

BC Archives Research Guide

LOCATING VITAL EVENT REGISTRATIONS ON MICROFILM

Original birth, marriage, and death registrations are held by the [Vital Statistics Agency](#) and are made accessible to the public through the BC Archives [Genealogy Collection](#). Initially available only on microfilm, records are now being released digitally.

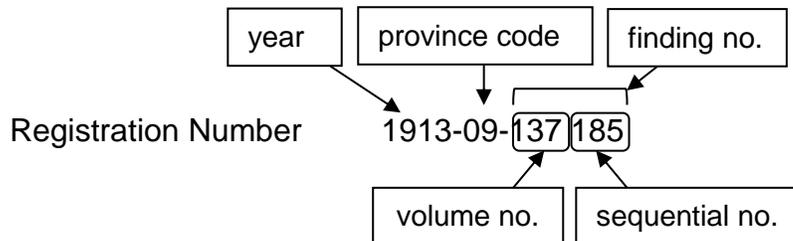
If records have been digitized, you will see a red .jpg link below the person's name. Earlier registrations are being digitized by the BC Vital Statistics Agency as their resources permit. If a registration has not yet been digitized, it can be accessed on microfilm within the BC Archives reference room by following these steps:

- 1) Once you locate a record via the [Genealogy Collection](#), make note of the Registration Number and the BC Archives Mfilm (microfilm) Number.

Event Type:	Death
Registration Number:	1913-09-137185
BC Archives Mfilm Number:	B13100
GSU Mfilm Number:	1927128
Event Date (YYYY-MM-DD):	1913-03-07
Event Place:	VANCOUVER
Age at Death:	50
Person:	EMILY PAULINE JOHNSON

- 2) Retrieve the correct microfilm reel from the self-serve cabinets within the microfilm room and load the reel on any one of the readers. User guides are available at each kiosk or ask staff for assistance.

- 3) Use the registration number to locate the record on the microfilm reel. The registration number includes three parts:
 - a) The first part of the registration number indicates the year of the record.
 - b) The number '09' is the province code for British Columbia.
 - c) The six-digit finding number is broken into two parts. The first three digits provide the volume number and the last three digits provide the sequential number.



- 4) Within the header or footer of each record, you will find a title strip. It tells you which volume you are currently viewing on the reel. Advance to the correct volume for your record. Note: Birth and death registrations with a '095' volume number are arranged by year and then sequential number.
- 5) Use the sequential number to locate the correct record. The sequential number will match only the final three digits of the file number on the record. The file number may be stamped or handwritten on the record, usually in the top right corner, and many have additional digits that can be ignored.

Note: Contact the [Vital Statistics Agency](#) directly to request any changes or corrections to a record or [Genealogy Collection](#) results.