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Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed Saturday, February 18th and Monday, February 20th for the Family Day weekend.

Toronto OGS Monthly Meeting – Monday, 30 January 2012 - 7:30 pm

This month Susan Smart will be talking about the *Origins of Funeral Customs*. Have you ever wondered why it's customary to wear black at a funeral? Or why a coffin looks the way it does? The rituals around burying the dead have very ancient roots and have developed over the centuries in different ways depending on religion and geographic area. This talk will describe the origins of some of the funeral customs found in nineteenth-century Ontario and explain how they evolved through the century. Wakes, hearses, flowers and food, clothing, coffins and tombstones will all be discussed. The mini presentation is *A Little Latin for Genealogists* by Stephen Low. For more information, go to <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/meetings.html> .

OGS Toronto Winter Courses

The Toronto Branch is holding several courses over the winter months: *Family History Writing* by Gayle Dzis, *Sharing Networks for Genealogists* by Marian Press, *Creating a Family History Blog* by Marian Press and *Exploring the Baldwin Room's Manuscript Collections* by Jane McNamara. Go to the OGS Toronto website for more information: <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html> .

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

This week a number of CDs for England have been added. These are mostly indexes and transcriptions of parish records or monumental inscriptions. These CDs will not be available to patrons until the end of next week.

BR133 ENG SRY Baptisms not in the IGI Vol. 2 – 121,000 Baptisms

BR134 ENG SSX Chichester PR Transcripts for 11 churches in Chichester

BR135 ENG HAM Hampshire Baptism Index 1813-1841

BR136 ENG HAM Hampshire Marriage Index 1538-1659
BR137 ENG HAM Hampshire Marriage Index 1660-1753
BR138 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Baptism Registers - Index and Transcripts 1754-1812 Vol 8-10
BR139 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Baptism Registers - Index and Transcripts 1754-1812 Vol 11-14
BR140 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Baptism Registers - Index and Transcripts 1813-1837 Vol 1-7
BR141 ENG GLS Bristol Nonconformist Baptismal Registers in Bristol RO 1754-1837
BR142 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Marriage Registers - Index and Transcripts 1754-1812 Vol 9
BR144 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Marriage Registers - Index and Transcripts 1813-1837 Vol 8
BR145 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Marriage Registers - Index and Transcripts 1813-1837 Vol 8
BR146 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese (South Glos) Marriage Registers - Index and Transcripts 1837-1901 Vol 11
BR147 ENG SOM North Somerset Parishes - Marriage Registers Index 1754-1837 Vol 10
BR148 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Burial Registers - Index and Transcripts 1754-1812 Vol 3
BR149 ENG GLS Bristol Diocese Burial Registers - Index and Transcripts 1813-1837
BR150 ENG STS Burials – Staffordshire Monumental Inscriptions
BR151 ENG WOR Burials – Worcestershire Monumental Inscriptions

Please note that the Hampshire CDs complement our existing collection (see below) and do not include the Isle of Wight.

BR081 is the Hampshire Baptism index 1752-1812
BR082 is the Hampshire Marriage index 1754-1837
BR083 is the Hampshire Burial Index 1400-1837

For a list of parishes covered in the Bristol Diocese registers CDs, please check the back of each CD.

What's New

FindMyPast has added a transcript of the 1881 Scottish census, to increase their coverage of the Scottish censuses from 1841 to 1881. These are all fresh transcriptions – different from Ancestry or FamilySearch and worth a look. They have also added more than 16,000 records to their database of Docklands Ancestors, which now contains over half a million records.

FamilySearch has added or updated the following: Arkansas death and marriage indexes for the 1900s, Iowa County births 1880-1935, Hungary Reformed Church Christenings 1624-1899 (nearly 3 million records), and a browsable collection of Quebec Judicial District Guardianships 1639-1930.

Ancestry has added seven million records of Pennsylvania Church and Town Records 1708-1985 and has updated the 1911 censuses for Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/04/2012. Germany.

I am doing some research on my family from Germany and I need some assistance. Is there a microfilm of the church book from the Church of Laudenbach, Germany? I am looking for information on the family of Johann Philipp Spengler, who was born on Sept 7, 1797 as Laudenbach near Weinheim, Baden and died on January 4, 1865. He was a reformed schoolteacher of Laudenbach

and had lived in Mannheim since August 18, 1846. His wife was Ida Augusta Charlotta Christina Spengler (maiden name Schöler), who was born in 1802 in Strumpfelbrunn. They were married in 1824. Also, are there any Family History Centres in Munich, Germany or Zurich, Switzerland? Any information on my family or how I can proceed with this investigation will be greatly appreciated!

Suggestions:

Q1/03/2012. Canada and the US.

I'm looking for any additional information I can find on a great grandfather, John Simons. He married my gr.grandmother Mary McBean on Oct. 28th, 1865. JOHN SIMONS simply seemed to disappear, until a family member recently found him on the 1880 Census, in Waterbury, New Haven, CT (age 35, birth year 1845, birthplace Canada, occupation- burnisher, with a wife, Elizabeth, age 45, 2 children, age 9 & 1 year old). Several of John's siblings remained in Ontario. Did he & Mary McBean leave Canada together? How long did they remain married? Where and when did John Simons die? It took me 37 years to find the descendants in the U.S. of my gt-grandmother, Mary McBean Howes, but I don't think I have nearly that many years left to find John Simons and his descendants.

The 1880 US census for John Simons with a wife Elizabeth indicates that John and Elizabeth and their two children, Alice S aged 9 and Sarah J aged 1 year, were all born in Canada. Does the researcher have any independent information about the age of John or of his occupation. If not, I would question whether this is the researchers great-grandfather. The information about the marriage of Mary McBean to John Simons on Ancestry comes from a film that is at the Ontario Archives - Series MS248, Reel 17. This record may be worth looking at to see if it contains more information about the bride and groom. The index on Ancestry does give the names of John's parents as Solomon and Maria. The 1851 and 1861 Canadian census entries for John with these parents are a bit confusing. In 1861 Solomon says that he was married in 1845 but in 1851 Solomon and Maria have children ranging in ages from 2 to 15 years and Maria is only 25. So I suspect that Maria Secord is his second wife and that John is the son of his first wife, as he appears to have been born in 1840 or 1844 depending on the census. Perhaps the marriages of some of the older children will give the name of Solomon's first wife and John's (real?) mother.

Q2/03/2012. Scotland.

I am researching the Sangster family of Peterhead, Scotland. The St. Peter's Parish Church film #0993353 is missing some records between 1790 and 1800. I am trying to learn the parents of Isabella Sangster born about 1798 at Stirlinghill or Peterhead. I believe her parents may be James Sangster and Ann Sangster nee Scott. Isabella married Alexander Davidson at Peterhead on or about July 30, 1820 and it is registered on the film p.261 on Aug. 2, 1820. Isabella purportedly died on October 9, 1869 at Stirlinghill. If you can help it would be very much appreciated.

The first avenue to explore is Isabella's death. Civil entries of deaths in Scotland usually list both parents' names. Go to ScotlandsPeople (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>) and purchase some credits. Hopefully you will find the death registered. The researcher can then check for Isabella's baptism in the Old Parochial Registers on ScotlandsPeople. The film #0993353 proved to be rather disappointing as the records are quite muddled up and do seem to be missing information. Because these are records of the Church of Scotland, there are no Bishop's or Archdeacon's Transcripts to look at as a back up. The second place to look for information is the FamilySearch Wiki - <http://goo.gl/SSpnG> will take you to a list of countries that have information about them. Choose Scotland, then Aberdeenshire, and then Peterhead. This page gives detailed information about the Old Parochial Registers and their condition (not complete), the Kirk Session Records (what they are and what is available at the National Archives of Scotland) and any non-conformist churches where Isabella may have been christened. [There is a Submitted Pedigree on FamilySearch which also

gives an approximate birth date of 1798, a marriage to Alexander Davidson and six children (James, Ann, Isabella, David Lyon, Jean, and George) but these records have not been verified by FamilySearch and Isabella has no parents noted.]

Q3/03/2012. Ireland. Canada.

James Frances Byrne was last heard from in a letter from Montreal to his father in Ireland in 1908. He was born in Galway, Ireland in on April 4, 1880 to parents, James Byrne and Sarah Mary Mellon. He was still in Ireland at the time of the 1901 census and afterwards came to Canada. It is not known whether he ever married. Searches of the 1911 Canadian census and various shipping records, Ancestry etc have not been fruitful. Does anyone know about Quebec records which could be searched including BMD or any other sources which might help?

As the researcher believes that James Byrne was Roman Catholic, the Drouin collection on Ancestry was searched for a possible marriage or death. None was found. Another avenue to explore could be the Montreal City Street Directories. These can be searched at <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovell/> . There is a James Byrne listed in the 1907-1908 Directory and he is a machinist. If the researcher has the address from which the 1908 letter was written or knows the occupation of James, she may be able to go further.

News From the Trenches

Digging up Your Roots - Scotland

Jerri Grimley writes: "Last year you helped me with my search for John Busby from Edinburgh Scotland and a possible connection to the California Gold Rush and another Busby family in Kansas, USA. Last summer there was a request from BBC Radio Scotland to send in your genealogical questions for an answer from their team on the "Digging up your Roots" programme. I sent off my John Busby query to the show. I received a pro forma letter thanking me for my interest but indicating they were not interested. Anyway, I filed it away and forgot about it.

"Last week I received an e-mail from the show asking if I would like to be interviewed on the show and ask my question . Of course, I said I would be delighted! So bright and early on Sunday 22 Jan 2012 in a live-to-air interview, I was able to ask my question. They have promised to send me information on the sources that they used for their answers. While I didn't get any definitive answers, they did say they had done an extensive search for John Busby born in Edinburgh about 1819 and were unable to find him!

"The programme is broadcast at 12:05 GMT (7:05 am in Toronto), on Sundays. The programme is approximately 1 hour long and they archive each episode for 7 days so you can listen at your convenience. Each week they have a topic and several experts to give you tips on where to search. There are also some website links on their page, which can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007rv8d> . I was interviewed last Sunday, live to air. I believe that the programme is available until next Sunday as an archive.

Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records on FamilySearch

Sue Reid noticed in the Bulletin last week that there were a number of Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records now browsable on-line through FamilySearch. She made a chink in one brick wall - with one of her lines that originated in Ireland. She says "it's only a starting point, but it was a great-great-great-grandmother's maiden name I had been completely unable to find otherwise".

Were You Aware ...

Old English Census Occupations

Look here for a list of some of the occupations that you may find on the English Census during your genealogy research:

<http://www.worldthroughthelens.com/family-history/old-occupations.php>

Charles Dickens's London in Pictures

Joan Edwards thought that many people might be interested in some early photographs of London that *The Telegraph* has put online to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Dickens birth. A book entitled *Dickens's Victorian London* contains a collection of 19th century photographs. *The Telegraph* has put 15 of these pictures online and they are very interesting. Go to <http://goo.gl/ofOVd> to have a look at them.

FindMyPast Scottish Censuses

FindMyPast now has five Scottish census transcriptions online. They are all newly transcribed and differ from the census transcriptions on Ancestry or FamilySearch. In last week's Bulletin, Gwen answered a question about a John HARVEY, who was born in 1875 in Strachan. Ancestry and FamilySearch have indexed this name as John HENRY but FindMyPast has the name as John HERVEY and one can easily find him using the "Include Variants" button. Having more than one transcription can be very useful.

Rock Star Genealogists

John Reid in his Anglo-Celtic Connections blog of January 23rd is hoping to get as many readers voting for their favourite "Rock Star Genealogist" – those who give "must attend" presentations at genealogy conferences and/or write "must read" family history articles or publications. Seventy four people have been nominated and you can read his complete blog and vote if you go to:

<http://goo.gl/s7dDe> . Please do vote no later than Saturday!

Films received in the seven days ending on January 26 2012 and due for return on February 24 2012.

Film Content	Film No
POL KI Radom Civ Reg Jewish Recs 1827-1844	0716127
POL KI Radom Civ Reg Jewish Recs 1862-1865	0716132
POL KI Radom Civ Reg Jewish Recs 1866	1201350
POL KI Radom Civ Reg Jewish Recs 1876-1877	1201353
POL LD Szczerców Civ Reg 1826-1830, 1838-1847	0747932
POL LD Szczerców Civ Reg 1866-1870	0760113
PRU WFA Neue Einwohner 1823-1870	0957028

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. The ordering patron will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description but a search in the Family History Library Catalog will reveal the full content. The geographical abbreviations are Chapman codes.

Toronto Family History Centre Current Opening Hours.

(Always phone us if you do not have a booking to ensure that we are open.)

Monday 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. to noon; 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed Saturday, February 18 and Monday, February 20 for Family Day.

For a copy of a searchable listing of all the films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre in pdf format, go to the Toronto FHC Website at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/> and look for it under Resources.

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