

GUIDE TO USING THE BC VITAL STATISTICS "INDIAN" BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH REGISTRATION MICROFILM

Indians, as well as Chinese, were excluded from the Births, Marriages and Deaths Act of 1872. In 1877 (CSBC 1877, c. 33, s. 22) the exclusionary section was removed and in 1897 (RSBC 1897, c. 33, s. 3) the Act was made applicable to "all races and nationalities, including all Indians and persons of Indian blood, Chinese and Japanese." However, two years later the Act was amended (SBC 1899, c. 8, s. 3) to exclude "persons who are Indians within the meaning of the Act of the Dominion Parliament respecting Indians." In 1916 (SBC 1916, c. 73, s. 3.2) the section was amended to allow the Registrar to "accept returns to be made monthly by the respective Indian Agents in the Province," those returns to be made on special forms and to be "kept separate and apart from the other returns." In 1943 (SBC 1943, c. 69, s. 2) the registration of Indian births, marriages and deaths was made mandatory; the special forms and separate filing of the forms was continued. The special forms and separate filing were discontinued after 1956.

The following information applies to the registrations of births, marriages and deaths of individuals defined as "Indian" under the federal Indian Act, as collected between 1917 and 1956 on the special forms and filed separately from all other BC vital event registrations. These registrations have been designated as "Indian" registrations.

BIRTH REGISTRATIONS (TABLE 1)

The collection of "Indian birth registrations" which appear on a separate set of microfilm reels¹ are all delayed registrations received after 1916 and all have been assigned volume number 995.² The earliest birth dates back to 1868.³ Aboriginal birth records may also be found with the regular birth registrations, especially for the period from 1877 and 1899.

MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS (TABLE 2)

From 1917 to 1956 Indian marriage registrations were recorded in separate volumes with a separate numbering system.⁴ Each volume, starting with 1917 as Volume 1, corresponds to a year. The registration numbers are, however, in a single continuous

¹ Reels B13802-B13803, B13868-B13872, 1868-1903. Indian registrations dated 1904 to 1916 will also be delayed registrations once they are released on microfilm.

² Between 1917 and 1956, Indian birth registrations were maintained in separate sub-series. They were bound in volumes, initially sequentially-numbered annual volumes, starting with Volume 1 in 1917 and then, commencing in 1946, by year using a single volume number, 95. During the same time period, delayed registrations of Indian births were bound in a separate set of volumes numbered 795 and 995-998. A special form was used, which included additional information such as tribal affiliation. This form was altered in 1943 and discarded in 1956 when aboriginal registrations were no longer separated from other vital event registrations and the general form was used.

³ There are 338 in total from 1868 to 1903. As most of these registrations are on forms introduced in 1943, it would appear that they were collected, for the most part, in 1943 and later.

⁴ Reels B11391, B13888-B13897, 1873-1931.

sequence to 1934 (1-2286). This creates a potential problem for finding registrations on reel B13892 (1926) when the numbers change from three digits to four digits. Because only the last three digits of the official registration number appear in the index entry, registrations numbered 001000-001113 will be shown as 1926-09-010000 to 1926-09-010113 (1926, volume 10, last three digits of registration number). They appear on the microfilm reel in the proper sequential order according to the original four-digit registration number but not according to the three-part index registration number (i.e. 1926-09-010000 will follow 1926-09-010999, as marriage registration number 1000 immediately follows 999).

Another problem occurs on the reel for 1922 (B13888) which includes Volumes 26 and 26A containing marriages prior to 1922 which were registered in 1942. Because the six-digit part of the index registration number does not distinguish between the two volumes, the numbers for registrations 207 to 498 in Vol. 26 and 1207 to 1468 in Vol. 26A will have the same six-digit number, e.g. 026253 for an 1873 marriage (registration number 000253) and a 1906 marriage (registration number 1253). Volume 26 is comprised mostly of registrations from Kamloops and district and Volume 26A of registrations from the Fort St. James district and northern BC so the place of marriage may provide a clue. If not, both volumes may need to be checked to locate the correct registration.

Early aboriginal marriage records may also be found with the regular marriage registrations for the period from 1877 and 1899.

DEATH REGISTRATIONS (TABLE 3)

From 1917 to 1956 Indian death registrations were recorded in separate volumes with a separate numbering system and have also been microfilmed on separate reels. For 1917 to 1945, the registration numbers consist of a prefix (the sequential volume number starting with Volume 1 in 1917) followed by a sequentially assigned number. To locate registrations filed in these volumes (nos.1-29), the volume numbers can be used.

From 1946 to 1956 the numbers have a single prefix (volume number 95) followed by a sequentially number starting at 1 at the beginning of each year. **To locate registrations from 1946 to 1956 assigned to volume 95, the year must be used in conjunction with the registration.** For example, to find the following registration first advance the reel (B13376) to the section for 1949 (see the footer⁵) and then look for 446.

Name: **Mary Anne Simadeeks**
Event Date: **1949** 11 14 (Yr/Mo/Day)
Age: 78
Gender: female
Event Place: Kitwanga Indian Reserve
Reg. Number: 1949-09-**095446**
B.C. Archives Microfilm Number: **B13376**

Early aboriginal death records may also be found with the regular death registrations for the period from 1877 and 1899.

See the following tables for the contents of the microfilm reels designated as Indian births, Indian marriages and Indian deaths.

⁵ Note that the footer is missing for the 1948 records.

TABLE 1 Indian registrations collected 1917-1956 : **birth registrations**¹

Seq. no.	Reel no.	Date	Volume ²	Content
1	B13802	1868-1897	995A-998B	195 registrations
2	B13803	1898	995A-998B	13 registrations
3	B13868	1899	995A-998B	17 registrations
4	B13869	1900	995A-998B	32 registrations
5	B13870	1901	995A-998B	20 registrations
6	B13871	1902	995A-998B	33 registrations
7	B13872	1903	995A-998B	28 registrations

¹Delayed registrations only, mostly collected circa 1945 to 1956, specifically as Indian birth registrations. No updates until 2024.

²The label on the microfilm reels also shows 795 and 001-002 as volume numbers. These are for post-1903 reels which have not yet been released. Volume 1 will be for 1917 and Volume 2 for 1918.

TABLE 2 Indian registrations collected 1917-1956 : **marriage registrations** 1871-1932

Seq. no.	Reel no.	Year(s) ¹	Volume/Registration numbers
1	B11391	1916-1917 1917-1918 1917-1919 1917-1920 1920-1921	Vol. 01, 1-67 Vol. 02, 68-139 Vol. 03, 140-325 Vol. 04, 326-445 Vol. 05, 446-541
2	B13888	1911-1922 1871-1922	Vol. 06, 542-651 Vol. 26, 207-776 to Vol. 26A, 777-1468 ²
3	B13889	1920-1923	Vol. 07, 652-757
4	B13890	1922-1924	Vol. 08, 758-876
5	B13891	1924-1925	Vol. 09, 877-984
6	B13892	1925-1926	Vol. 10, 985-1113 ³
7	B13893	1926-1927	Vol. 11, 1114-1226
8	B13894	1927-1928	Vol. 12, 1227-1354
9	B13895	1927-1929	Vol. 13, 1355-1479
10	B13896	1913-1930	Vol. 14, 1480-1637
11	B13897	1922-1931	Vol. 15, 1638-1770
12	B13898	1922-1932	Vol. 16, 1771-1935
13	B13899	1926-1933	Vol. 17, 1936-2116
N/A	B13900	1924-1934	Vol. 18, 2117-2286 [records only available from BC Vital Statistics Agency]

¹ Each volume includes a certain number of registrations from previous years. For purposes of finding the registration the year can be ignored.

² Volume 6 covers registrations in 1922. Volumes 26 and 26A have registrations for marriages from 1871-1922 which were registered/filed in 1942. Note that numbers 1 to 206 do not appear on the reel. See "Marriage registrations" p. 1-2 above.

³ See "Marriage registrations" p.1-2 above.

TABLE 3 Indian registrations collected 1917-1956 : **death registrations** (complete)

Seq. no.	Reel no.	Year ¹	Vol./Reg. numbers	Notes
283	B13359	1917 1918 1919 1920 1921	Vol. 01, 1-310 Vol. 02, 311-935 Vol. 03, 936-1674 Vol. 04, 1675-2045 Vol. 05, 2046-2406	Registrations
284	B13360	1922 1923 1924 1925 1926	Vol. 06, 2407-2772 Vol. 07, 2773-3227 Vol. 08, 3228-3689 Vol. 09, 3690-4124 Vol. 10, 4125-4515	Registrations
285	B13361	1927 1928 1929 1930	Vol. 11, 4516-5041 Vol. 12, 5042-5540 Vol. 13, 5541-6087 Vol. 14, 6088-6581	Registrations
286	B13362	1931 1932 1933 1934	Vol. 15, 6582-7097 Vol. 16, 7098-7607 Vol. 17, 7608-8138 Vol. 18, 8139-8675	Registrations
287	B13363	1935 1936 1937	Vol. 19, 1-525 Vol. 20, 1-514 Vol. 21, 1-770	Registrations
288	B13374	1938 1939 1940	Vol. 22, 1-589 Vol. 23, 1-557 Vol. 24, 1-638	Registrations
289	B13375	1941 1942 1943 1944	Vol. 25, 1-569 Vol. 26, 1-539 Vol. 27, 1-603 Vol. 28, 1-589	Registrations
290	B13376	1945 1946 1947 1948 1949	Vol. 29, 1-611 Vol. 95, 1-693 Vol. 95, 1-646 Vol. 95, 1-576 Vol. 95, 1-586	Registrations
291	B13377	1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956	Vol. 95, 1-546 Vol. 95, 1-529 Vol. 95, 1-493 Vol. 95, 1-390 Vol. 95, 1-376 Vol. 95, 1-447 Vol. 95, 1-471	Registrations
292	B13378	1915-1946	Vol. 995, 1-410	Delayed registrations

¹Years shown are the years of registration, not necessarily the year the death occurred. Each volume includes a certain number of registrations from previous years, going as far back as 1916.

