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
- Scroll down in the page until you see Searching the On-Line Vital Event Indexes.
- When the Search window opens, check the specific index you wish to use or check the box for All Genealogy Indexes.

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 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: 2134899

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.