

Internet Historical Research/Genealogy Sites

Compiled by Jeanette Taylor & Jon Ackroyd, January 2015.

Learn How to Use the Internet to its Maximum Advantage

Search Techniques: Learn how to search with Google. It can do more than you ever imagined, <http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com/>

British Columbia Research

- ♣ **BC Archives:** <http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/bcarchives/default.aspx> You can look up vital documents here, and search a list of collections (library, manuscripts, taped interviews etc) to prepare for an in-person visit. Some vital documents are available on line, along with photos & paintings/drawings. Consider buying a \$10 memory stick to cut photocopying costs (at .45 per page), or take a digital camera or device along.
- ♣ **BC Cemeteries:** <http://bccfa.islandnet.com/>. You can name search many of BC's cemeteries.
- ♣ **British Columbia Directories – 1860 to 1890s:** <http://www.ourroots.ca/e/search.aspx?field=Subject&key=British+Columbia--Directories>. These directories are searchable, by subject.
- ♣ **Another searchable source for provincial directories, up to 1955:** <http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php>
- ♣ **The British Colonist, Victoria Newspaper, 1858-1901:** <http://britishcolonist.ca/>. You can search by name or subject, but be forewarned that as with all microfilmed sources such as this the reader will now pick up blurred words so you're not necessarily finding every possible document. Use quotation marks to make your search more specific, or try their advanced search tool. It will provide a long list of citations. You can click on the issue title to get the lines (with some words blurred/inaccurate) where this word appears, to decide whether to open the issue (which can be a slow process). This is a fabulous research tool for Vancouver Island research.
- ♣ **Vancouver Island History Project:** <http://vihistory.ca/>. This site has many resources, many of them searchable on line, from directories and compilations of census data to property tax rolls for Nanaimo.
- ♣ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canbc/bc.htm>. Another general information site that provides online searchable documents such as Voter's Lists.
- ♣ **Union of BC Indian Chiefs:** <http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/ourhomesare/testimonies/> The site gives access to the McKenna McBride reports for all BC reserves prior to WWI.

- ♣ Victoria Daily Standard:
http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=IWHjjKOFINEC&dat=18721220&b_mode=2&hl=en.
Issues from 1870 to 1873 are available. Every page is here, and not searchable. You have to open the pages and do a random search.
- ♣ Comox Valley newspapers, vital events search guide: <http://www.cvfamilyhistory.org/bmd/1895-1932.pdf>
- ♣ List of rural schools in BC, up to 1940: <http://www.viu.ca/homeroom/rural/years.htm>
- ♣ BC History Links: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~canbc/bclinksbot.htm>
- ♣ Colonist Newspaper: <http://web.uvic.ca/vv/>. This is another way to access The Colonist newspaper, with more recent records available as well as the early issues, with notations of all mentions of north Vancouver Island communities and people (as well as elsewhere, by subject).

First Nations History

Department of Indian Affairs Records, 1864 to 1990:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/indianaffairs/001074-100.01-e.php>. Not all records are on this site, but there's a good sampling.

United States Research

Washington State Genealogy Site: <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Home>

Canadian Research

- ♣ Canadian Research, Misc Suggested Sites:
<http://www.islandnet.com/~daveobee/cangenealogy/armstrong/index.htm>
- ♣ Canadian Census 1901: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1901/index-e.html>
- ♣ <http://www.automatedgenealogy.com> offers a transcribed version of 1901 and 1911 census records, along with a "split screen" view of the actual census. It's indexed and searchable by name, with the option of alternate spellings to check.
- ♣ 1881 Census – Canada: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/001049-100.01-e.php>
- ♣ 1891 Census – Canada: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/001081-100.01-e.php>

- ♣ Hudsons Bay Co Archives: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/>
- ♣ National Archives: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html>
- ♣ National Archives searchable site for names of all post office and post masters over time: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices/001001-100.01-e.php>
- ♣ Canadian directories: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canadiandirectories/index-e.html>
- ♣ For LOTS of resources on research and writing, and for a list of David Obee's upcoming talks: <http://www.daveobee.com/>

British

- ♣ British 1901 Census: <http://www.freecen.org.uk/>
- ♣ British Census Records – 1841 to 1911: <http://www.ukcensusonline.com/>
- ♣ British 1891 Census: <http://www.uk1891census.com/>
- ♣ The London Gazette, for public notices, from the 1700s to the present. Fully searchable, with an advance search feature. <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/search>
- ♣ British Directories: <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>

International Research

- ♣ [Ancestry.ca](http://www.ancestry.ca). This is a massive site and extremely valuable, especially for British, Canadian and US research. It's available by subscription, with trials available.
- ♣ Thousands of constantly updated genealogy and history links, arranged by country: <http://www.cyndislist.com/>
- ♣ British newspapers: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- ♣ 1881 International Census Records: <http://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&recordType=Census>
- ♣ Mormon Church Research Site: <https://www.familysearch.org/>
- ♣ Info about the Immigrant Experience (from Europe, including Germany): <http://maggieblanck.com/Immigration.html>. You may not find a record that relates directly to your ancestor but can get accounts from those who immigrated at about the same time and under similar circumstances.

- ♣ Paper of Record: <https://paperofrecord.hypernet.ca/default.asp>. As with [Ancestry.ca](#), you have to pay a monthly/yearly fee to access the many BC/Canadian and international newspapers on this site.
- ♣ <http://bcdlib.tc.ca/links-subjects-newspapers.html>. A guide to international newspapers available to search.
- ♣ <http://newspaperarchive.com/Welcome6v2>, another subscription-based access to international
- ♣ Australian Newspapers: trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers, said to be the largest source online.
- ♣ Findmypast: genealogy info and free access to British newspapers. Sign up for their newsletter, where price reduced memberships are sometimes on offer: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
- ♣ Google images: Drag any pix into the search box and see what happens: <https://www.google.ca>
- ♣ Wikipedia: Why EB went broke. Just about everything about everything. Check your topic in other languages. <https://www.wikipedia.org>
- ♣ Archive.org: <http://www.ourroots.ca/>
- ♣ Sign up for free, newsletter from Two Nerdy History Girls: <https://twonerdyhistorygirls.blogspot.ca>

Books

- ♣ Try Google Books for print material, including family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines and how-to books, gazetteers, medieval histories and pedigrees. Anything still under copyright protection will likely not be available.
- ♣ The FamilySearch link allows you to search a dozen major collections at once: <http://books.familysearch.org/>
- ♣ Pennsylvania State University Libraries' Digitized Collections: <http://www.hathitrust.org/>

Maps

- ♣ Google Earth: <https://www.google.com/earth/> Cruise the locale of interest, like you were flying on a plane or arriving by boat!
- ♣ Google Maps: <https://www.google.ca/maps?source=tldso>. Zoom in or out to the specific place of interest on the contemporary map of your choice.

- ♠ Rumsey Maps: <http://www.davidrumsey.com/>, for an impressive international collection of historic maps.