

## BC Archives Research Guide

### COLONIAL AND OTHER EARLY BIRTH, BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH RECORDS

Prior to British Columbia becoming a province in 1871, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials were often recorded with churches, with the Colonial Secretary for Vancouver Island, or with the Colonial Secretary for British Columbia. Some of these records can be found at the BC Archives. Church and diocese archives remain the only repositories of many such records, though the BC Archives may hold copies.

Even after 1871, many births, marriages, and deaths were not reported to and/or recorded by the government. Responsibility for reporting events to District Registrars fell primarily on family, clergy, and other individuals and participation varied. District Registrars were generally responsible for large areas of the province. Given the size of the province, scattered and migratory populations, the remoteness of many settlements, and transportation and communication challenges it is not surprising that some events were never reported. Consequently, other types of records can be an important source of information. For example, newspaper may have also recorded births, marriages, and deaths.

The list below is arranged by geographic location and includes records available at the BC Archives. Sometimes deaths that do not appear in the BC Archives [Genealogy Collection](#) can be found within coroner's records. See *Coroners' Records* on our [Guides, Indexes, and Inventories](#) webpage for more information.

Reference number	Title	Location	Dates
Reel 22A(2)	St. Savior's Church registers	Barkerville, Mission, Cariboo District	1869-1906
<a href="#">NW 929.3711 P846</a>	<i>British Columbia vital statistics from newspapers 1858-1872</i>	BC	1858-1872
<a href="#">GR-1328</a>	[Coroners'] inquisitions/inquests	BC	1859-1871
Various	BC Archives Library, search " <a href="#">inscriptions British Columbia</a> "	BC	[ca. 1850+]
<a href="#">MS-1567</a>	Columbia Coast Mission. Parish records	BC	1913-1957
H/D/R57/R57m MS	Marriages performed by Ebenezer Robson	BC	1881-1911
<a href="#">GR-3044</a>	Pre-confederation marriage records (British Columbia (Colony). Colonial Secretary)	Colony of BC Colony of Vancouver Isl	1859-1872
C/B/30.1/1 Book	BC Colonial Secretary marriage licences	BC mainland	1864-1867
<a href="#">MS-2691</a>	Bella Bella Mission fonds (Methodist)	Bella Bella	1880-1924
<a href="#">PR-1962</a>	Augsburg Menighed Church fonds	Bella Coola	1898-1946
C/C/30.41/C19 Book	Registrar marriage declarations and certificates	Cariboo district	1872-1924

Reference number	Title	Location	Dates
Reel 22A(1)	Cassiar records. Marriages and deaths	Cassiar	1880-1913; 1878-1909
C/C/30.41/C27 Book	Registrar. Births, deaths and marriages register	Cassiar district	1878-1933
Restricted reel 31A	Fort Simpson Wesleyan Mission	Fort Simpson	1874-1897
Restricted reel 31A	Fort Simpson Wesleyan Mission. Marriages	Fort Simpson	1874-1912
Restricted reel 22A	Our Lady of Good Hope Church. Baptisms	Fort St. James	1893
Restricted reel 22A	Our Lady of Good Hope Church. Baptisms	Fort St. James	1894-1948
Restricted reel 22A	Our Lady of Good Hope Church. Marriages	Fort St. James	1873-1948
<a href="#">A/B/20/V9 (digitized)</a>	Fort Vancouver: register of marriage licenses	Fort Vancouver	1837
<a href="#">NW 929.3 C363</a>	<i>Catholic church records of the Pacific Northwest: Vancouver, volumes I and II, and Stellamaris Mission</i>	Fort Vancouver	1838-1856
<a href="#">MS-0520</a>	Christ Church Cathedral records	Fort Vancouver, Fort Victoria, Fort Langley, Parish of Victoria	1836-1886
<a href="#">NW 929.5 K15</a>	<i>Kamloops funeral records: index 1888-1974</i>	Kamloops	1888-1974
<a href="#">PR-1954</a>	Kincolith Indian Mission fonds	Kincolith	1867-1935
<a href="#">A/E/R54/R54.6</a>	[Rev. R.J. Roberts] Church register	Kuper Island	1880-1895
<a href="#">MS-2089</a>	St. Mary's (Anglican) Church records	Lillooet	1860-1915
<a href="#">GR-2001</a>	Register of births, deaths, and marriages	Lillooet	1872-1897
<a href="#">MS-1495</a>	Lytton Mission (Anglican)	Lytton	1867-1945
<a href="#">MS-2708</a>	[St. John the Baptist] Parish baptismal records	Masset	1890-1923
<a href="#">MS-2758</a>	William Duncan papers from Metlakatla	Metlakatla	1851-1923
<a href="#">MS-2709</a>	St. John the Baptist. Port Essington and Metlakatla	Metlakatla, Port Essington	1861-1932
<a href="#">GR-2935 (digitized)</a>	[Nanaimo coroner's office] record book	Nanaimo	1866-1905
<a href="#">PR-1964</a>	Wesleyan Methodist Church (New Westminster, B.C.) fonds	New Westminster	1859-1896
<a href="#">PR-1965</a>	Port Essington Methodist Church fonds	Port Essington	1883-1906, 1946
<a href="#">PR-1966</a>	Cowichan Parish fonds	Quamichan	1866-1950
Restricted reel 448A	St. Peter's Church. Baptisms, marriages, burials	Quamichan	1866-1885

Reference number	Title	Location	Dates
H/A/Sa21 MS	St. Stephen's Church. Register of marriages solemnized	South Saanich	1863-1880
<a href="#">PR-1953</a>	St. Peter's Church (Stuart Lake, B.C.) fonds	Stuart Lake	1866-1870
C/AA/30.1A/1 Book	VI Colonial Secretary. Marriage licenses	Vancouver Island	1859-1867
<a href="#">MS-0320.8.1.3</a>	Register of sermons (includes burials and confirmations [...] Church of Our Lord)	Victoria	1872-1886
H/I/C47 MS	Church of Our Lord. Burials from the Reformed Episcopal Church (28 Nov 1874-28 Aug 1912). typescript	Victoria	1874-1912
H/C/F51 MS	First Presbyterian Church. Marriages solemnized. typescript	Victoria	1865
Restricted reel 001A	St. Andrew's Cathedral. Baptisms (1849-99, 1856-58); Deaths (1871-79, 1899-1924); Marriages (1859-66, 1871-1903); Marriages, Baptisms (1864-79)	Victoria	1849-1924
<a href="#">MS-1507.1</a>	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Registers of births, marriages and deaths	Victoria	1870-1881
Restricted reel 20A	St. Joseph's Mission. Baptisms	Williams Lake	1866-1922
Restricted reel 21A	St. Joseph's Mission. Baptisms	Williams Lake	1922-1933
Restricted reel 21A	St. Joseph's Mission. Marriages	Williams Lake	1869-1943
Restricted reel 20A	St. John the Divine Church. Register	Yale	1859-1900
C/C/30.41/1 Book	Registrar. Register of births (18 Nov 1872-15 Mar 1913)	Yale district	1872-1913
C/C/30.41/2 Book	Registrar. Registrar of marriages (28 Nov 1872-5 May 1913)	Yale district	1872-1913