



# Using the British Columbia Archives' Vital Events Indexes

## What Is the British Columbia Archives' Vital Events Indexes?

The British Columbia Archives' Vital Events Indexes contains online indexes to all sorts of things –

- Birth Registration Index 1872-1903
- Marriage Registration Index 1872-1931
- Death Registration Index 1872-1986
- Colonial Marriages 1859-1872
- Baptisms 1836-1885

You will not be able to view or download the original record, but you can then either order the record from the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency or copy the image from the microfilm at the Family History Library (It gives the GSU [Family History Library] Microfilm number).

## Accessing and Searching the British Columbia Archives' Vital Events Indexes

- Go to [http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v\\_events.htm](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/textual/governmt/vstats/v_events.htm)
- Scroll down in the page until you see **Searching the On-Line Vital Event Indexes**.
- The individual databases are listed; however, under them is **Basic Search on All Vital Event Indexes**, click on the blue link.
- When the Search window opens, check the specific index you wish to use or check the box for **All Genealogy Indexes**.

**Step 1 Choose Where to Search:**  
(check off one or more indexes below)

- Births (1872-1903)
- Marriages (1872-1931)
- Colonial Marriages (1859-1872)
- Deaths (1872-1986)
- Baptisms (1836-1885)
- All Genealogy Indexes

[Return to Main List of Indexes](#)

**Step 2 Fill in One or More Search Points:**

Search For:	Within Field:	Using Option:	Help
<input type="text"/>	Surname	Match All Words	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="text"/>	Given Names	Match Any Words	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="text"/>	Place (city)	Match All Words	<a href="#">?</a>
<input type="text"/>	Date (year)	Match All Words	<a href="#">?</a>

Then to Proceed:

**Change Sort Method? (optional)**

Sort By:

- Using the boxes on the right side, enter as much information as you desire or know. Sometimes, just entering a last name works, others, you might want to use a given name and/or dates. Use the drop-down menus to determine the search (e.g. **Approximate Match, Match All Words, Match Any Words**, etc.) Notice the information box that is part of Step 2 which gives you wild card (#) searching and the “double quotes” for an exact match.
- If you wish the results to sort in a particular order, select that sort method from the **Sort By** drop-down menu.
- Press **<enter>** or click **Start Search**.
- The Search Results window will open. Search Results are grouped by the type of index, first birth, then marriage, then death, etc.

To view the full information, select the document icon or blue number below

	<b>1</b>	Name: <b>Dallas Omalley Tanner</b>	Place: Nanaimo	Reg. Number: 1903-09-055166	Copy Available
		Date: 1903 2 23 (Yr/Mo/Day)	Event: Birth	Microfilm #: B13619 (GSU # 2134889)	

- To see the detailed information for any search results click on the blue number link at the beginning of the record.

**Call Number: 1903-09-055166 / Roll b13819 is Result # 1**  
(Births (1872-1903))

Please Note: [Information on Usage](#)

**Vital Event Birth Registration**

**Name:** Dallas Omalley Tanner

**Event Date:** 1903 2 23 (Yr/Mo/Day)

**Gender:** male

**Event Place:** Nanaimo

**Reg. Number:** 1903-09-055166

**B.C. Archives Microfilm Number:** B13819

**GSU Microfilm Number:** 2134889

- Note the GSU Microfilm Number. This will allow you to find the film at the Family History Library or to order it at a Family History Center so that you may see the original record.