

### **In this Bulletin**

**Announcements** - FHC is closed tonight and every Friday morning, and has shorter hours for March Break.

**What's New** - FindMyPast (Welsh parish records, Manchester military records), FamilySearch (Florida Divorce Index), Ancestry (London England School Admissions)

**The Forum** - Some suggestions for last week's question but no new questions

**Were You Aware** . British Merchant Navy Research from Toronto: Selected Resources, OntarioRoots, Censuses

### **Announcements**

We will be closed this evening. The Toronto FHC is closed on Friday mornings until further notice. March Break is the week of March 10<sup>th</sup> to March 17<sup>th</sup>. Due to holidays of the volunteers, our hours will be shorter that week. We will be open Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to noon, Tuesday March 13<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 2pm, Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to 4pm, Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to noon and Saturday March 17<sup>th</sup> 9:30 to noon. We will be closed Saturday March 10, Friday morning and Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

### **What's New**

**FindMyPast** has just published 4 million Welsh parish registers for the counties of Cardiganshire, Carmarthenshire, Denbighshire, Flintshire and Glamorganshire. There are 1,418,921 baptism records 1538-1911, 950,254 marriage records 1539-1926, 340,002 records of banns 1701-1926, and 1,169,685 burial records 1539-2007. Coming soon are records for the following counties: Anglesey, Brecknockshire, Caernarvonshire, Merionethshire, Monmouthshire, Montgomeryshire, Pembrokeshire and Radnorshire.

FinMyPast was busy this week - they also added 74,000 Manchester military records. The 11,000 Manchester City Battalions records are lists of men who served during WWI with the so-called 'Manchester Pals' battalions: the 16th (Service) Battalion, The Manchester Regiment to the 23rd (Service) Battalion, and The Manchester Regiment. Each name is linked to the platoon list in which it appears and to the corresponding platoon photograph but each man is not identified. The 63,000 records of the Manchester Roll of Honour are a list of Manchester companies and the men working for those companies who served in some capacity during WWI. The information varies considerably - some men are identified by last name and initials; other records include the rank, service number and regiment.

**FamilySearch** had added or updated the Florida Divorce Index 1927-2001 and it now contains over three million records. Many other browsable collections have been added/updated. If you find a burial of a Welsh ancestor in the parish records on FindMyPast, you may want to search the browsable Welsh Probate Extracts, a growing collection now numbering 72,000 images.

**Ancestry** has a new database of school admissions and discharges 1840-1911 for London England containing 1.7 million records. The records currently indexed are more numerous in the later years as schooling became compulsory and I did find a few of my London relatives around 1900. The "reason for discharge" information is quite interesting. Ancestry updates include the 1800 US census and the Boston Passenger and Crew lists 1820-1940.

### **The Forum**

**Questions: No questions this week.**

### **Suggestions:**

#### **Q1/07/2012. Canada. Census.**

My ancestor, William M. Gorrie, is in the Toronto Directories in 1850-51 (Roswell's City of Toronto and County of York Directory) and in the Ontario Directory for 1851. Why can I not find him in the 1851 census living in Toronto?

Sue Reid writes: "The 1851 census returns for Toronto did not survive. More on this on Collections Canada at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1851/001005-200.03-e.html#gq> , which says: District: 43 Toronto with .Sub-districts: 408 St. David, 409 St. Lawrence, 410 St. James, 411 St. Patrick, 412 St. Andrew, 413 St. George, 414 County Jail, 415 General Dispensary, 416 maternity hospital, 417 Toronto University, 418 Upper Canada College, 419 Toronto Hospital, 420 Lunatic Asylum, 421 House of Industry, and 422 hospital are not available.

"A few parts of the 1841 census for some Toronto wards did survive, and are available on microfilm at the OGSP collection in North York Public Library and at the Ontario Archives. Some are in rough shape."

Catherine Pepper of the North York Central Library suggested: "You could try, as a substitute, the Tax assessment rolls for 1853 which are on <http://ontarioroots.com/> under Tax Rolls. That name does appear in those rolls." She added that "the OGS published a book on the 1853 assessment that includes a searchable CD with digital images of the 1853 assessment rolls. It is called 'Toronto in the 1850s: a transcription of the 1853 tax assessment rolls and guide to family history research'."

Mike Webber found that there is quite a bit on a William M Gorrie, civil servant (Inland Revenue Exciseman) through the years.

## Were You Aware .

### British Merchant Navy Research from Toronto: Selected Resources

James Thomson writes: "There are many British merchant navy (and Royal Navy) records which are accessible in or from Toronto -- in fact, we have had a course devoted entirely to this topic. Some resources are quite new and very helpful, and here are some highlights.

For a general introduction, the best guide is the 2004 edition of *My Ancestor was a Merchant Seaman* (Christopher T. and Michael J. Watts), which is at the Toronto Reference Library (TRL). Links to online guides from The National Archives can be found at: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/atoz/m.htm#>.

Merchant seamen records for the periods 1835-1857 and 1918-1941 have been indexed and digitised by FindMyPast: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/merchant-navy-seamen>. This database is available through the FHC Portal at Family History Centres (FHCs).

For captains (masters) who were active in 1869, a useful summary of service from 1851 to 1869 is found in the microfiche set *Lloyd's Captains Registers*, which is at the TRL.

About 70% of surviving crew lists for the period 1861-1913 are at the Maritime History Archive in Newfoundland, and if you know the Official Number of a ship you can determine from their website whether they hold one or more crew lists or logbooks for a year of interest: <http://www.mun.ca/mha/>.

The balance of the extant crew lists for the period 1861-1913 are in repositories in the UK, and nominal indexes to some are in the FindMy Past database at: <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/search/clip-crew-lists>, which also is available through the FHC Portal (above). Many crew lists are available on Family History Library microfilms. Other useful resources include indexes to 1851 crew lists for ships registered at ports in Scotland, Ireland and Wales (these are on CD at the Toronto FHC); the *Ships and Seafarers of Atlantic Canada* CD (also at the Toronto FHC); and the Crew List Index Project (CLIP) website at <http://www.crewlist.org.uk/>.

For births, marriages and deaths at sea (for passengers as well as crew), the most in-depth guide is *Tracing Births, Deaths and Marriages at Sea* (Christopher T. and Michael J. Watts), which is at TRL and at North York Central Library. For the period 1854-1908, don't overlook the BT 158, BT 159 and BT 160 databases at <http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk/>; these are accessible at FHCs through the FHC Portal (click on the link to The Genealogist).

As many merchant seamen also served for a time in the Royal Navy, you may also find useful information in the Royal Navy pay-per-view databases in Documents Online, notably the Registers of Seamen's Services: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/navy.asp](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/navy.asp)."

## OntarioRoots

This website at <http://ontarioroots.com/> has not been updated for some time but it still offers transcriptions of the 1853 tax rolls mentioned in the question above and the 1860 Toronto city Directory. Another resource to check for ancestors in Toronto is this book - *The city of Toronto poll book, exhibiting a classified list of voters at the late great contest for responsible government* (what a great name), which is available at the Toronto Reference Library.

## Censuses - Check for missing data

Many censuses are missing sections and some transcriptions are also missing data. Always check the detailed descriptions given for each census if you cannot find your ancestor. I spent ages looking for an ancestor who, I knew, was living in Whitechapel England in 1841, only to discover that parts of that registration district were missing. On Ancestry, read the whole section entitled *About the . Census - Known Problems* list areas missing or damaged.

FindMyPast has a "Knowledge Base" section under "Help and Advice" which gives detailed descriptions of missing data. Other websites also have descriptions of missing data.

Always check more than one transcription - I discovered a great great uncle in the 1911 UK census on Ancestry whose street is entirely missing from the 1911 census on FindMyPast and 1911Census.co.uk. Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has a clearly-laid-out description of Canada's censuses and the different websites where they can be found (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.009-e.html>). Three websites available at the FHC Portal - Ancestry, FindMyPast and The Genealogist - have different transcriptions for the UK Censuses. For the US, Ancestry and FamilySearch have both indexed many of the censuses but some indicate "in cooperation" with each other - that means it is the same transcription.

**Films received in the seven days ending on March 1, 2012 and due for return on March 29, 2012.**

Film Content	Film No
DEU BAY Marnheim PRs 1839-1875	0193044
DEU BRE Bremen Civ Reg Births 1872-1873	1344181
DEU BRE Bremen Civ Reg Births 1875	1344184
DEU HES Maar PRs WERNGES: BMD 1808-1875	1195836
DEU HES Schlitz PRs 1808-1875	1195843
DEU MEC Grabow PRs 1809-1864	0069134
DEU MEC Grabow PRs 1865-1922	1196458
DEU MEC Lübow PRs 1654-1839	0069309
DEU MEC Vietlübbe PRs 1740-1875	0069638
DEU Mecklenburg-Schwerin Boddin BMBs 1787-1865	0069004
ENG Ancient family of Musgrave in ENG	0278027
ENG BRK Cheveley & Oare PRs	0254498
ENG CHS St John's PRs Marrs 1796-1839	2045951
ENG DEV 9 Parishes Pre 1837 Marrs	1037002
ENG DEV Exeter Wills King, Jane (cont.) to Lee, James	1278961
ENG LAN Probate Original wills "L-P", 1804	0088966
ENG LAN Probate Original wills "P-Z", 1757	0088768
ENG London ProbateRegister copy wills, v. 60-61, 1720-1722	1068652
ENG NBL Tynemouth PRs Baptisms and burials, 1754-1774	1068653
ENG WAR Birmingham Marrs v18 1844-1845	0813733
IRL MEA Nobber PRs 1754-1866	0926179
POL Gdańsk Nowa Wioska (Kwidzyn) Taufen 1858-1944	0245687
PRT AZR Marrs 1592-1661, 1636-1692, 1696-1876	1547035
PRT AZR Marrs 1663-1881	1547152
PRU WPRU Rehnhof PRs 1762-1862	1196386
USA Various State Records	0908223

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.

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Closures:** If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed March 1<sup>st</sup> evening, March 10<sup>th</sup>, and the evenings of March 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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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