

local history. Although these items cannot be signed out of the Archives, visitors are welcome to consult them in the reference room. An index is available on-line through the Archives' [Reference Library](#) page.

The Who's Who publications are a good source for genealogists

Frequently Asked Questions

When did my ancestors arrive in Victoria?

A search through city directories gives an idea as to when a person arrived in Victoria. Passenger lists (see below) and the census records are also useful. Federal immigration records are available through the [National Archives of Canada](#).

Where can I find passenger lists?

In the early days, passenger lists were published in the daily newspaper. These are available at the [British Columbia Archives](#). Certain passenger lists are available on-line at various sites including www.cyndislist.com/ships.htm.

What if my ancestor is not buried at Ross Bay Cemetery?

In 1927, Royal Oak Burial Park became the main cemetery for the Greater Victoria area. In 1932, Hatley Memorial Gardens opened to serve the Western Communities. There are also numerous small church graveyards in Greater Victoria.

How can I get a death notice from the years 1940 to 1984?

After establishing a date of death (check the British Columbia Archives' website [Vital Events](#) database), you can check the newspapers on microfilm at the [Greater Victoria Public Library](#) for death notices.

Useful Resources

BC Archives 655 Belleville St. (250) 387-1952 <http://www2.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca>
Esquimalt Archives 1149A Esquimalt Rd. (250) 414-7100
Saanich Archives 770 Vernon Ave. (250) 475-1775
Oak Bay Archives (250) 592-3290
Victoria Genealogical Society
<http://www.islandnet.com/~vgs/library.html>
Old Cemeteries Society (250) 598-8811
oldcem@oldcem.bc.ca

Contact us

Walk-in address: # 8 Centennial Square
Mailing address: # 1 Centennial Square, Victoria, BC Canada V8W 1P6
E-mail: archives@city.victoria.bc.ca
Website: www.city.victoria.bc.ca/cityhall/archives.shtml
Phone: (250) 361-0375 **Fax:** (250) 361-0394

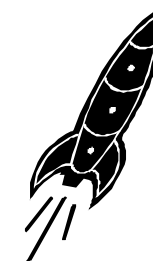
Hours

9:30-12:00 & 13:00-16:00
Monday to Friday
(closed statutory holidays)



City of Victoria Archives

Family History Research Guide



This brochure provides information and resources for those who are interested in exploring their family history. If you have further questions please be in touch with Archives' staff.

Getting Started

City Directories

1860-1997 (not a complete set)

City directories can be a good resource for genealogists. They list residents of the City and environs, their address and often their occupation. Some directories include only the city, while others include Vancouver Island and mainland British Columbia.

City directories are not always accurate.

Death and Marriage Notices

1901-1939 (predominantly)

Obituary and marriage notices from the Victoria Daily Times are available for 1901-1939. Also available at the Archives are obituaries from the Times-Colonist, 1985 to June 1993. The marriage and death notice indexes are available on-line through the Archives'

[Vital Statistics Search](#) page.

Newspaper Clippings

These extensive clipping files date mainly from 1985, but many articles from earlier newspapers are also included. These can be useful for information on prominent residents, ethnic groups, sports etc.



Census of Canada

1881 & 1891

Copies of the 1881 and 1891 federal census data, Victoria section, compiled by the Public History Group at the University of Victoria, are available at the Archives. 1881 was the first year a census was compiled for British Columbia, because British Columbia joined confederation during the previous census year (1871). Census records can often be useful as they show name, marital status, birthplace, birthplace of parents, religion, age, sex, occupation, place of birth, relationship within the household etc.

The Victoria section of the 1901 census is

on-line at :

www.rootsweb.com/~canbc/1901vic_cen/1901vic.htm

Census records have a high degree of inaccuracy. Names may be spelled incorrectly.

Photographs

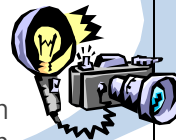
The City of Victoria Archives has an extensive photograph collection from a variety of sources. You can browse through the photograph subject headings both on-line and in person.

Please note that the photographs are not on-line.

Ross Bay Cemetery Records

1872-1982

The information in these records include name, place of birth, place of death, date of death, time of death, plot location, officiating clergy and cause of death. By law, only records older than 20 years are available. Ross Bay Cemetery records are available online through the Archives' [Vital Statistics Search](#) page.



Voters Lists

1908-1992

These records mainly cover the period from 1908 to 1992, although a few earlier ones also exist. These records provide names and addresses.

Voters lists are not always accurate.

Tax Assessment Rolls

1864-1948

Tax assessment rolls consist of assessments made on real property and improvements, compiled for the purpose of determining taxes. Tax assessment rolls show lot size, name of owner, land value and improvements to the land (i.e. house). Further information about these records is available in the City Record Series descriptions ([CRS 150](#)).

When using tax assessment rolls it is useful to have the legal description of the property.

Private Records & Documents

Private records (PRs) consist of documents created in the normal course of affairs by a business, organization or family, such as correspondence, journals, ledgers, photographs, and property files. Private documents (PDs) generally consist of small accumulations of miscellaneous material such as business cards, pamphlets, and postcards. Descriptions of Private Records and Documents are available on-line through the Archives' [Private Records](#) page.

Reference Library

The Archives has a modest collection of publications dealing mainly with Victoria

