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Announcements

Closed this evening, June 7th.

As our Family History Centre is usually much quieter in the summer, we usually cut down on our hours over the summer. Please check the schedule at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com> and ALWAYS call before you come if you have not made an appointment. The FHC is now closed on Thursday mornings until after Labour Day. This Saturday is our last until after Labour Day.

OGS Toronto Genealogy "Summer Camp"

Genealogy "Summer Camp" brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the many archives and reference libraries in the city. This year, Summer Camp will run from August 12-17. The fee for 2012 is \$230 (Cdn), which covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For details as to venues, resources, tutorials and accommodation, and to download an application package, visit www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html, or contact Jane MacNamara at info@torontofamilyhistory.org. **Please register by 11 June 2012, or let us know that your registration is on the way.**

What's New

FindMyPast has published Royal Household staff lists online, in association with the Royal Archives. More than 50,000 staff records from 1526 to 1924 can be searched to discover details such as name, occupation, age, length of service and salary. The records fall into two main sections: Royal Household establishment lists, which have extensive details about the people listed, and Royal Household index sheets, which have the employee's name, the post they held, and their dates of employment. A few new Kent parish registers have been added for Bromley, Charlton and Darenth.

Ancestry has indexed all the 1940 census images for New York and they have added three state censuses of New York done in 1892, 1915 and 1925. Some NY state naturalization records are now available and the US passport applications 1795-1925 database currently includes more than 1.8 million records.

FamilySearch and its partners have indexed 18 states (Alaska Arizona Colorado Delaware Florida Hawaii Idaho Kansas Louisiana Mississippi Montana Nevada New Hampshire Oregon Utah Vermont Virginia Wyoming) for the 1940 US census that are now searchable by name and indexing is more than 50% done. [I found that I had to choose a particular state to do a name search.] An index to the Scottish census of 1841 has been added. A couple of Canadian databases of images have been added/updated: Deed Indexes for Halifax County, Nova Scotia 1749-1958 and New Brunswick marriages and Late Registrations 1920-1950. There are now over 3 million records in the California Great Registers 1866-1910. These are county clerk voting registers from most counties in California which were created every other year.

DeceasedOnline has added another 120,000 memorial images and searchable inscription transcripts are now available for a further eleven regions of Scotland. Now all the memorial inscriptions can be searched on surname and forenames, plus date range, in the same way as burial register records; but access can also be purchased to a whole cemetery/churchyard collection for browsing, or just the subset of headstone images with inscriptions containing a specific surname. These inscriptions can then be searched for any combination of names, dates and words, e.g. farmer, drowned, killed, war. This set of mainly rural records comprises headstone and memorial photographs and transcripts from 99 cemeteries and burial grounds from Argyll to the Scottish Borders including Banffshire (Moray), Clackmannanshire, Edinburgh, Fife, The Lothians, Lanarkshire and North Ayrshire.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/22/2012. England. LDS Church.

How does one access records of conversions to the LDS church in Northern England in the 1891-1911 timeframe?

Q2/22/2012. England.

Recently I learned that my mother had a child in Britain after the war that was not my father's. I do not know the father's name, only that he was an American serviceman. My parents had separated for a while and that the birth was possibly in 1946, give or take a few months either way. She was named Margaret and she was adopted by a childless couple in Kidderminster named Howe, who were publicans there. My parents reconciled and I don't have much hope of finding just when this happened or who Margaret was but I have so many questions. A few follow:

1. How long after the end of the war would American servicemen still be in Britain?
 2. Could an adoption at that time be done simply by giving the baby to another couple or would it have had to be legally registered as such--probably with a new Christian and surname?
 3. Are adoption records in the UK closed?
 4. Would the birth registration have my father's name listed as they were still married, or would it have to be the actual father?
 5. What length of time was allowed for registering a birth? Could it have been months?
 6. Would my mother be required to use her married name or maiden name on the birth certificate and would the new parents (Howe) have to register this child under a new name?
- Any ideas or advice or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Suggestions:

Q1/20/2012. Ukraine to Poland in 1947.

Polish individuals in 1947 were repatriated to Poland and dispersed and Ukrainians living in Poland were sent to Ukraine. This was apparently done to make the two populations more homogeneous. Because of privacy laws, I have been unable to obtain either their names or current addresses. Are there any suggestions on how this information might be unearthed?

Sonia van Heerden sent in the following suggestions:

The final distribution of persons in Poland was called the **Vistula Operation** where Ukrainians who had not voluntarily moved to Ukraine prior to 1947 were placed on trains and sent to places in the former Prussia in northern Poland to be settled about 30 km from other Ukrainians.

There is a newspaper "Nashe Slovo" published in Poland and subscribed to by people ethnically Ukrainian now living in eastern Poland or western Ukraine (as well as the diaspora in Canada, USA, England & Australia), which accepts advertisements from you requesting relatives to contact you in Canada. In 2000 there was a Toronto representative who would translate your ad into Ukrainian and send it on your behalf to Poland. Then he would translate any replies to you when any letters are sent back. This newspaper is still published. Here is a website: <http://nslowo.pl>.

The contact was Anna Winnicka at nslowo@free.ngo.pl and she referred you to Peter Kowalczyk, 40 Westhead Rd. Toronto Ont. M8W 4S1 tel. 416-503-9888. He is still accepting the ads and sending them to Poland.

There may be a national newspaper for Poles who were removed from Ukraine and transferred to Poland, but I do not know of it.

Q1/21/2012. Gibraltar.

The name 'NOBLE FERGUSON' is very common among my family of Fergusons. I have one that I cannot actually fit in as he was born in Gibraltar according to 1901 and 1911 Irish census. His father was also NOBLE and was a clerk. From a CD recording births, death and marriages from the Londonderry Sentinel, which I saw in Derry last year, there is a death of a Letitia Ferguson 24 August 1855, "At Gibraltar on Sunday the 19th July, Letitia, the wife of Mr. N. Ferguson, clerk of works, Royal engineer Department, formerly of this city". This would seem to suggest that the Noble Ferguson, born in Gibraltar would be a son of Mr. N and Mrs. Letitia Ferguson BUT he is born in 1864, according his marriage, in 1865 according to 1901 census, and in 1861 from the 1911 census. The other interesting thing about the family is that in the one part, which seems to have more Noble's than any other, there is a marriage of a William Ferguson, around 1886 (I cannot find the marriage) and the wife (Catherine SMYTH) who was born in Gibraltar around 1865. I met a grandson of William recently in Derry and he said that apparently, his grandfather used to tell the story of how he hadn't been well and had fallen in love with his nurse and married her.

Gibraltar became a British possession in 1704. Civil registration records date from 1848 for births, although registration was not compulsory until later. The researcher has looked at the civil registration film (#1707588) which covers birth records from 1848 to 1870 and not found the birth of Noble Ferguson. Perhaps he was not registered as it was not yet compulsory. As the family is Church of Ireland, the researcher could look for baptisms in Gibraltar, but the FHL catalog does not have records for this period, although they have films for the Catholic church. Census records and other population lists are available for 1868/71 and these can be found of film numbers 1729532 and 1725933. In 1868 Noble should be a young child; I have found that children's ages in censuses tend to be more reliable. The researcher should be able to find the Ferguson family in census records.

Both TheGenealogist and FindMyPast have records of Army birth, marriages and deaths. The notice in the Londonderry Sentinel has a death notice for Letitia, the wife of Mr. N. Ferguson, in 1855. This is a long time before Noble, the younger, is born. It seems likely that the older Noble remarried and, indeed, there is an Army marriage for a Noble Ferguson in Gibraltar (1850-1859), page 1044. FindMyPast's clever marriage finder says that Noble married one of the following women: Anne Harriet Campion, Elizabeth Hill, Mary Key, Amelia Adelaide Roberts or Mary Ann Wink. This marriage certificate can be ordered from the GRO through their Certificate Ordering service at <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/>, as can all Army birth, marriage and death certificates (which do go back to before 1837). While I found no Army death for Letitia Ferguson, I did find an Army birth of a Letitia Cooper Ferguson in Gibraltar (1850-1859 pg 1092), possibly a daughter of Letitia before she died. Ordering her birth certificate would verify the parents' names.

I thought that I might find the birth under Consular Births until Joe Mounsey pointed out that as Gibraltar belonged to Britain there would be no consulate! Oops!

A search for Noble Ferguson in various online newspapers only yielded one hit. The Belfast News of August 11, 1870 reports that Noble Ferguson paid an annual subscription of £2 to Trinity Church in Belfast.

Q2/21/2012. How do I get UK wills?

I have been searching the Probate Index on Ancestry that now covers the period 1858 to 1966. I have found three people of interest and would like to know how to get copies of their wills.

- Probate proved at LEWES on February 24 1887 – George Edward Osborne – died Jan 19, 1887
- Probate proved at LONDON on June 30 1925 – Edwin Charles Edmunds – died June 12, 1925
- Probate proved at BRISTOL on July 28 1931 – Albert John Rodd – died June 26, 1931

These three probates are all slightly different. The first one, proved at LEWES in 1887, was proved at a District Court (ie not the Principal Probate Registry, LONDON). One could use the will finder featured in **Were You Aware...** of Bulletin 19 - <http://www.haine.org.uk/wills/willsearch.php>. Or you can go directly to the FHL Catalog.

Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries, 1858-1899 - <http://goo.gl/HZ6sP>

Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries, 1900-1925 - <http://goo.gl/Wdlwp>

Film #1472157 has the following description: "M Sept. 1887 (Lincoln) to Dec. (York) N Jan., 1887 (Birmingham) to Dec. (Wakefield) **O Jan., 1887 (Bangor) to May (York)**". The capital letters are the first letter of the last name and the months indicate the month in which the probate was granted. So "**O Jan., 1887 (Bangor) to May (York)**" means all surnames starting with an O for wills probated in the months January to May and for all the District Courts, Bangor, the first court alphabetically to York, the last. George Edward Osborne's will should be found on this film 1472157.

The second probate was proved at LONDON, aka The Principal Probate Registry, in 1925. FHL films are also available to order for a record copy of this will as well.

Record copy wills for the Principal Registry, 1858-1925 - <http://goo.gl/47ZW1>

Edwin Charles Edmunds' will was proved in June of 1925. Film #1912243 has the description **1925 Jun. B-K**, or all June probates for Names beginning with the letters B to K, which would include Mr Edmunds.

The FHL has not filmed record copy wills after 1925. To obtain the will of Albert John Rodd, the researcher must write to **The Postal Searches and Copies Department, Leeds District Probate Registry, York House, York Place, Leeds LS1 2BA** to get a copy. The form to be filled in to get the will is at: <http://goo.gl/2AQVa> and it has directions on the second page. The fee is £6 and should be payable to "HMCTS" by bank draft, payable through a United Kingdom bank and made out in £ sterling. The information found on the Probate Calendar index on Ancestry will be entered on the form and will include the grant type, issuing Registry and grant issue date, as well as the Folio number if applicable. [There may be a handwritten number next to entries for Wills proved in the Principal Probate Registry (London) between 1858 and 1930. This is the Folio number, which is used by the Probate Registries when obtaining copies of the Will. Always make a note of this if applicable.] Further information can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.uk/courts/probate/family-history>.

Were You Aware ...

UK County Resources – Cornwall & Devon, Next week - Somerset

This week we have a few suggestions for Cornwall and Devon. For next week please send me any websites or items that you use for Devon or Somerset.

[If you have not tracked any English or Welsh ancestors back to the start of civil registration in 1837, you should start there by using the civil registration index at www.freebmd.org.uk/ 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.]

Cornwall - Eve Richardson mentions that the Robarts Library has a copy of *The lost Jews of Cornwall: from the middle ages to the nineteenth century* edited by Keith Pearce and Helen Fry in its stacks.

Devon

Valerie Taylor wants to share the following website for anyone with ancestors in Branscombe, Devon. She says that it is packed full of information and is all free. <http://www.branscombeproject.org.uk/>

For Devon Jewry, Eve Richardson suggests two important websites:

The Susser Archives; www.jewishgen.org/JCR-uk/susser/

Exeter Synagogue Archives; www.jewishgen.org/jcr-uk/community/exe/history.htm

Eve says that there are errors in the material, but they are nonetheless indispensable for people researching the 19th century Jewish communities of Plymouth and Exeter.

Devon Wills Project contains an index to over 200,000 pre-1858 wills from 400 different sources.

<http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/DevonWillsProject/index.html> This link will help you find where to look for the wills of your ancestors.

Ancestry has about half a million extracted parish records for Devon – a very small number. TheGenealogist.co.uk also has a tiny number of transcribed parish registers for Devon. FindMyPast has a lot of parish baptisms, marriages and burials from two sources: parish register transcriptions from the Devon Family History society, and index and images to 3.5 million parish registers from the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. One reader has asked how to find out what parishes are online here and I have been unable to navigate through the Knowledge Base of FindMyPast to figure it out. It is possible that the Plymouth and West Devon records are so new that their knowledge base has not yet been updated. The Devon Family History Society has a weblink here - <http://www.devonfhs.org.uk/parishbooks.htm> - that it says shows the coverage of their transcriptions on FindMyPast.

The National Burial Index Version 3 is available at the Toronto FHS and online at FindMyPast. It has very little coverage for Devon (only 7 parishes) but has 211 parishes and 111,000 names for Cornwall.

If you have an interest in a particular parish in Devon, do have a look at the resources at the Toronto FHC; we have over 100 films and CDs for various parishes.

Devon Notes and Queries was a quarterly journal started in 1899 devoted to local history and biography. It contains some genealogy, lots of names, places, photos, etc. Twenty seven of these are available online at internet Archive (<http://archive.org/index.php>). Enter "Devon quotes and queries" as the search term to find them. Some of the journals include Cornwall as well.

Dundee Cemetery Records

Vida Preece sent this website which she says is an amazing resource for those with ancestors buried in Dundee:

<http://www.howffcemetery.info/>. "The Tombs of the Dundee Howff" has more than 2000 separate monument pages to view with many being accompanied by a photograph. Other cemeteries now included within the site at present are St Aidan's, St Peter's, New Howff and Logie, with plans to add more in the future. The website includes additional archive information like newspaper articles, old photographs and missing inscriptions, with kind permission from the Dundee City Archive and Dundee Central Libraries. Friends of the Dundee City Archives have transcribed 80,000 burial records from The Howff, Dundee's City cemetery and these are available to download here: http://www.fdca.org.uk/Howff_Burials.html.

Belfast Cemetery Records

At <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/index.asp>, the Belfast City Council has put 360,000 records for three cemeteries (Belfast City Cemetery - records from 1869, Roselawn Cemetery - records from 1954 and Dundonald Cemetery - records from 1905) online. Their free searches usually give name, age, place of residence, sex, date of death, date of burial, cemetery they are interred in, grave section and number. You can view who else is buried in a

particular grave by clicking on the grave number contained in your search results. A new addition to the site is that you can now purchase a copy of the actual burial record for just £1.50, as the burial was at least 75 years ago – this will give you more information and is very cheap.

Films received in the seven days ending on June 7, 2012 and due for return on August 2, 2012.

Film Content	Film No
ENG YKS Land Tax Assessments Allertonshire 1781-1785, 1774	0894262
ENG YKS North Riding - Land tax roll 1832	0566178

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 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Now closed Thursday mornings.

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. Closed Saturday mornings starting June 16th.

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.

If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, reply to this email with the word "Delete" in the subject line.

Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3C 3V4 Phone: 416 422 5480 Ext. 111.

Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet dot ca