

GR-3044
British Columbia
Colonial Secretary
Pre-confederation marriage records
Microfilm 1859-1872 16 mm [B09707]
Originals 1859-1872 40 cm

Pre-confederation marriage records consist of records of marriages occurring in the colony of British Columbia, and the colony of Vancouver Island (the two colonies were united in 1866), prior to the entry of British Columbia into the Confederation of Canada. The records are bound into 8 volumes in two accessions. The volumes contain certified copies of marriage certificates, or returns of marriages, submitted by clergy of various, but not all, denominations. Absent, for example, are the records of the Church of England/Anglican Church (see MS-0520 for Victoria's Christ Church Cathedral records and H/A/Sa21 for St. Stephen's Church register of marriages, 1863-1880). The first six volumes are handwritten and often difficult to read.

Volumes A1 to A5 are arranged alphabetically by the surname of the groom. Each marriage record contains a record number, information about the bride and groom including: the name; age; condition (marital status); rank or profession; residence, place of birth; father's name; and profession of father. Also included are: the date of the marriage; place of marriage; names of witnesses; the name of the officiating clergyman; and the church denomination.

Volume A6 is arranged chronologically. Each marriage record contains the names of the bride and groom; their ages; residences; places of birth; names of parents; names of witnesses; date of marriage; place of marriage; name of officiating clergyman; and church denomination.

Volume A7 is arranged alphabetically by the grooms' surnames, and volumes X7 and X8 are arranged first by year and then alphabetically. Each marriage record contains information about the bride and groom including: name; age; condition (marital status); and rank or profession. Also included are: residences; date of marriage; place of marriage; names of witnesses; name of clergy; and church denomination.

An index was created by volunteers shortly before filming of the records. It appears at the start of the microfilm reel (B09707) and consists of two parts: one sorted alphabetically by the surnames of individuals, and the second alphabetically by the place of marriage. For each marriage the index contains the surnames and given names of individuals; the record and volume number of the marriage; the date of the marriage (year/month/day); the marriage place (name of community and/or church); and the district. In some cases there is more than one entry for marriage, due mostly to duplicates in Volume A7. Note that **Volume A1**, due to its unavailability, was **not indexed** at the time and its contents, therefore, not included in the index on the microfilm reel.

While every effort was made to ensure accuracy of transcription, the final authority for spelling of names is the individual registration, not the index. Aboriginal names may prove especially difficult as, in addition to difficulties arising from the transcription of hand written records, the names are spelled according to how the persons completing the marriage certificates thought they sounded, with the addition of diacritical marks.

There is also an online index – the Colonial Marriages database (part of BC Archives Genealogy Search <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>) which also currently lacks the names from Volume A1.

Container	Reel	Vol.	Volume description	Date range
89-0404-0001	Digitized	A1	Certified copies of marriage certificates (A to J surnames) submitted by clergy of missions on British Columbia mainland	1859/01/01 1872/12/31
89-0404-0001	B09707	A2	Certified copies of marriage certificates (K to M surnames) submitted by clergy of missions on British Columbia mainland	1859/10/06 1871/04/09
002340-2117	B09707	A3	Certified copies of marriage certificates (Mc to R surnames) submitted by clergy of missions on British Columbia mainland	1859/10/06 1871/04/09
002340-2118	B09707	A4	Certified copies of marriage certificates (S surnames) submitted by clergy of missions on British Columbia mainland	1859/10/06 1871/04/09
002340-2118	B09707	A5	Certified copies of marriage certificates (T to Z surnames) submitted by clergy of missions on British Columbia mainland	1859/10/06 1871/07/05
91-3528-0001	B09707	A6	Returns of marriages solemnized on Vancouver Island and submitted to the Colonial Secretary by Wesleyan Methodist ministers Ephraim Evans (1859-1865), Dan V. Lucas (1862-1863), and Edward White (1863-1864), and by Presbyterian minister John Hall (1863-1864).	1859/01/01 1865/12/31
91-3528-0001	B09707	A6	Letter from Reverend John B. Good to the Colonial Secretary requesting a marriage licence for George Misener and Harriet Vansley(?)	1861/11/19 1861/11/19
91-3528-0001	B09707	A6	Return of marriages solemnized [at Victoria] on Vancouver Island by Wesleyan minister William Pollard	1871/09/06 1872/01/15
89-0404-0002	B09707	A7	Marriages prior to confederation - typed certified true extracts (circa 1933) from marriage registers maintained by churches and missions	1859/01/01 1872/12/31
89-0404-0002	B09707	X7, X8	Marriages prior to confederation - typed certified true extracts (circa 1933) from marriage registers maintained by churches and missions	1865/01/01 1866/12/31