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Announcements

Films to be Returned: We are now returning all the films that were ordered from the Family History Library on a short term loan after October 1, 2011 as their return date occurs.

What's New

Ancestry has updated the Drouin Collection for both Quebec and Ontario. With over one million Catholic church records in Ontario now and over 14 million Quebec vital and church records, this is an amazing resource. The US City Directories database 1821-1989 now contains a remarkable one billion records. A couple of Irish databases have been added or updated: some 1841 and 1851 census fragments; Dublin, Probate Record and Marriage Licence Index 1270-1858, which includes over 100,000 index entries extracted from wills, letters of administration, marriage licences and other records within the Diocese of Dublin; and 200,000 pages from the *Belfast Newsletter*.

FindMyPast has added 10,000 new Boer War records to its collection this week. They also have a new collection for their Cheshire records - approximately 113,000 new Chester wills and probate records for the period 1492-1911. The records include all surviving original wills of Cheshire residents proved at the Chester diocesan consistory court 1492-1857 and registered copies made at Chester Probate Registry 1858-1911.

FamilySearch has updated/added parish records for Glamorgan, Wales 1558-1900 (nearly one million records), parish records for Cheshire, Yorkshire and Lancashire 1603-1910 (also one million records), and US Civil War Records for soldiers in many states.

DeceasedOnline added 210,000 records for Eltham Crematorium in Greenwich, London covering the period starting with its opening in 1956 to 1996; it services much of south-east London.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/15/2012. Italy to Canada.

My Great Grandparents emigrated from Italy to the US in 1902. They lived in Pittsburgh and Chicago and had five children before attempting to come to Canada in 1915. The immigration record I found on Ancestry for Sam and Nancy Amodeo & family shows that they were rejected at the port of Sarnia. The reason is recorded simply as "OC-23", which I believe stands for Order in Council 23. A quick Google search suggested that OC-23 was a highly contentious Canadian immigration regulation that said people wanting to settle in Canada had to arrive on a ship that came directly from their home country. The effect of this was to prevent certain ethnic groups from immigrating because there was no direct connecting ship line. In the case of the Amodeo family, their children, being US born were probably eligible, but their parents would have had to go back to Italy then directly to a Canadian Port. I wonder if any readers could confirm my suspicions or have encountered this regulation before?? I never did find any later emigration records, nor do any of my relatives know exactly when the family arrived.

Suggestions:

Q1/15/2012. Germany/US.

I am researching my great-grandfather's sister, Amalie Friedericke Christiane Spengler born 28/06/1831 in Mannheim, Germany. She applied for residence in Winterthur, Switzerland on August 10 1860. She then married a man named Reisch, lived in New York and had 3 children. This is all the information that I have about Amalie Friedericke Christiane Spengler. Is it possible to find out more about her and her family from any U.S. records?

The researcher does not know Mr. Reisch's first name or the names of any of the children, which makes searching for Amalie (Amalia, Emily, Emilia or Fredericke) very difficult. Census searches were done in Ancestry for any Amalie's or Amalia's of the correct age living in the US and Reisch's of a similar age but no obvious entries popped up. Naturalization records and immigration records were also looked at with similarly disappointing results. The researcher should check all the New York databases on www.familysearch.org for state census records, birth records, marriage records (with mother Amalie) and immigration records. As this data is frequently updated, an occasional revisit is warranted. The researcher should also try to find Amalie's marriage, hopefully in Winterthur. The FHL catalogue has nine films of church records for Winterthur covering the appropriate 1860-1870 period to review. Does the researcher have any more tiny bits of information from the residence application that might help in this search? Why did the 30-year old single Amalie chose Winterthur?

Q2/15/2012. Canada/Ireland.

My 2gr grandfather, Robert Miller, emigrated to Canada in 1832, settling in Adelaide Township, Middlesex County. He brought with him at least four children (William, Mary, Margaret and Robert) and from various censuses, I have discovered that Robert and his children were born in Ireland. In the GRO Regimental Birth Indices I have found the baptisms of William Miller in 1821, and Robert in 1824, both related to the 52nd Regiment of Foot, and in Dublin. From land records here in Ontario I found that Robert Sr. had been in the British Army's 52nd Regiment of Foot. Searching for him on the National Archives website, I found two soldiers with the same name in the same regiment. In WO97 I found Robert Miller, born in County Monaghan, age 29, discharged in 1816. In WO121 I found Robert Miller, age 26, born in County Londonderry, discharged in 1813. Could this be the same man and if not how can I find more information to decide which is my ancestor?

The researcher realized that the baptisms of William and Robert Miller after 1820 were unlikely to be the children of the 2g-grandfather as he had been discharged at that point, although certificates for Regimental BMDs before 1837 are available from the GRO (www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/).

The Chelsea Pensioner's records (WO97) are available on FindMyPast and the Robert Miller, who was discharged in 1816, had served for 10 years and 18 days, had become a sergeant, and was discharged because of a cataract in his right eye. He was from the parish of Hanagh (Donagh?), the town of Loughrea (?) in the County of Monaghan – this town/parish does not appear to exist. The records for the second Robert Miller in WO121/127 who was discharged in 1813 say that he was born in Dysart Martin (Desertmartin?) in Londonderry and discharged after 7 years 8 months at the age of 26. The record says that he was discharged because he had lost his right arm. Robert Miller was given a land grant in Canada in 1832, which would have been conditional on him clearing the land. This he did very rapidly within three years! Although he had grown sons by this point, perhaps a one-armed man might have had more difficulty clearing the land.

The medal rolls available on Ancestry and the Napoleonic War records on FindMyPast were searched. The researcher's Robert Miller (now of London, Canada West) had applied for and received the Military General Service Medal with four clasps for the battles/sieges of Busaco (1810), Fuentes d-Onor (1811), Ciudad Rodrigo (1812) and Badajoz (1812). There is no Robert Miller of the 52nd on the Waterloo Medal Roll. As Robert applied for the medal in 1847, he was still alive and Ken Cox suggested that the researcher look for records around the 1837 rebellion. Robert would have been an attractive addition to the militia as he had military experience in a leadership role as sergeant. Ken suggests checking muster rolls, local censuses of the 1830s, and even lists of men arrested in the rebellion. Local newspapers may have mentioned him, if he had a leadership role.

Q1/14/2012. London, England. Burials.

I am trying to find the burial places for Joseph Ayling in London in 1896 in Tottenham, Middlesex and I know the funeral cost £7 10s. Would this indicate where he was buried (private or public- rich or poor)? I would appreciate knowing if there are any tricks to finding people buried in London.

Vida Preece writes: "I've been successful sending emails directly to a cemetery in the area where an ancestor died, and giving them the exact date of death." These would include Chingford Mount Cemetery, Tottenham Park Cemetery, and Edmonton Cemetery (on FHL film). Unfortunately the researcher has tried this, but without success.

The funeral cost of £7 10s is the equivalent to about £245 in 2005 pounds according to the National Archives currency converter at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/. That would only be a tiny fraction of the cost today. A Google search for Victorian funerals seems to show that costs would run around £5 for a working man's funeral. A more specific example from 1917 has a total funeral cost of £5 18/, and this included an elm box coffin, polished with brass furniture, swansdown mattress, pillows and dress with attendance (£3 10/), cost of grave 16 shillings, 4 bearers 12 shillings, and glass hearse £1.

Were You Aware ...

A New 1940 US Census Tool for New York City

From the *Weekly Genealogist*, the newsletter of the New England Genealogical Society, comes this hint from Lynn Betlock. A reader writes "about a new 1940 census tool for New York City called Direct Me NYC 1940 (<http://directme.nypl.org/>). The New York Public Library digitized the 1940 New York City phone books and created a tool that allows users to move from the phone book listings to the 1940 census schedules on NARA's website. When a person of interest is selected from the telephone book, the address will be mapped on both a circa 1940 map and a 2012 map. The relevant enumeration district(s) will appear, and entering the name of a cross street will further refine the results. In some cases it may be impossible to narrow the results to one ED; for instance, if a street is on the border of two EDs, you will see two EDs for that street."

Cremation

The question about funeral costs in 1896 reminded me of a Bulletin written in April 2007, by then editor, Peter Goddard: "Trying to find out where someone was buried? As cremation becomes more and more popular the chances increase that they were not buried at all but that their ashes were disposed of to places unknown. Many crematoria in the United Kingdom have attached to them what are called "Gardens of Remembrance" where the ashes of the deceased are said to be scattered although it occurs to me that if they are then it can only be a token amount since otherwise the garden would soon become prone to ash storms at the slightest gust. My late wife's ashes are buried in the village churchyard but there is no stone to mark the spot, the minister explaining to me that if this were allowed the churchyard would soon become paved over like a parking lot. But just how prevalent is cremation becoming? Here are some statistics.

Percentage of all deaths:

United Kingdom

1900 0.1%
1930 0.9%
1950 15.6%
1970 55.4%
1990 69.6%
2004 72.2%
[2010 73.1%]

Canada

1930 0.5%
1950 1.9%
1970 5.9%
1990 32.5%
2004 56.0%
[2009 68.4%]

USA

1950 4.0%
1970 4.6%
1990 17.1%
2001 26.9%
[2010 40.62%]

[Japan

2008 99.85%]

One wonders how much longer the practice of embalming a body so that it looks nice for a few hours in a funeral home is going to be allowed to continue. The principal embalming fluid is formaldehyde, a Class 1 carcinogen and when the body is consigned to the ground it seems inevitable that the fluid must find its way to a water course. Cemeteries are currently exempt from the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act. And no doubt the popularity of cremation is being encouraged when the relatives of the dear departed discover that the cost of a modest casket to be lowered into the ground starts at about \$8,000."

Our dear Peter died in 2008 and after reading the above, you will not be surprised that he chose cremation.

The Military General Service Medal

Ken Cox told me of this medal when we were discussing possible avenues of research for question Q2/15/2012 above. The Military General Service Medal (MGSM) (details from WIKI) was a campaign medal approved in 1847, for issue to officers and men of the British Army. It was a retrospective award for various military actions from 1793–1814; a period encompassing the French Revolutionary Wars, the Napoleonic Wars, and the Anglo-American War of 1812. Each battle or action covered by the medal was represented by a clasp on the ribbon; twenty-nine were sanctioned and the maximum awarded to one man was fifteen. The medal was never issued without a clasp.

The 5th Duke of Richmond, who had fought at Waterloo, was chiefly responsible for the belated institution of the Military General Service Medal for all survivors of the campaigns between 1793 and 1814. (There had only hitherto been a Waterloo Medal – index available at FindMyPast). He persuaded Parliament, the Duke of Wellington and Queen Victoria that junior and non-commissioned officers and even private soldiers deserved this recognition. Senior officers had received the Army Gold Medal thirty years before.

The medal was only awarded to claimants, who survived until 1847. A combination of factors, from general illiteracy to limited publicity for the new medal meant that many did not. There are substantially fewer medals issued compared with the number of men who served during this period. Next of kin could not apply for a medal on behalf of a deceased relative. There were some 25,650 applications in total. Details found in the Roll are, Surname; forename; rank; engagements; miscellaneous information, and Regiment.

Barbara Chambers' website about British Army Research in the Napoleonic wars (<http://www.britisharmyresearchnapoleonicwars.co.uk/>) has a new page, GUIDE TO RESEARCH, which has a lot of information and help for anyone looking into this medal or the Napoleonic Wars.

Films received in the seven days ending on April 26, 2012 and due for return on May 31, 2012.

Film Content	Film No
CAN ON Claremont/Bellville Reg Baptist 1821-1928	0804348
DEU OLD Eutin Deaths 1634-1811	0247516

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.

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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