

In This Bulletin

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Announcements

We will be closed for this evening. Because of the long weekend we will be closed Victoria Day, May 20th and Tuesday, May 21st.

The links at the bottom of last week's Bulletin did not work correctly – thanks to Harold Lane for quickly pointing out that problem. They should work this week.

What's New

FamilySearch has added or updated indexes to Isle of Man parish records (400,000 records) and to Argentina baptisms (over four million records). More images of both Portuguese church records and Italian civil registration are now available to browse.

Ancestry has added a small database of Industrial School Records for New South Wales 1867-1925. They have also in some way updated the 1901 census for England, Wales, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

FindMyPast has added 72,000 new medal roll records from the Royal Naval Volunteer reserve covering 1914-1920. "These professional seamen, drawn from the British Merchant Navy and fishing fleets, were called upon during times of war to serve in the regular Navy and due to the waved gold lace on their uniform became known as the 'Wavy Navy'. Five divisions were established in Bristol, London, Tyne, Mersey and Clyde, where civilian volunteers trained in disused warships and due to their high level of skill often rose to command positions in the regular navy." The medals awarded are the 1914 Star, the Clasp to the 1914 Star, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/18/2013. Republic of Ireland Probate Calendar.

In last week's Bulletin, I found interesting links for finding wills in Ireland. Following one of them, for will and probate calendars for the Republic of Ireland between 1923 and 1982 on Chris Paton's blog available [here](#), and I found a person of interest. Ellen Cronin died on September 11 1959 but probate was not registered until 1965. This is the complete entry:

Ellen Cronin Churchtown Beaufort, Co. Kerry
Died 11 Sep 1959 P (not I)
Grant and date of application 9 Aug 1965
Date of grant Aug 11
Grantee John Foley fp or pp handwritten
Assets £126
No & register: Cork - No number following

I would like to get the will, if there is one. Can anyone advise me how to get it?

News From the Trenches

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

Were You Aware...

National Archives UK Podcasts

The National Archives UK offers podcasts to download or listen to online at <http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/audio/>. One can choose from a number of podcasts in each of the subject areas like family history, military history or social history. The most recent podcast is entitled *Australia in War and Peace 1914-19*, and the most recent family history podcast is *The Hearth Tax – An Introduction*. Its description is helpful: “The hearth tax was levied on householders in England and Wales between 1662 and 1689. Records of the assessments, returns and exemptions are a fruitful source for family, local and social historians, as they provide a remarkable insight into wealth, poverty, population, and literacy in the early modern period. This podcast looks at the records of this controversial and unpopular tax held at The National Archives.” I have found many interesting podcasts about family or social history.

***Morbidity and Mortality on Convict Voyages to 19th Century Australia* Podcast**

I found this particular podcast interesting because my 4g-grandfather was transported to Australia in 1816. The podcast states that there were 100,000 men, women and children transported to Tasmania between 1787 and 1868. The voyage typically took four months. [My ancestor left London on October 9, 1816 and arrived on March 10, 1817.] The author of the podcast examined the deaths on the voyage, including just before and just after. He found that the death rate on convict ships was about half that for slave trade ships crossing the Atlantic and it was also less than the death rate for free migrants going to America, despite the fact that both these voyages took less time.

He also found that the death rate improved dramatically when trained surgeon superintendents were placed on board. [Of the 200 men on my ancestor's ship, only one person died; it was one of the first ships with a surgeon on board.] The convicts and their ships were actually public property and so the surgeons were responsible for this public property and did their best. They often did experiments to improve the health of the passenger convict. They also controlled the ship's environment and tried to keep the ships free of 'contagion'. Life on board ship was quite regimented under these surgeon superintendents. The convicts were mustered at first light and taken on board and washed in groups. They were shaved and their hair was cut when needed. After that the bedding was brought on deck, aired and then stowed on deck. Then the decks were scrubbed. In the afternoon convict men had tasks to do like picking oakum, while female convicts sewed or knitted. In the early evening, the surgeons organized classes for the prisoners – the better educated taught the less educated. After that there were exercises and games on deck, sometimes even boxing matches.

Most of the male convicts had come on board from prison hulks. [My ancestor was on a hulk from July to October 1816.] The author found that the convicts on the hulks worked on the docks and were given a diet of about 3,000 calories a day. This meant that when they boarded the convict ships they were quite strong and well nourished. He contrasted that to the female convicts who were kept in county jails with less food and exercise. He also found that there was no relation between death rate and the length of the voyage but that if the ship stopped to re-supply the death rate was lower.

The convicts were found to be quite healthy after their first two months in their new home. The author postulated that because of the length of the voyage, many of the diseases may have burnt their way out during that time, protecting Australians. This effect was diminished when voyage length decreased with the advent of steam ships.

Illnesses: Old Names with their Modern Equivalents

The Global Genealogy newsletter this week has a good article recently updated by Rick Roberts: [Defining Historic Illness Names and Their Modern Equivalents](#). The article has the modern equivalents of unfamiliar illness names you may encounter in old medical or death records. I have a surprising number of pub owners in my family, dying of Fatty Liver (Cirrhosis) and others died of Phthisis (Tuberculosis).

New films received in the week ending May 16th, 2013 and due for return July 4th.

Film Content	Film No
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Wills 1632-1936	1885822

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. 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, click [here](#).

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