
  
 Vancouver  
 Public Library

BC Digitization Showcase


Vancouver Public Library's  
*B.C. City Directories Project*

Presentation by: Kate Russell  
 Special Collections, VPL

British Columbia  
 City Directories  
 1860 - 1901
 


# B.C. City Directories

## - What Are They? - Why Digitize?

British Columbia  
 City Directories  
 1860 - 1901
 

## What are the B.C. Directories?

- Listings of names and addresses of inhabitants and businesses of a given community
- Cover all of BC, not just major towns
- Introductory essays describing communities – growth, development, population statistics, etc.
- Lists of government information: government officials, customs duties, postal rates, transportation routes, etc.
- Schools, newspapers, societies
- Advertisements

British Columbia  
 City Directories  
 1860 - 1901
 

**FIRST VICTORIA DIRECTORY.**


**PREFATORY REMARKS.**

It has been thought by the author of the following work that the present being an age of advancement, the period has fully arrived when our fair town of Victoria is of sufficient importance to deserve that index of commercial progress, a Directory.

A Directory, in the full sense of the word, is a guide to the streets, to the abode, the place of business, and the name of those persons, whether private individuals or engaged in mercantile pursuits. The books then follow, in alphabetical order, we should say alphabetical order. Thus, to offer additional facilities, to give an alphabetical list of all persons in the good town contained, irrespective of surnames, of companies, and of any or none. In a place of the largest town, the work will be understood as a necessary addition, that Victoria is very far from reaching this point of importance; and as our time will require it to be made for such more moderate. We must only hope that it will be long required increased attention in this particular when the authors, assisted by public patronage, will be most happy to do justice to the political and commercial merits.

It will be necessary, then, to remind but very few that Victoria is the largest settlement on this Island of Vancouver.

At a period of less than two years ago, the population of


British Columbia  
 City Directories  
 1860 - 1901
 

28 **FIRST VICTORIA DIRECTORY.**

Coulford, Thomas, Chatham Street  
 Coulter, Charles, Johnson Street  
 Couturier, Pierre, Humboldt Street  
 Craun, J. W., 10th Street, Campbell & Co.  
 Crawford, James, 10th Street  
 Cramer, Henry, Parkin, P.O. box, barometer-maker and commission, Number 10th of Assembly, Government Street  
 Craig, George, 10th Street  
 Craig, John, 10th Street  
 Craig, John, 10th Street, W. L. the Pawnshop, Humboldt Street  
 Cresswell, J. J. Iron and hardware, Johnson Street  
 Crowder, Richard Adam, 10th Street  
 Curtis & Moore, chemists and druggists, Yates Street  
 Curtis, James, (See Curtis & Moore's book cover.)  
 Cushman, John, Union Hotel, Government Street  
 Cusack, Charles, Government Street

Dallas, Alex. Grant, Director Hudson Bay Co., residence Government Street  
 Danford, John F., "British Columbia" office  
 Davidson, John, Johnson Street  
 Davy, C. W., Wellington Alley, W side  
 Davis, John, 8th Street, W side  
 Davis, Henry H. Smith, 10th Street  
 Deane, James, Oak Hill Farm  
 Deane, George, " "

Demson, William, H. C., Humboldt Street  
 Denby, Wm., 10th Street  
 Denton, James, 10th Street, American Bakery, Johnson Street  
 Denton, Edward  
 De Quincey, agent, editor and printer, "British Columbia" office  
 De Courcy, John, 10th Street, Victoria  
 De Crespigny, J. A., Johnson Street, W side  
 De Lincourt, 10th Street  
 Dickson, Campbell & Co., commission merchant, Johnson St.  
 Dickson & Co., 10th Street, Johnson Street, S side  
 Dickson & Co., (See Co. Johnson & Co.)  
 Dickson, Edward, 10th Street  
 Dickson, John, 10th Street  
 Dickson, D., Government Street  
 Dineen, Frederick, boot-maker, Yates Street  
 Dillon, Johnson Street, S side  
 Dixon, Wm., 10th Street  
 Dixon, Wm., 10th Street  
 Dixon, Edward, 10th Street, W side  
 Dixon, Wm., 10th Street, W side and Ward Street

British Columbia  
 City Directories  
 1860 - 1901
 


*London Bill.*

**JANION & GREEN,**  
**COMMISSION MERCHANTS,**  
 Foot of Johnson Street, near the Bridge, Victoria.

Agents for the Liverpool Haberdashers' Association.

The undersigned beg leave to notify Merchants, Ship Owners and Ship Masters that they have assumed the appointment as AGENTS at Victoria, Vancouver's Island, for the LIVERPOOL UNDERWEAVERS' ASSOCIATION.

**JANION & GREEN.**



THE UNION HOTEL

BOARD, per DAY ..... \$1.00. ROOMS, at \$1 and \$2 per Week.  
 Wash & Bath Room; also, a Select Private Reading Room  
 This is a choice of some fresh, clean, European and Continental  
 Sleepings. J. DUCIE CURRIER.



## Why Digitize?

- High Demand/High Use: historians, genealogists, schoolchildren, students
- Scattered collections – no complete print collection in any one location; microfilm collections spotty
- Already microfilmed – therefore able to be scanned
- Remote use likely to be high
- ?? Aid to preservation



## Decisions to be made

- Presentation of material: best format, ease of searching, speed of image loading, printing
- Issues: varying fonts, often handset - uneven baseline, illustrations, engravings, heavy black print
- Quality of microfilm – clarity of printing etc.
- Scanning – in-house or outside vendor?
- To OCR or not?



## OCR(Optical Character Recognition)

### Pros:

- Searching capability across years
- Searching complete text by keyword

### Cons:

- Considerable clean-up owing to old-fashioned fonts; illustrations, fuzzy printing, coloured paper, etc.
- Potential for false hits – resulting from inadequate OCR process
- Expensive - need to employ & maintain a search engine



## What we did...or did not do...

- Scanned by a vendor from microfilm
- Chose not to use a database
- Chose not to OCR
- Used instead a files based system geared for browsing
- Attached XMP data to each image file, generated alternate image formats for the web



**TIFF**  
High-resolution  
format for offset  
print reproduction.

**PDF**  
Multi-purpose  
format for  
business  
workflows.

**XMP**  
XML meta-data file  
for database  
applications.



Pat-Pic, Page 198  
Pic-Pow, Page 199  
Pow-Pyk, Page 200  
Q-Ran, Page 201  
Ran-Rai, Page 202  
Rai-Rob, Page 203  
Rob-Rol, Page 204  
Rol-Roy, Page 205  
Roy-Sci, Page 206  
Sch-Sen, Page 207  
Sen-Sho, Page 208  
Sho-Sla, Page 209  
Sla-Smi, Page 210  
Smi-Sou, Page 211  
St-Ste, Page 212  
Ste-Sti, Page 213  
Sti-Sut, Page 214  
Sum-Tat, Page 215  
Tay-Tha, Page 216  
Tho-Ti, Page 217  
Ti-Tuc, Page 218  
Tuc-Uni, Page 219  
Uni-Van, Page 220  
**Van-Wai, Page 221**  
Wai-Wat, Page 222  
Wat-Wes, Page 223  
Wes-Wf, Page 224  
Wf-Wil, Page 225

Home → 1890 → Williams' Vancouver and New Westminster Cities Directory  
< previous page | next page >

**Gilmore and Clark**, The Leading Gent's Clothing and Furnishing Store, at Canal Street, Vancouver.

VANCOUVER DIRECTORY. 221

**Deane and Searle**, REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENTS  
330 CORDOVA STREET, VANCOUVER.

*E. S. SCOTTLAR & Co., Steam and*

*72 Cordova Street.*

Vancouver market, prop R V Winch, Cordova  
Vancouver Parcel Delivery Co, manager F R Graham, 97 Cordova  
Vancouver Public Library, free reading room, 144 Cordova, librarian  
G Polley  
Vancouver Photo Co, manager J D Hall, 416 Cordova  
Vancouver Soap Co, 123 Keefer  
Vancouver Root and Herb Co, prop L Zemmin, 10 Abbott  
Vancouver San Juan Lines Co, La Boundary avenue and Powell  
Vancouver Shingle Mill, prop G E Slater, foot of Cambie near False creek  
Vancouver Soda Water Works, 704 Westminster avenue  
Vancouver Telephone Co, Manager Charles Tilley  
Vancouver Transfer Co, manager J Oates, Carrall, rear to U P mills  
Vancouver Washhouse Co, manager G R Major, 109 Water  
Vancouver Water Works, work shops, Hastings east  
Vancouver Wine Co, Misses R T, 122 Cordova  
Van Volkenburg & Bro, butchers, 17 Water  
Van Volkenburg Isaac, Von Volkenburg & Bro, 422 Oppenheimer  
Vitch Thos, team-6-7, Homer  
Yermol M P, 32 Park avenue



## Concluding Remarks

- Popular resource
  - Good candidate for going online
  - Next steps: 1902-1915 and beyond
  - 1925 on - copyright considerations
- <http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php>