

In This Bulletin

Announcements – Closed Saturdays.

What's New – FamilySearch (more updates), Ancestry (Liverpool PR updates, UK City & County Directories), DeceasedOnline (More greater Manchester area burials), FindMyPast.com (Free access to military records)

The Forum – One new question and some suggestions for last week's

News From the Trenches – More from Singapore and Malaya Newspapers, An unusual occupation

Were You Aware ... City and County Directories

Announcements

We are no longer open on Saturday mornings.

What's New

FamilySearch has added more browsable records for Italy, Peru, Austria, the Czech Republic, Portugal and the Dominican Republic. There have been updates to the indexed records for US passenger lists and various state records, including Michigan death certificates and Indiana marriage certificates.

Ancestry updated its Liverpool parish records collection 1659 to 1906+. These are Church of England records; they also have Catholic and Quaker records online. Their new collection of City and County Directories 1766 – 1946 for the UK contains over 26 million records; see *Were You Aware* below for a description of what you can find here and why you should search these records.

DeceasedOnline has added new Trafford Council burial records for the Manchester area. There are 120,000 more burial records for the Manchester area cemeteries of Dunham Lawn (4,342 burials between 1963 and 1996), Sale or Sale Brooklands (38,586 burials between 1862 and 1999) and Urmston (13,822 burials between 1892 and 1999), as well as 84,277 cremations at Altrincham crematorium between 1959 and March 2013.

FindMyPast.com is offering free access to all US and international military records from Friday, May 24 to Monday, May 27, to celebrate Memorial Day. While no payment will be taken you will have to register to access the records. I presume that this means all UK and Australian military records as well, which are much more extensive than the US records. For a list of the records go to [World Records](#) and look under the heading, *Military or Armed Forces and Conflict*, for the four regions covered – the US, Australia, the UK and Ireland.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/16/2013. A Death in Suez.

See question in "A Goldmine of Information" in News From the Trenches

Suggestions:

Q1/15/2013. UK.

I'm wondering if you have any Hertfordshire information - marriages, deaths, births for the 1700s and back. Might you have this already on CD? or something else? Or should I order it online from the Family History Library? Here are the names of the ones I'm looking for: Sarah Woodland was born November 1751 - her baptism was 17/11/1751. Her parents were James Woodland and Katherine ??? I have no birth date for Katherine, but her burial date is 26/11/1751 - an indication that she died from complications from childbirth. I am looking for either a marriage record for this couple or a birth record for Katherine. The family comes from Brent-Pelham, Hertfordshire.

Unfortunately the Toronto FHC does not have a CD which covers Hertfordshire baptisms or marriages. But FindMyPast (available at the FHC) has transcriptions of some Hertfordshire parish records. While Brent-Pelham is not a parish covered in either of the baptism or marriage databases, a search was made for a marriage of James Woodland. No marriage in any of the parishes available on FindMyPast was found. It is suggested that the researcher order film #1060654 from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City as that film contains the parish registers - baptisms, marriages and burials 1539-1754 & baptisms and burials, 1755-1773. The researcher should also note that the parish of Brent-Pelham borders Essex County and it is possible that the marriage took place in Essex. The two neighbouring Essex parishes are Clavering and

"Around the 1830s and 40s cheap, ready-made clothes (as opposed to expensive, made-to-measure garments sewn by skilled tailors) began to appear for the mass market, and they were known as "slop" clothes. (Apparently the word "slop" comes from the Old English for "a loose outer garment"). The clothes were cut out in bulk on machines, and workers (nearly always women) were paid piece rates to sew them together at home. As was so often the case, the pay for this work was scandalously bad. Thomas Hood wrote a poem about the misery of the slop makers called *The Song of the Shirt*. It begins:

*With fingers weary and worn,
With eyelids heavy and red,
A woman sat, in unwomanly rags,
Plying her needle and thread
Stitch! stitch! stitch!
In poverty, hunger, and dirt,
And still with a voice of dolorous pitch
She sang the "Song of the Shirt."*

Condition.	Rank or Profession.
Bachelor	Labourer
Spinster	Slop-maker

Oh dear! Perhaps the job was as bad as it sounds after all..."
and

"In the Royal Navy, the Sloproom was where we went to get kitted out or to by extra uniforms etc. All the goods in there were known as slops."

Checking the complete Oxford English Dictionary, various definitions of slop are found (with their earliest citation):

1. A charmed bag employed to steal milk from cows (1303)
2. An outer garment, as a loose jacket, tunic, cassock, mantle, gown, or smock-frock (1386)
3. (pl) some kind of footwear (1480)
4. Wide baggy breeches or hose, of the kind commonly worn in the 16th and early 17th cent; loose trousers, esp. those worn by suitors (1481-1490)
5. (pl) Ready-made clothing and other furnishings supplied to seamen from the ship's stores; hence, ready-made, cheap, or inferior garments generally (1663, and 1764)
6. Used as a term of contempt, (rare, 1599)

Please let the Bulletin know of your successes or items which you have found that others may find interesting.

Were You Aware...

City and County Directories

Ancestry, which has launched a revised and huge database (over 26 million names) of UK City and County Directories, has an excellent description of their contents:

Historical Background:

Directories were first published around the beginning of the nineteenth century; they primarily only covered cities and larger towns. The first major county directories were published around 1820. In London, however, some directories were published even earlier.

Information Contained in Directories:

The original purpose of directories was to provide information about towns and localities for travellers and other visitors. A directory would include a general description of the town or area and then include details on local transportation, churches, schools, government offices, shops, and businesses, etc. Sometimes information on specific people, such as businessmen, traders, and shopkeepers, was included as well.

Later directories began to include sections on private residents. At first this mainly consisted of the wealthier and more prominent individuals. Eventually the directories became more comprehensive and more residents, especially householders, were included regardless of social status.

Why use city directories:

Directories are great sources for locating people in a particular place and time. They are especially useful in between census years and in earlier years when censuses are non-existent. However, directories are also an excellent source for gathering details to help you place your ancestors in historical context. Because most directories provided descriptions and other information about the town and surrounding localities, directories can help you paint a picture of what life in that time and place might have actually been like."

Ancestry has City and Area Directories for Canada between 1819 and 1906 containing eight million names and City Directories for the US between 1821 and 1989 containing over one billion names. Ancestry has other collections of directories for smaller areas, like the Midlands in the UK. Directories are always well worth searching.

New films received in the week ending May 2nd, 2013 and due for return June 20th.

Film Content	Film No
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Wills v. 15 1599-1610	0194566

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

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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