

In This Bulletin

Announcements – FHC hours, OGS Digging for Gold Workshop

What's New – DeceasedOnline (St Paul's, Bedford), National Archives UK (Naval Pension Records)

The Forum – Suggestions for last week's question

Were You Aware ... Tip of the Hat to Daily Bloggers, Kinship Terminology, Walter Powell and the Cariboo Gold Rush, First Name Abbreviations, UK County Resources – Wesmorland

Announcements

Please check our scheduled hours below. Please call before you come even if you have a reservation.

DIGGING FOR GOLD IN TORONTO LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

OGS Toronto Day-Long Workshop – Saturday, May 4th at North York Memorial Community Hall

With so many family history records becoming available online now, it is easy to overlook the unique resources and expertise available to us in Toronto at our libraries and archives. Presentations at this workshop will be made about: the Archives Association of Ontario and its resources, U of T Libraries and Archives, Roman Catholic Archives, Loretto Abbey Archives and other private archives, Toronto Public Library Canadiana Collection, Resources in the Toronto Family History Centre, the Archives of Ontario, Toronto's Wonderful Map Collections, and the City of Toronto Archives. Early bird registration is until April 15: \$30 (\$20 for OGS members). Click [here](#) for detailed information and to register.

What's New

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added another cemetery to its collection. The cemetery of St Paul's Church, Bedford has nearly 14,500 burials from 1567 to 1855 (all indexed digital scans of registers). **Price Increase!** DeceasedOnline is increasing its prices effective April 22nd by about one third. You can view the new price schedule [here](#) and the current pricing schedule is [here](#) for comparison. The increase is quite substantial; so look now for ancestors who may be included in the records there. Searching remains free.

The **National Archives (UK)** has added a new online database - Next of Kin Claims for Unpaid Royal Navy Officers' Pensions 1830-1860. There are nearly 10,000 records in this collection which covers officers of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, and civilian employees of the Royal Navy and Naval Dockyards. The records frequently include: date of death, rank, name and address of the claimant, date of the claim, and total value claimed. The supporting documents may include birth or marriage certificates of wills. They can be searched [here](#).

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2013/12. UK & US

I am hoping someone will be able to find a Philip H MORRIS in a census record for me. My gr gr grandfather, Frank Lazarus, left Plymouth, England, and by 1862 was, according to the city directory, living at 114 State Street, Hartford, Connecticut, with a Philip Morris. From 1864 to 1871 Philip H. Morris is listed at the same address as Frank. Frank Lazarus was a spectacle maker and had a business, Lazarus & Morris, presumably (but not necessarily) with Philip Morris. By 1874 both Frank and the business appear to have moved to New York, to Cortland.

I want to know who Philip H Morris is. I think he may be Pincas MORRIS, born in Plymouth in 1844, but I can find no proof. I think Pincas Morris was probably a son of Henry and Brina MORRIS of Plymouth; his birth would fit with their other children, Philip would be a likely alternative English name for Pincas to use, and the initial H following his first name is also used by Henry's son George (I think, in effect, "son of Henry"). Furthermore, among several Plymouth Jews who were in Hartford at the same time as Frank were Henry and Brina's sons, George H., Judah and Jacob, also all in the optical business. And Philip was twice president of the Hebrew Literary and Social Union, so Jewish. Because I want to write up something on this conclave of Plymouth Jewish opticians, I want to settle Philip's origins. The problem is that I can't find either him or Pincas in any census anywhere. I would be most grateful if someone could find him in some document that gives his year and place of birth.

Barry Spinner has two good suggestions for this researcher. He first suggests that the researcher should first satisfy herself that MORRIS disappears from UK records, verify his absence from all post 1860 UK census records and verify that

there is no death record in the UK. "Then use the rule that records in USA are the best source for verifying birth-place - in this instance." He also suggests that the researcher obtain the will of Henry Morris to see who is mentioned as a beneficiary. The UK Probate records on Ancestry show that Henry Morris, gentleman of Plymouth Devon, died on 19 December 1875 and the will was probated on January 26, 1876. This will can be ordered on a film through the FHL.

I remain unconvinced that Pincas/Philip is a son of Henry and Brina. No Pincas nor in fact any child of Henry and Brina born in 1844/3 appears living with them in the 1851 or 1861 censuses but their other children are. The birth registration of Pincas in 1844/3 is followed by a death of a Phineas Morris in 1845/1. Given that faded cursive writing may confuse a "c" with an "e", could it be that the child born in 1844/3 actually died? As the three male children of Henry and Brina all become opticians (Henry was a jeweller), could Philip be a cousin or another Morris relative?

Were You Aware

Tip of the Hat to Daily Bloggers

I have always admired those who blog daily. They create their blogs – day in, day out – from wherever they are in the world – despite whatever crises are happening in their personal lives. They create something new and interesting each day and certainly enrich my life. So this week, as I write from Vancouver, I would like to tip my editor's hat to those bloggers I read every day – John D Reid & *Anglo-Celtic Connections*, Dick Eastman & his *Online Genealogical Newsletter*, Elizabeth LaPointe & *Genealogy Canada* and Chris Paton & *British GENES*.

Kinship Terminology

FindMyPast had an interesting blog this week about family relationships and the terminology we use to describe those relationships. So if you do not know if that second cousin in once-removed or not, you may wish to read [this blog](#). The Chinese you individual terms for each relationship and the video link at the bottom of the blog is quite amusing. It made me glad of the simpler English terminology.

Walter Powell and the Cariboo Gold Rush

A couple of months ago there was a question in the Bulletin about a Walter Powell, who was born in England, moved to Canada and then to California. He was a bank teller/manager for the Bank of British Columbia and at one point he lived in Barkerville, according to Canadian directories. Thanks to the *Genealogy Canada* blog, I have found a website about the historic town of [Barkerville](#) and the [Quesnel Museum](#).

First Name Abbreviations

Genealogy in Time has come up with a list of abbreviations of first names. This could help in your searches of directories, parish records or censuses. The list is available [here](#). Did you know that Xpr stands for Christopher? If not, you may find this list useful. One way of indicating an abbreviation that seems quite common in older parish registers is the use of the colon at the end of the name. Many times I have stumbled over what looks like *Witt:* but actually is the abbreviation for William. If you are looking at a transcription, you will not see the helpful colon indicating that the word is abbreviated.

UK County Resources – Westmorland, next week Cumberland

This week we have a very few suggestions for Wesmorland. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Westmorland or Cumberland, please send it/them to the Bulletin.

[If you have not tracked any English or Welsh ancestors back to the start of civil registration in 1837, you should start by using the civil registration index at [FreeBMD](#) and census information for 1841 to 1911. If you need some help to do this, please come to any Family History Centre where volunteers will be happy to help.]

The old county of Westmorland is now incorporated into the present-day county of Cumbria. The Cumbria Family History Society could be able to help with information. Westmorland was a small county in terms of population and there are relatively few online databases. If anyone has suggestions, please let us know.

There are eleven Westmorland directories online at [Historical Directories](#).

The IGI batch numbers for Westmorland parishes are available [here](#).

The Cumbria Archives has an online catalogue available [here](#).

Cumbria BMD has more than 277,000 birth, 170,000 death and 96,000 marriage indexes for local civil registration that occurred after July 1837.

Films received in the week ending April 11th, 2013 and due for return May 30th, 2013.

Films Received Table	
Film Content	Film No
DEU WPRU Bischofswerder Taufen 1813-1842	0208013

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 FamilySearch 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 am to 2 pm
Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm
Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm
Thursday 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm
Friday 9:30 am to 12 noon
Saturday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come.

For a copy of a searchable listing of all 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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