future.



African-American Collection Launched on Footnote.com

In January, Footnote.com launched a new African-American collection to celebrate Black History Month. More than one million original documents, letters and photos, most digitized for the first time, are now available online in collaboration with the National Archives (U.S.)

- **Service Records for Colored Troops in the Civil War** – Records for the 2nd-13th infantries including enlistment papers, casualty sheets, oaths of allegiance, proof of ownership and bills of sale.

- **American Colonization Society** – Letters and reports relating to this colony established in 1817 for free people of color residing in the U.S.
- **Amistad Case** – Handwritten records of this landmark case beginning in 1839 involving the Spanish schooner Amistad, used to transport illegal slaves.
- **Southern Claims Commission** – Petitions for compensation resulting from the Civil War.

Searching the indexes is free but there is a charge for viewing records. Additional record collections will be made available in coming months.

<http://go.footnote.com/blackhistory>



1914 U.S. County Maps by State

A book entitled Atlas of the World, containing U.S. county maps dated 1910-1914 was discovered while tearing down an old shed. There was no cover and two pages (likely corresponding to Nevada and Washington) were missing. A genealogist named Janie Edwards has scanned the maps and made them freely available on RootsWeb. To access this exceptional free resource, go to:

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shastaca/maps_index.html

Roots Television Now Full Screen

Roots Television is a free Internet-based television channel offering a wide variety of interesting videos on genealogy-related topics. Until recently, the films could only be viewed in a small screen window, but a significant improvement has now made the films available on the full screen.

To view genealogy videos, go the Roots Television site and look for the Browse Videos box with the drop-down arrow at top-right. Click on any item in the menu to display a list of films related to that topic.

Select a film and click on the link to begin play. When the small screen launches, look for square icon with arrows pointing out in four directions. Click on the icon to blow the video up to full-screen.

www.rootstelevision.com



Free Online Tools

The following free online tools are useful for genealogists interested in exploring the context of their ancestors' lives, writing up their own or an ancestor's biography, calculating relationships, or decorating genealogy charts and other items.

www.ourtimelines.com

Enter an individual's birth and death dates and click a button to generate a timeline showing historical events, political leaders, technological changes, disasters and other milestones. Timelines can be customized to include personal dates and events.

Biography Assistant

www.genealogy.com/bio

A structured, navigable list of questions to consider when writing your autobiography or the biography of a living or deceased individual.

Inflation Calculator

www.westegg.com/inflation

An interesting tool that can be used to determine the modern equivalent in U.S. dollars of what your ancestor was paid or paid for various goods and services.



Cousin Calculator, Relationship Chart & Relationship Definitions

www.searchforancestors.com/utility/cousincalculator.html

Enter your own and your relative's relationship to a common ancestor (for example, you are the great-grandchild and your relative is the grandchild). The calculator will determine your relationship to your relative (e.g. first cousins, twice-removed).

Genealogy Graphics

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Woods/5503/contents.htm

Dozens of free genealogy clip arts for use on your own printed and electronic genealogy materials.

Memories Wanted!

For several years, Dr. Gary Pennington, Professor Emeritus at the University of British Columbia, has been collecting stories from people around the world about their childhood play experiences. The goal is to create a broad database that chronicles the play of children over many generations and in different cultures. The information will be useful to people in many fields and will be made available in printed form and on the Internet.

The researchers have developed a detailed questionnaire to guide participants in recollecting their childhood play experiences and the feelings that they had about them. By completing the questionnaire, participants can not only contribute to the project but also create an important record for their own family history records.

Contributions are sought from people of all ages and who grew up anywhere in the world.

For more information and a copy of the questionnaire, please contact:

Dr. Gary Pennington
RR23 2828 Sunshine Coast Hwy
Roberts Creek, B.C., Canada

OR

Faculty of Education
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C.
V6T 1Z4

Telephone : 604-803-9164
E-mail : gazpen@gmail.com



Mass Observation: Recording Everyday Life in Britain

The Mass Observation Project (MO) was a British initiative started in 1937 for the purpose of documenting the lives and thoughts of the general public. Methods used to collect information included employing professional observers who were paid to write what they observed and overheard at public facilities. Another approach was the periodic sending out of questionnaires (“directives”) asking specific questions spanning a wide range of topics. During the Second World War, a special “Crisis Directive” collected information on wartime subjects and asked people to begin keeping diaries.

The MO project continued into the 1950s and was revived in 1981 with new volunteers. Participants are still sent directives about three times a year asking for information on a variety of themes.



The Mass Observation Archives is housed at the University of Sussex and is open to the public for historical research. While the Archive has not been digitized, its holdings are searchable online. Names of diarists and other individuals are suppressed but documents associated with specific locations and years can be identified. Some remote services are available.

Many publications based on the Project’s findings have been produced and provide insight into daily life in Britain.

For more information on the Mass Observation Project, see www.massobs.org.uk/index.htm

Kiwi Records Online

In late February, New Zealand's Ministry of Internal Affairs launched a website providing online access to historical New Zealand birth, marriage and death records.

The site indexes the following New Zealand vital event records:

- Births that occurred at least 100 years ago
- Stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago
- Marriages that occurred at least 80 years ago
- Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago
OR the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

Copies of original registrations may be ordered online for NZD \$20 (approximately CAD \$13) in the case of post-1875 documents, or NZD \$26 (CAD \$17) for pre-1875 records.

To search the online indexes and order records, go to:

Birth, Death and Marriage Historical Records
<http://bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz>

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 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**