

BC Archives

Black History Records Research Guide



ROYAL **BC** MUSEUM

Contents

OVERVIEW

Research Tips	3
---------------------	---

BLACK HISTORY RECORDS

Published Sources	4
-------------------------	---

Primary Sources	9
-----------------------	---

Access Restrictions	10
---------------------------	----

Genealogy (Family History)	11
----------------------------------	----

Government Records	11
--------------------------	----

Population Statistics	11
-----------------------------	----

Provincial Policy	12
-------------------------	----

Race Riots, Strikes and Civil Unrest	12
--	----

Non-Government Records	13
------------------------------	----

Textual Records	13
-----------------------	----

Sound Recordings	14
------------------------	----

Moving Images	20
---------------------	----

Photographs, Paintings and Prints	21
---	----

Maps	23
------------	----

Newspapers	23
------------------	----

Vertical Files	23
----------------------	----

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Overview

This guide is intended to help researchers locate material related to the Black community in British Columbia at the BC Archives. It is not meant to be a general research guide on the subject, which is both broad in scope and complex in terms of the records available. For a general orientation on how to use the archives, see our [Research Orientation Guide](#).

This research guide was produced in partnership with [BC Black History Awareness Society](#).



BC Black History Awareness Society
OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP

RESEARCH TIPS

- ◆ Around the world, cultural naming traditions are diverse. Names may be based on maternal or paternal lineage, religious or cultural traditions or other conventions. The global slave trade often obscured peoples' origins and relationships. Enslavers separated families and enforced the idea those enslaved were "property" by changing their first and/or last names. After enslavement people may have discarded those given names to distance themselves from that enslavement and reclaim their identity.
- ◆ Names of individuals and communities change over time. As spelling was not standardized, the same names might be written in many different ways. Use alternate spellings or variant names in your searches.
- ◆ The BC Archives has preserved the language of archival records for historical accuracy. You are likely to come across **offensive or biased language**. However, to increase the scope of your searches, you may need to include outdated terms alongside contemporary ones. Catalogues, online descriptions and finding aids may contain words which are no longer considered appropriate but may be useful as search terms. You might want to consider using keywords or terms such as:
 - Black/blacks
 - Negro/negroes
 - Coloured/colored
- ◆ You may also find that searching terms that appear elsewhere in Canada, the United States, and further afield do not yield results at the BC Archives. For example, the term "mulatto" was commonly used in the past and was even an official government classification in the US, but is not used at the BC Archives.
- ◆ Not all records or published materials are available in digital format. Records with digital copies are noted.
- ◆ The degree to which certain communities are represented in the records varies; there may be significant documents about some individuals or communities, but only mentions of others.
- ◆ **Suggested place to begin your research:** <https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/blacks>



Black History Records

PUBLISHED SOURCES

Published material related to Black history consists of books, pamphlets, journal articles and sometimes theses (which may also be treated as manuscripts—see note under Primary Sources below).

These sources are useful in gaining an understanding of historical developments and overall context, as well as in providing leads to further material about Black history in British Columbia.

The following selected titles are available at the [BC Archives Library](#). Some of these sources may also be available at public or university libraries:

- ♦ Abajian, James, comp. *Blacks and Their Contributions to the American West: A Bibliography and Union List of Library Holdings Through 1970*, 1974. [NW 016.979 A116](#)
- ♦ Anderson, Martha. *Black Pioneers of the Northwest, 1800-1918*. Oregon: Pioneer Publishing, 1980. [NW 979 A548](#)
- ♦ Army and Navy Veterans in Canada. *14th Annual Convention Souvenir Number, Vancouver, British Columbia*, 1934. Pamphlet. [NWp 971.8 A741f](#)

- ◆ Beasley, Delilah Leontium. *The Negro Trail Blazers of California*, 1919. Fascimile. [NW 979.4 B366](#)
- ◆ Bertley, Leo W. *Black Tiles in the Mosaic*, c1974. [NW 325.71 B544 O/S](#)
- ◆ Bertley, Leo W. *Canada and Its People of African Descent*. Pierrefonds, P.Q.: Bilongo Publishers, 1977. [NW 325.71 B544c](#)
- ◆ Berwanger, Eugene H. *The Frontier Against Slavery; Western Anti-Negro Prejudice and the Slavery Extension Controversy*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1967. [NW 978 B553](#)
- ◆ British Columbia Black History Awareness Society. *A Resource Guide on Black Pioneers in British Columbia*, c1998. [NW 305.896 R433](#)
- ◆ Brown, Rosemary (Wedderburn). *Being Brown: A Very Public Life*. Toronto: Random House, 1989. [NW 328.711 B879](#)



William H.H. Johnson was born in Indiana in 1839, the son of a fugitive slave mother and free father. The family escaped to Ontario. Johnson moved to BC in the early 1890s where he wrote and published his memoir

- ◆ Cartwright, Peggy. *Black Pioneers in Gold Rush Days*. Victoria: Manning Press Limited, c1993. [NW 305.896 C329](#)
- ◆ Company for Propagation of the Gospel in New England and the Parts Adjacent in America. *Report of the Proceedings of the New England Company for the Civilization and Conversion of Indians, Blacks and Pagans in the Dominion of Canada, South Africa, and the West Indies, During the Two Years 1871-1872, 1874*. [NW 970.7 N532r](#)
- ◆ Company for Propagation of the Gospel in New England and the Parts Adjacent in America. *Six Years' Summary of the Proceedings of the New England Company for the Civilization and Conversion of Indians, Blacks and Pagans in the Dominion of Canada and the West Indies, 1873-1878*. London: Gilbert and Livingston, 1879. [NW 970.7 N532s](#)
- ◆ Congress of Racial Equality, Seattle Chapter. *George Washington Bush, Washington's Negro Pioneer*, 1967. Pamphlet. [NWp 979.7 C749](#)
- ◆ Davis, Lenwood G. *Blacks in the State of Oregon, 1788-1974*. Monticello, Ill.: Council of Planning Librarians, 1971. [NW 016.9795 D262](#)
- ◆ Fitch, John G. *Fielding Spotts 1827(?) – 1902*, 2004. [NW 620 S765f 2004](#)
- ◆ Garraway, Garbette A.M. *Accomplishments and Contributions: A Handbook on Blacks in British Columbia*. Vancouver: Black Theatre West, 1990. [NW 325.711 G238a](#)
- ◆ Garraway, Garbette A.M. *Blacks in British Columbia, 1990-1991 Calendar: In Celebration of Black History Month*, 1990. [NW 325.711 G238b](#)
- ◆ Gibbs, Mifflin Wistar. *Shadow and Light: An Autobiography with Reminiscences of the Last and Present Century*. New York: Arno Press, 1968. [NW 973 G443 1968](#)
- ◆ Gibbs, Rebecca. "The Old Red Shirt." In *Sawney's Letters and Cariboo Rhymes*, edited by James Anderson, 49. Toronto: W.S. Johnston, 1895. Pamphlet. [NWp 821 A547.3](#)
- ◆ Giscombe, C.S. *Into and Out of Dislocation*. New York: North Point Press, 2000. [NW 818.5403 Z469 2000](#)

- ◆ Henson, Matthew Alexander. *A Black Explorer at the North Pole: An Autobiographical Report by the Negro Who Conquered the Top of the World with Admiral Robert E. Peary*. New York: Walker and Company, 1969. [NW 998 H526 1969](#)
- ◆ Hill, Daniel G. *The Freedom-Seekers: Blacks in Early Canada*. Agincourt, Ont.: Book Society of Canada, c1981. [NW 325.71 H645](#)
- ◆ Holas, Wilma Patricia. *Millennium Minds: 100 Black Canadians*. Ottawa: Pan-African Publications, 2000. [NW 971.00496 H64 2000](#)
- ◆ Howay, Frederic William. *The Negro Immigration Into Vancouver Island 1858, 1935*. Pamphlet. [NWp 971.55 H853](#)
- ◆ Irby, Charles C. *The Black Settlers on Salt Spring Island in the Nineteenth Century*. Corvallis: Oregon State University Press, 1974. Pamphlet. [NWp 971.1Sa I65](#)
- ◆ Jackman, Sydney Wayne Anfield. "The Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps, British Columbia, 1860-1866," 1967. Pamphlet. [NWp 971.8 J12](#)
- ◆ Johnson, William H.H. *The Life of William H.H. Johnson from 1839-1900, and the New Race*. Vancouver: Bolam & Hornett, [1904. NW 920 J71 1904](#)
- ◆ Kilian, Crawford. *Go Do Some Great Thing: The Black Pioneers of British Columbia*. 2nd ed. Burnaby: Commodore Books, 2008. [NW 971K K48 2008](#)
- ◆ Lapp, Rudolph M. *Blacks in Gold Rush California*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977. [NW 979.4 L316](#)
- ◆ Montesano, Philip M. *Some Aspects of the Free Negro Question in San Francisco, 1849-1870*. San Francisco: R and E Research Associates, 1973. [NW 979.461 M779](#)
- ◆ New Democratic Party (British Columbia), Women's Committee and Rosemary Brown. *Herstory & policy*, 1977. [NW 324.27107 N532](#)
- ◆ Newspaper clippings: 1888 Importation of Blacks to Break a Miners Strike in the Roslyn, Washington coal fields, 197-?. Microfiche. [Df-57](#)

- ◆ Pilton, James William. "Early Negro Settlement in Victoria." BA Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1949. Microform. [MS - 0829](#)
- ◆ Pilton, James William. "Negro Settlement in British Columbia." MA Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1951. Microform. [MS - 0817](#)
- ◆ Price, Daniel O. *Changing Characteristics of the Negro Population*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1969. [NW 325.73 P951](#)
- ◆ Roy, Lynette. *Brown Girl in the Ring: Rosemary Brown: A Biography for Young People*. Toronto: Sister Vision Press, 1992. [NW 328.71109 B879R](#)
- ◆ Savage, William Sherman. *Blacks in the West*. Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1976. [NW 978 S264](#)
- ◆ Smith (M.R) & Company. *Biscuits and Confectionary*. Pamphlet. [NWp 971.95 S655b](#)
- ◆ Stoute, Judith O. *The Starks, Black Pioneers of British Columbia 1858-1944*, 1995. [NW 305.896 S889](#)
- ◆ Thomson, Colin A. *Blacks in Deep Snow: Black Pioneers in Canada*, 1979. [NW 325.71 T482](#)
- ◆ Thurman, Sue Bailey. *Pioneers of Negro Origin in California*, 1952. Pamphlet. [NWp 979.4 T539](#)
- ◆ Victoria Black People's Society. *Blacks in British Columbia: A Catalogue of Information and Sources of Information Pertaining to Blacks in British Columbia*, 1978. [NW 016.325711 B631](#)
- ◆ Walker, James, Sylvia Searles, and Wade Rowland. *The Black Experience in Canada*. Edited by Patricia Thorvaldson. Toronto: Gage Educational Publishing, c1979. [NW 325.71 I19](#)
- ◆ Walker, James W. St. G., *Racial Discrimination in Canada: The Black Experience*. Ottawa: Canadian Historical Association, 1985. [NW 305.896 W181](#)
- ◆ Winks, Robin William Evert, *The Blacks in Canada: A History*, 1971. [NW 325.71 W775](#)

PRIMARY SOURCES

The majority of documentary heritage materials at the BC Archives are unpublished, textual records. They can be government or non-government—sometimes referred to as “private”—records and can be typed as well as handwritten. They are primary sources you will need to analyse and interpret in order to make them useful to your research.

- ◆ Textual records indexed online in the [BC Archives Collection](#) are catalogued as either a **government record accession (GR)** or a **non-government record accession (MS)**. Many have **finding aids** attached to their catalogue webpages. Finding aids can be box lists, file lists, volume lists, microfilm reel lists or indexes and should be consulted to help identify specific records.
- ◆ The pre-1974 (“Old MS”) card catalogue located within the BC Archives reference room uses alphanumeric classifications (e.g., E/D/ L58) and can be searched by subject, title and creator. Some of these records have archival descriptions and can also be searched online using the BC Archives Collection.



The pre-1974 card catalogue (“Old MS”)

When searching either the BC Archives Collection or card catalogues, use a variety of keywords. When using the [online catalogue](#), it can also be useful to use the name of a record creator as the search term. This applies whether the creator is an individual or an organization.

Search results will be present as a list of accessions that have matches to the

keywords. Some of the accessions have an attached finding aid, which will give further information about the accession, and provide microfilm reel numbers, box numbers of a file or item list. Use the finding aid to determine the call number (GR/MS-xxxx) and the number of the box or microfilm reel you need. For a more comprehensive orientation, see the [Research Orientation Guide](#) available from our [Guides, Indexes and Inventories webpage](#), or visit our [Instructional Films webpage](#).

Access Restrictions

The contents of some government records and private records will be restricted for a variety of reasons. For example, government records 100 years old or less are subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (BC). Check the Notes field of a series' description for access information.

Many of our records are stored off-site and cannot be made immediately available. Please speak to staff, email access@royalbcmuseum.bc.ca, or call 250-387-1952 for information about the access status and/or location of records.



Genealogy (Family History)

The BC Archives is a great resource for those tracing family history. Holdings include a wide range of primary resources—government records, maps, newspapers as well as personal, family and other non-governmental records, all of which can be used to learn more about your family’s history and the political and cultural environment in which they lived.

The archives also provides access to a [genealogy database](#) where you can search for open vital statistics records—births, baptisms, marriage and death registrations. Learn how to search and find vital statistics records at the BC Archives here: [Guide to the Genealogy Search](#); [How-to: BC Archives Genealogy Search - YouTube](#).

To learn more about family history research resources at the BC Archives, see our [Genealogy Research Guide](#). When visiting in person, ask a reference room archivist for advice on genealogical research. For more about genealogy research at the BC Archives, visit [Finding Family](#) on the Learning Portal.

Government Records

Government records (GR) provide a wealth of information on living conditions, demographics and state perceptions of Black peoples, as well as many other topics. This is not an exhaustive list, and you will need to consult the finding aids in order to locate specific box and file numbers.

- ◆ [GR-1545](#) – Commission appointing James Douglas Governor of British Columbia, 1858.

Population Statistics

- ◆ [Federal Censuses](#) in 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911 and 1921 included British Columbia.
- ◆ [City Directories](#), located within the BC Archives Library or at the [BC City Directories \(1860-1955\) websites](#), may also be used to identify transpacific populations within communities.



Provincial Policy

These executive level records contain information about high-level policy decisions on a range of topics.

- ◆ [GR-0441](#) - Premier's records, 1883–1933
- ◆ [GR-1222](#) - Premiers' papers, 1917–1952
- ◆ [GR-0429](#) - Attorney General correspondence, 1872–1950
- ◆ [GR-0996](#) - Correspondence inward of the Attorney General, 1883-1888
- ◆ [GR-1323](#) - Attorney General correspondence 1902–1937
- ◆ [GR-1723](#) - Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1938–1952
- ◆ [GR-1724](#) - Attorney General correspondence, ca. 1952–1959
- ◆ [GR-1725](#) - Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, ca. 1959–1965
- ◆ [GR-1726](#) - Attorney General correspondence inward and outward, 1956–1972

Race Riots, Strikes and Civil Unrest

These records contain information on matters of civil unrest, including incidents based on racial conflict.

- ◆ [GR-0441](#) - Premier's records, 1883–1933
- ◆ [GR-0518](#) - Commission on claims arising out of riots on Vancouver Island, 1913-1916
- ◆ [GR-0996](#) - Correspondence inward of the Attorney General, 1883-1888
- ◆ [GR-1695](#) - Strikes and lock-out files, 1907–1945



Non-Government Records

Textual Records

Also referred to as “private” or “manuscript” records, these accessions were created by private individuals, organizations or companies. The following is a selection of some of the non-government accessions which might be used as primary sources for Black history research topics:

- ◆ **PR-1428** - James Douglas family fonds, 1827-1900

The fonds consists of correspondence, notebooks, letter books, diaries, account books, official government papers, the death certificate of James Douglas, a book owned by Cecilia Douglas and Lady Amelia Douglas’ bible.

- **MS-2164** - Family records, 1837-1890
- **MS-2791** - Marriage settlement and indenture between Alice Douglas and Charles Good, 1862-1900
- ◆ **MS-2879.569** - Gibbs, Miffin Wistar. A letter to the Crease family, 1874.
- ◆ **MS-0091** – Wallace, Maria Albertina (Stark), 1867-1966. Photocopy of typescript for “Sylvia Stark’s Story.” Salt Spring Island, 1972.
- ◆ **MS-0090** - The black settlers on Salt Spring Island in the nineteenth century/

Charles C. Irby, 1972. A paper presented at the 35th annual meeting of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, Hayward, California, June 15, 1972.

- ◆ **PR-2328** - Rosemary Brown fonds, 1969-1986; predominant 1977-1986. The fonds consists of the records of Rosemary Brown, and were created in her capacity as a member of the British Columbia legislative assembly



Various non-government records and fonds are available upon request

(MLA) and the New Democratic Party. A large number of the records reflect Rosemary Brown’s activities on legislative committees and her caucus critic responsibilities.

- ♦ **MS-1999** – Invoice, 1875. The item is an invoice to Findlay, Durham and Brodie for 2,000 labels altering the Loggie label to J.S. Deas.
- ♦ **PR-0230** – Smith Family fonds. The fonds consists of the records of Moses Rowe Smith, Sarah Anne Smith and their three children, Frances, Hamilton and Garrett. Records include personal and business correspondence, documents and photographs. Moses Rowe Smith was a successful businessman from Ontario. He started business in the bread-baking line in Victoria in 1858, carrying on operations with the aid of his two sons and his wife. Operating for more than 50 years, the business interests included a bakery, biscuit factory, warehouse, confectionary shop, as well as contracts to supply the navy stationed in Esquimalt harbour.

Sound Recordings

Sound recordings include oral histories as well as radio broadcasts. The following are only a sample of recordings likely to have relevance for Black history research. Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Try variant names and spellings, truncation and wild cards—see [Research Orientation Guide](#) for more. Filter results by clicking on “Advanced Search” and selecting “Sound Recording” within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by entering a date range.

View the Notes area of a catalogue entry to determine available recording formats, e.g., reference cassette, digital copy, preservation compact disc. Digitized copies are not available online due to file-size limitations. Such recordings can be accessed within the BC Archives Reference Room. Some recordings are held within cold storage for preservation purposes and are restricted.



Sound and video recordings at the BC Archives

- ◆ [AAAB2865](#) – Annie Girard interview, 1977.

Annie Girard was the pastor of the Fountain Chapel at 823 Jackson Avenue in the Strathcona neighbourhood. In Track 1, Girard discusses her family background, religious beliefs, arrival in Vancouver and the purchase of the Fountain Chapel. In Track 2, she describes the relations between the black and white communities, views on roots, racism and money, as well as the closing of the church.
- ◆ [AAAB2925](#) - Austin Phillips interview, 1977.

Austin Phillips was a musician familiar with the music scene in Strathcona; particularly in Hogan’s Alley. In Track 1, Phillips talks about Hogan’s Alley in the 1930s, including a discussion of various musicians who played in the area. In Track 2, Phillips speaks to the attitude of the police and mayors Taylor and McGreer to the activities in the alley. He discusses Mrs. Pryor and her chicken restaurant, Joe Celone, Mama Alexander, and his own work as a musician. The track ends with Phillips singing two blues songs.
- ◆ [AAAB2002](#) - Anonymous Cumberland resident, 1976.

Interviewee is anonymous by request. Discussion of ethnic minorities living and working in the Comox Valley, including Cumberland’s Chinese and Japanese communities. A brief section refers to Mr. White, a black man who lived in the area.
- ◆ [T0796:0001](#) (previously described as AAAB0887) - Beryl Weatherell interview, 1965.

Beryl Weatherell was a long-time resident of Salt Spring Island. She recalls early years on the island. She discusses her family background; her father, Frank Scott, came with his brothers and settled in the Ganges area. She discusses Black residents of Salt Spring.
- ◆ [T0801:0001](#) (previously described as AAAB0892) - Clara and David Maxwell interview, 1965.

David Maxwell recalls early memories of Salt Spring Island. He discusses farming, his family background, the Indigenous population and early settlers, among whom were Black and Kanaka communities.



You can listen to audio files at the audio kiosks in the reference room

- ◆ **T0100:0002** (previously described as AAAB0104) - Desmond Crofton interview, 1965.

Desmond Crofton discusses his family history and other Salt Spring Island settlers. He talks about Black settlers on the island.

- ◆ **AAAB2920** - Doris Lawson interview, 1977.

Doris Lawson was born and raised on the prairies, moving to Vancouver in 1941. She discusses her first homes and jobs in Strathcona—Bengara Rooms, Prior apartments, work at Mrs. Alexander’s and then Mrs. Pryor’s chicken restaurants. Lawson talks about the Strathcona neighbourhood broadly, including the local school, Fountain Chapel and its parishioners, the chicken restaurants, houses and cabins in Hogan’s Alley, and social life.

- ◆ **AAAB2864** - Dorothy Nealy interview, 1977.

Dorothy Nealy discusses her childhood in Manitoba, racial background, and move to Strathcona in 1944. She gives a description of the Strathcona area, the Fountain Chapel, and talks about racism in jobs, violence in the neighbourhood, and the multiracial make-up of local housing and businesses. Nealy describes her work with the U.F.A.W.U., the 1963 strike and workers in the fishing industry, including women and workers of Chinese, Japanese and East Indian background. She discusses community meetings, SPOTA, the Vancouver Resources Board and the first redevelopment survey in 1945. Toward the end of the tape, she talks about Black migration from prairies in the 1930s, work at Chicken Inn and Cliff House, and gypsies in Strathcona.

- ◆ **T2562** (previously described as AAAB2801) - Immigrants: [interviews], 1974-1975. A series of short interviews with immigrants who discuss their experiences and what Canada means to them.

- ◆ [AAAB3985](#) - Janet Judd interview. Vancouver, 1979.

Janet Judd was hired as a part-time postal clerk and then became full-time in 1960. She was one of the first women to achieve this position. Some of the issues she discusses are racist attitudes towards herself and other non-white workers, discrimination and patronage in hiring, the establishment of mirror surveillance systems in the bathrooms, union recognition and the right to strike, and shift changes and services for women with children.

- ◆ [T1257:0001](#) - Lawson Stroulger interview, 1965.

Lawson Stroulger describes how he came from England in 1893 at the age of five with his father. He gives an account of the people living in the communities of Deep Creek, Enderby and Mara. Toward the end of Track 1, he talks about the Black people who lived at Deep Creek, including Tom Patterson and his family.

- ◆ [AAAB1443](#) - Matilda Alexander interview, 1962.

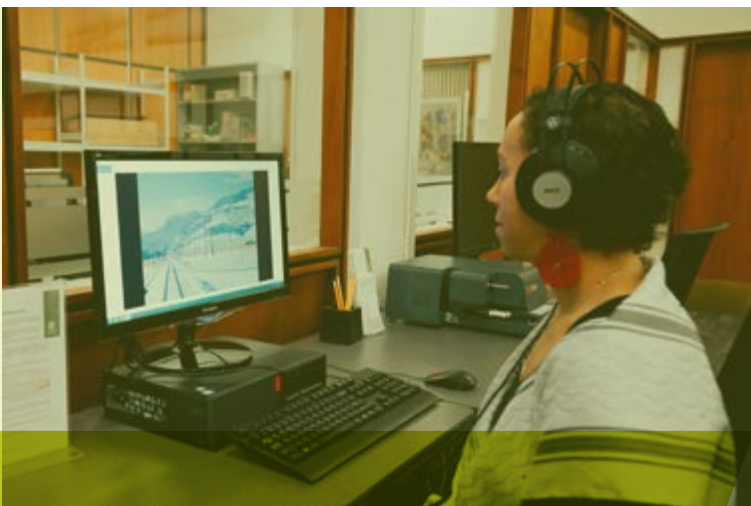
Matilda Alexander recalls that her mother came from Puerto Rico, Spain, and her father was from Kingston, Jamaica. She talks about her early schooling, Victoria in the 1870s and 1880s, personal and community events, and her family.

- ◆ [T0799:0001 - 0002](#) - Margaret Cunningham and Willy Palmer interview, 1965.

In Track 1, Margaret Cunningham and Willy Palmer recall incidents from their early years on Salt Spring Island. Among the discussion of her family background and of the local community, Cunningham talks about the early Black settlers on the island. In Track 2, Willy Palmer continues with his family history. He discusses local residents and businesses. Palmer recalls the Black settlers on Salt Spring.

- ◆ [T0354:0001](#) (previously described as AAAB0407) - Marjorie and E.S. Reynolds interview, 1964.

Marjorie Reynolds came from Grimsby, Ontario to Grand Forks in 1900 with her



Sound and video recordings at the BC Archives

father, who used to be a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She discusses orchards and nurseries and the day she arrived in great detail. Other things she discusses are: the community, fires, brickyard Doukhobors, black maids, Chinese servants and the closing of the smelter. E.S Reynolds discusses his time served during World War I and industrial operations in the local area.

◆ [AAAB4219](#) - Myrtle Holloman interview, 1977.

Myrtle Holloman draws from her mother's manuscript and her own knowledge to tell how her great-grandfather bought his family's freedom in the U.S. and how the search for peace ultimately brought them to Canada. Her grandfather, Louis Stark (d. 1895), blazed and built roads on Salt Spring Island. Her family came to the island in 1860 and homesteaded on four locations.



◆ [PR-1905](#) - Strathcona Project collection, 1977-1978.

Records from an oral history project related to the Strathcona neighbourhood. Use the Quick Search button on the left to search for "Hogan" to narrow down to all related recordings about Hogan's Alley. Interviewees include, amongst others: Rosa Pryor, Nora Hendrix, Dorothy Nealy, Annie Girard. Transcripts available.

◆ [AAAB2970](#) - Nora Hendrix interview, 1977.

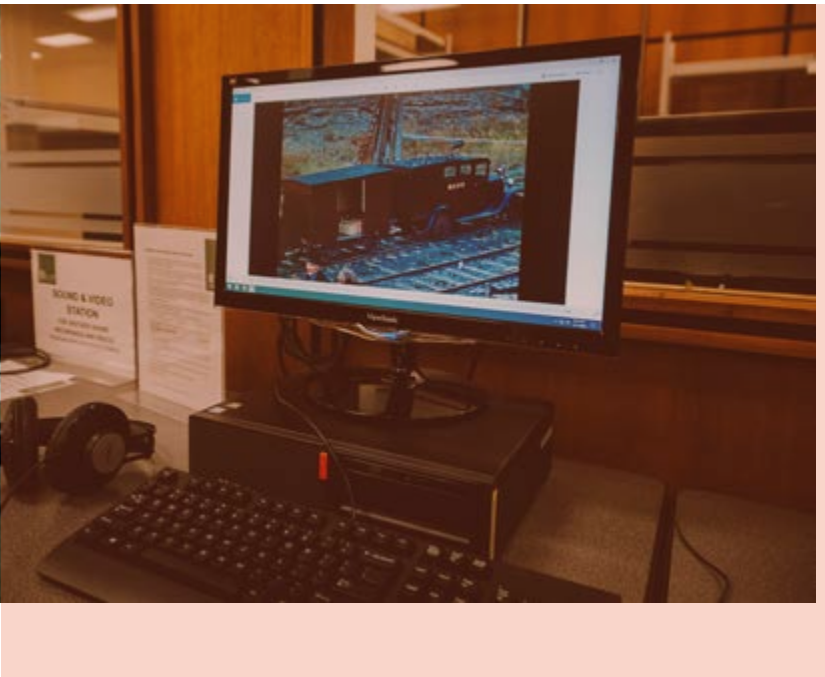
In Track 1, Nora Hendrix discusses her background and gives a brief record of where she lived, including places in Vancouver from 1911 to 1977. She talks at length about life in Strathcona, including the restaurants, clubs, social gatherings, committees and activities. She discusses her work and hard times during the Depression. In Track 2, amongst other topics, Hendrix discusses crime, a shooting in the neighbourhood, the difficulties of getting a job as a black person and music in the family.

- ◆ [**AAAB2919**](#) - Rosa Pryor interview, 1977.
 In Track 1, Rosa Pryor discusses her arrival in Vancouver in 1917, the 1918 flu epidemic and the opening of Chicken Inn on July 18th, 1919. She gives a description of the exterior and interior of Chicken Inn, fights in the café and effects of the Depression on business. In Track 2, Pryor discusses police in Strathcona. She talks about Hogan's Alley, Vi's Restaurant and the Black community located on Union, Prior and Gore.
- ◆ [**AAAB1126**](#) - Rosemary Brown: [press conferences, etc.], 1977.
 Includes press conferences, speeches, and interviews with NDP MLA Rosemary Brown (Vancouver-Burrard). Also includes speeches by Progressive Conservative leader Scott Wallace, Liberal leader Gordon Gibson and Human Resources Minister Bill Vander Zalm.
- ◆ [**T4303: 0076**](#) (previously described as AAAB8884) - *The Hornby Collection: One Made Free*, 1979.
The Hornby Collection is an anthology of plays, documentaries, interviews and selected fiction for radio—all written, prepared and produced in British Columbia. *One Made Free* is a play by Eric Green based on the true story of one of the first American slaves to escape to Canada.
- ◆ [**T4303: 0492**](#) (previously described as AAAB9267) – “The Bush and the Salon: Salt Spring—Island in the Gulf,” 1975.
 From 1966 to 1979, *Between Ourselves* was a weekly series of hour-long radio programs that featured aspects of Canadian life in docudramas, plays, music and interviews, originating from different regions of Canada. “Salt Spring: Island in the Gulf” relates the history the island as heard from Lieutenant-Colonel Desmond Crofton, Len Bittancourt, Margaret Cunningham, Willy Palmer and Bea Hamilton.
- ◆ [**MS-3268**](#) – Oral history interviews, field sounds, and music, 1959-1979.
 Oral history records focusing primarily on the European settlement and development of British Columbia, mostly covering the period 1880-1914. Recorded by CBC broadcaster Imbert Orchard. Use the Quick Search button on the left to search using key words (e.g., black) to narrow down results relating to Black settlers. Sub-series MS-3268.P contains interviews about the Gulf Islands, with discussions of the Black community on Salt Spring Island.

Moving Images

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword. Try variant names and spellings, truncation and wild cards—see [Research Orientation Guide](#) for more. Filter results by clicking on “Advanced Search” and selecting “Moving Images” within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by entering a date range.

View the Notes area of a catalogue entry to determine available recording formats—e.g., VHS reference copy, digital copy, preservation compact disc. Digitized copies are not available online due to file-size limitations. Such recordings can be viewed within the BC Archives Reference Room. Some recordings are held within cold storage for preservation purposes and are restricted.



Two useful guides to films produced in British Columbia are:

- ◆ Browne, Colin Victor Alleyne. *Motion Picture Production in British Columbia, 1898-1940: A Brief Historical Background and Catalogue*, 1979. ([NW 069 H546 no6 1979](#)).
- ◆ Duffy, Dennis John. *Camera West: British Columbia on Film, 1941-1965*, 1986. ([NW791.43 D858](#)).

Also available online:

- ◆ [This Week in History Season 2 Episode 3 - Charles Mitchell, from slavery to freedom via YouTube](#)
- ◆ [This Week in History - Season 8 Episode 24: The History of Vancouver's Strathcona Neighbourhood via YouTube](#)
- ◆ [RBCM@Home: BC's Black Pioneers via YouTube](#)

Photographs, Paintings and Prints

Search the [BC Archives Collection](#) by keyword for photographs, paintings, drawings and prints. Try variant names and spellings, truncation and wild cards—see [Research Orientation Guide](#) for more information. Filter results by clicking on “Advanced Search” and selecting “Graphic Material” within the General Material Designation drop-down menu. Filter further by selecting “Yes” from the Digital Object Available drop-down menu or by entering the date range. The following are a sample of images that may be of interest, almost all of which have been digitized:

- ◆ [PDP02153](#), Above the Gorge, painting by Grafton Tyler Brown, 1883
- ◆ [A-09459](#), Charles Alexander, [190-]
- ◆ [I-80837](#), Charles Humphreys Scott, [ca. 1865]
- ◆ [B-05438](#), Construction of BC/Alaska Highway, Sikanni Chief River Bridge, 1942
- ◆ [A-09464](#), Corinthia Elizabeth Sara Anne Pierre; became Mrs. Thomas Alexander; born in Victoria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Pierre, [ca. 1885]
- ◆ [F-00651](#), Fielding Spotts, a Black pioneer; father of Fielding William Spotts, [ca. 1900]
- ◆ [A-02475](#), Fielding William Spotts of Vancouver, at the age of 78, May 1935
- ◆ [H-03542](#), The Fraser River Above New Westminster, 1883
- ◆ [I-01668](#), The Hudlin family, Victoria, 1947
- ◆ [A-01088](#), James Barnswell, [187-]
- ◆ [A-09462](#), John Thomas Pierre’s Tailor Shop On Fort Street Near Blanshard Street, Victoria, [189-]
- ◆ [PDP00119](#), Long Lake, painting by Grafton Tyler Brown, 1883
- ◆ [B-01601](#), Mifflin Wistar Gibbs, [ca. 1873]

- ◆ [A-02482](#), Mr. Richard Stokes, kept a livery stable on Broughton Street, above Blanshard, [ca. 1878]
- ◆ [G-07387](#), Mr. A. Johnson, [ca. 1860]
- ◆ [A-09481](#), Mrs. James Barnswell, 1859
- ◆ [A-09482](#), Mrs. John Thomas Pierre, [ca. 1865]
- ◆ [A-01627](#), Mrs. Peter Lester, 1858
- ◆ [A-09485](#), Mrs. Robert Clanton, [ca. 1865]
- ◆ [A-01726](#), Mrs. Sylvia Stark, aged 92, with apples from her orchard, Salt Spring Island; Mrs. Stark died in 1944, [ca. 1937]
- ◆ [G-08448](#), Mrs. Thomas Forrester, [ca. 1870]
- ◆ [A-01626](#), Peter Lester, trader, 1858
- ◆ [A-09483](#), Robert Clanton, [ca. 1865]
- ◆ [I-32427](#), Rosemary Brown, 1979
- ◆ [A-02015](#), Samuel Booth, [ca. 1870]
- ◆ [A-0875](#), San Francisco artist Grafton Tyler Brown, 1883
- ◆ [H-06150](#), Seraphim "Joe" Fortes, in English Bay, Vancouver, n.d.
- ◆ [H-03100](#), Seraphim Fortes, later known as Joe, teaching a child to swim in English Bay, Vancouver, [ca. 1900]
- ◆ [PDP00120](#), Spillimacheen, painting by Grafton Tyler Brown, 1883
- ◆ [A-01068](#), Studio portrait of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander, [187-]
- ◆ [A-02193](#), Teenie, [ca. 188-]
- ◆ [A-01946](#), Teenie, [ca. 188-]
- ◆ [A-09460](#), Thomas Alexander, eldest son of Charles and Nancy Alexander, [ca. 1885]

- ◆ [C-06124](#), Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps, also known at the time as Sir James Douglas' Coloured Regiment, [186-]
- ◆ [G-07667](#), W. Sharp, [ca. 1880]
- ◆ [F-01998](#), Willis Stark, Salt Spring Island, eldest son of Sylvia Stark, [before 15 Dec 1943]
- ◆ [A-01712](#), Willis Stark, son of Sylvia Stark; James Anderson on the right, [ca. 1935]
- ◆ [A-07278](#), The 80-mile house on the Thompson River, [ca. 1868]

Maps

Use place names or regions when consulting the cartographic records card catalogue in the Reference Room and online. Only a small number of our maps are described in our online database. To limit your online search to maps, use the Advanced Search option and select "Cartographic Material" in the General Material Designation search filter.

Newspapers

Newspapers can be a useful source of local information, as well as a source for public response to events and issues. If you know the date of an event, check the newspaper for that time period; depending on the time period, and the newspaper, there may be a subject index available. See the [Research Orientation Guide](#) for more details.

Vertical Files

Vertical files are collections of newspapers, magazine clippings and other material published prior to 1984. Both the [index](#) and files are available on microfilm and can be accessed in the reference room. A four-volume hardcopy file list, arranged alphabetically, is also available—search by last names of individuals, or by subject. Search using the term "Negroes" for a broader range of articles about Black history in British Columbia.



Additional Resources

[BC Black History Awareness Society](#)

[BC Black History Makers](#)

[BC Black History Timeline](#)

[BC Black Pioneers: Digital Museums Canada Exhibit](#)

[Hogan's Alley Society](#)

[Hope Meets Action: How can we better understand the experiences and contributions of Black British Columbians to correct historical erasure?](#)

[Learning Portal](#)

[Library and Archives Canada – Black Canadians](#)

[Research Orientation Guide](#)

[Vancouver Public Library guide to Hogan's Alley](#)