

BC Archives Research Guide

Old MS COLONIAL SECRETARY RECORDS

This inventory provides a chronological list (by start date) of records related to the Colonial Secretary office of the following colonial governments:

- Colony of Vancouver Island, 1849–1866
- Colony of British Columbia, 1858–1866
- the united Colony of British Columbia, 1866–1871

The records were predominantly catalogued under a BC Archives system used from the mid-1930s to the early 1970s, known as the “Old MS” system. These records are only fully catalogued in the “Old MS” card catalogue, located within the BC Archives reference room.¹ Additional relevant records will also be found within the Old MS card catalogue and the [BC Archives Collection](#) search.

Digital copies of [colonial despatches of Vancouver Island and British Columbia 1846-1871](#) have been made available by the University of Victoria.

Reference Number	Date(s)	Creator and Title
C/AA/30.1KI/1 Book	1857-1864	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence inwards. Letters can be found in GR-1372 or catalogued separately elsewhere (e.g. C/AA/30.71/C42.1). ²
C/AB/30.1JI/1 Book	28 Dec. 1858- 29 Dec. 1860	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence outward to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. “Index to ltrs rec’d from H.E. the Gov ^r .”
C/AB/30.1JI/2 Book	1858-1863	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence outward. “British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters from Governor Douglas...Index.”
C/AB/30.1KI/1 Book	1858-1863	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to miscellaneous correspondence inward. “British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters to Governor Douglas”.
C/AB/30.1K/Y	1859-1862	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Yale correspondence connected with Hudson [sic] Bay Co. Includes sketch maps of Yale townsite and HBC claim.
C/AB/30.1J/1 Book Reel B02651	Jan. 1859- Sep. 1860	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works. “Colonel Moody’s letter Book”. Index at front.

¹ The notation “Book” after a call number means that the record is a bound volume; “MS” means loose pages. Different records may have duplicated reference numbers: one for a Book and one for a MS.

² Not all correspondence has survived.

Reference Number	Date(s)	Creator and Title
C/AB/30.1J/12 Book Reel B04718	Jan. 1859- May 1861	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Treasury. Letter book. "Treasurer British Columbia", "Letters sent to Treasury by W.A.G. Young".
C/AB/30.1JI/2A Book	Jan. 1859- Dec. 1870	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence outward.
C/AB/30.1J/16 Book Reel B04719	Apr. 1859- Nov. 1870	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Collector of Customs, B.C. Letter book. Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/2 Book Reel B02651	May 1859- Jul. 1860	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. Index at back.
C/AA/30.1J/9 Book B04716	9 Mar. 1859- 7 May 1864	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Treasury.
C/AA/30.1/1 Book	1 Jun. 1859- 22 Jan. 1867	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Record of marriage licences. Transcript available.
C/AA/30.1J/1 Book	14 Sep. 1859- 21 Sep. 1860	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Index to 12 Mar 1860 at front.
C/AB/30.1J/9 Book Reel B04718	Sep. 1860- Sep. 1863	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Lands and Works Dept. Letter book.
C/AB/30.1J/15 Book Reel B04719	24 Jul. 1860- Sep. 1861	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Assay Office. Letter book. Index, p. 122. "Assay Office Letters - Treasurers Book".
C/AA/30.1J/2 Book	28 Sep. 1860- 13 Aug. 1861	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/13 Book Reels B04718 and B04719	May 1861- Nov. 1864	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Treasury. Letter book. Index at front. "Treasurer British Columbia".
C/AA/30.1J/3 Book	15 Aug. 1861- 27 Mar. 1863	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/4 Book Reel B02651	18 Sep. 1861- 19 Nov. 1862	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "No. 4 Miscellaneous British Columbia". Index at front.
C/AA/30.1J/7 Book	9 Sep. 1862- 25 Apr. 1864	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence with the Municipal Council of Victoria. Official Letter book copies. Index on loose pages at front.
C/AB/30.1J/5 Book Reel B02652	19 Nov. 1862- 20 Nov. 1863	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "No. 5 British Columbia Miscellaneous Letters". Index at front.
C/AA/30.1K/So6	1863-1866	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Sooke Copper Mining Company papers. Transcript available for report.

Reference Number	Date(s)	Creator and Title
C/AA/30.1J/4 Book	24 Mar. 1863- 20 Sep. 1864	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Loose index pages.
C/AB/30.1J/10 Book Reel B04718	17 Sep. 1863- May 1872	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Lands and Works Dept. Letter book. Indexed. "British Columbia The Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works".
PR-2402 C/AA/30.1/T63 [digitized]	27 Oct. 1863	Torrens, Robert William to W.A.G. Young re: mining lease for George Weaver and partners.
C/AB/30.1J/6 Book Reel B02652	22 Nov. 1863- 7 Sep. 1864	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "No. 6 Miscellaneous British Columbia." Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/7 Book	7 Sep. 1864- 16 Dec. 1866	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "No. 7 Official Letter Book." Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/8 Book	7 Sep. 1864- 29 Dec. 1866	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "Miscellaneous Letter Book."
C/AA/30.1J/5 Book	20 Sep. 1864- 11 Sep. 1865	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/14 Book Reel B04719	28 Nov. 1864- Apr. 1872	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward to Treasury. Letter book. Index at front.
C/AB/30.1KI/2 Book	Apr. 1864- Dec. 1865	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence inwards from officials. "British Columbia Register of In Letters".
C/AB/30.1KI/3 Book	Apr. 1864- Dec. 1865	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence inwards from private persons.
C/AA/30.1JI/1 Book	Sep. 1864- Nov. 1866	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence outwards. [use photocopies]
C/AA/30.1K1/2 Book	1864-1866	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence inwards.
C/AA/30.1/N81	1864-1868	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Papers, correspondence relating to North Pacific Coal Mining Company.
C/AA/30.1J/6 Book	11 Sep. 1865- 29 Nov. 1866	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Official Letter book copies. Index on loose pages at front.
A/C/30/T63.1	1865	Torrens, Robert William. Reports to Colonial Secretary; Report relative to gold diggings at Bear River a failure. ³
A/C/30/T63.1 [digitized]	1865	Torrens, Robert William. Report of explorations and proceedings at Clayoquot Sound, "R122/2060".

³ Includes names and place of origin of miners accompanying Torrens to Nootka Sound.

Reference Number	Date(s)	Creator and Title
G/V/27/V27	1865	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence with John Buttle re: exploring expedition. Transcript available.
C/AB/30.1KI/4 Book	Jan. 1866- Dec. 1869	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Index to correspondence inwards from officials and private persons. "British Columbia Register of In Letters".
C/AB/30.1/1	4 Aug. 1866	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Agreement for direct steam navigation with San Francisco.
C/AA/30.1J MS	8 Oct. 1866	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Report on reconveyance of Vancouver Island to the Crown by H.B. Coy. "R167/359".
C/AB/30.1J/17 Book Reel B04719	19 Nov. 1866- 19 Jan. 1867	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward on Vancouver Island affairs. Letter book. "Vancouver Island Letter Book".
C/AB/30.1J/8A Book	4 Jan. 1867- 30 Dec. 1870	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. (Vol. 1) Official letter Book; (Vol. 2) Miscellaneous Letter Book.
CAA/30.1/M58 Book	20 Feb.- 17 Jan. 1867	Vancouver Island. Colonial Secretary. Papers pertaining to various militia groups in Vancouver Island. Photocopies. Consists of correspondence, memos and memorials of the Vancouver Island Volunteer Rifle Corps, the Victoria Volunteer Rifle Corps, and the Pioneer Rifle Corps (Company) to the Colonial Secretary.
C/B/30.1/H75	1867-1869	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence re payment owed to Robert Homfray for survey and planning work on Leech River ditch (to supply water to miners).
C/AB/30.1J MS	28 Nov. 1868	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. W.A.G. Young to [J.D.] Pemberton. Marked confidential.
C/AB/30.1J/11 Book B04718	4 Jan. 1871- 26 Dec. 1872	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "BC Miscellaneous Letters." Index at front.
C/AB/30.1J/11A Book Reel B04718	3 Jan. 1872- 30 Dec. 1873	British Columbia. Colonial Secretary. Correspondence outward. Letter book. "British Columbia Official".