

Finding Scots in Canada's Mines

Hilary Hartigan, 2nd September 2023, for Anglo-Scottish FHS

- Mining in North America and Australia was dangerous and uncertain
- Your Scots ancestor might have emigrated to Australia or USA
- But a downturn in trade or a mine closure made them move on
- When a new large mine opened it was common to build a 'camp'
- This might show on a Canadian census as just numbers and no streets
- In 1900, in Canada, children's home were often just large houses
- Look for modern lists of explosion injuries and deaths
- And trawl newspapers in the UK (syndicated news) and North America
- Google search names of people and mines – add 'explosion', 'gas', 'horror'
- If a father and son died in the same explosion and the widow remarried
- They might not show up in any census
- Look for the children and the grandparents for clues
- Follow witnesses (weddings, baptisms) for family links
- Look for work done by local and family history societies

Typical of the newspaper cuttings:

Newspapers.com by Ancestry, The Victoria Daily Times, 4 December 1900, accessed via Ancestry.co.uk on 20 December 2022

Annotated notes of orphanage 'inmates' 1901

Found on Rootsweb, accessed on 31 December 2022, at
https://sites.rootsweb.com/~canbc/1901vic_cen/div16/d16p01.htm,

Typical of the newspaper cuttings:

Newspapers.com by Ancestry, The Daily News Advertiser, 21 November 1899, accessed via Ancestry.co.uk on 31 December 2022

Canada – British Columbia Mine Accident Index

Colorado School of Mines, accessed online on 31 Aug 2023
https://libguides.mines.edu/ld.php?content_id=34860186

1887 Nanaimo Mine Explosion, list of casualties

<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~bcvancou/places/miners.htm>

1887 Nanaimo Mine Explosion, Plaque

<https://read-the-plaque.appspot.com/plaque/no-1-esplanade-mine-site-memorial-plaque>