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Announcements

The FHC is now closed on Thursday and Saturday mornings until after Labour Day. Please check the schedule at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com> and ALWAYS call before you come if you have not made an appointment.

Library and Archives Canada Cuts – OGS Toronto Response

The cuts to the LAC budget are likely to have a severe impact on anyone trying to research their family in Canada as well as hurting many other areas. I cannot believe that they are going to stop inter-library loans. But there are many other cutbacks that mean that LAC will be a shadow of its former self (and it is not robust now). The Toronto Branch of OGS has announced its response to these cuts to funding and staff.

“At its annual general meeting on 28 May 2012, the Toronto Branch approved a resolution to send a letter to both the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages and the Prime Minister of Canada expressing our serious concerns about the cuts.

The letter, signed by Branch Chair Diana Thomson, urges the government of Canada to consider alternatives to the planned service reductions and elimination of programs at LAC so that Canada's precious documentary and published heritage will be preserved and remain available for future generations. The Toronto Branch letter and resolution are both posted on our website at www.torontofamilyhistory.org.”

What's New

FindMyPast has added new WWI and WWII Prisoner of War records. The Prisoners of War 1914-1918 database contains records of 7,703 WWI British Army Officers. The records will usually contain first and last names, rank, service, section, date they went missing and date they were repatriated. The Prisoners of War 1939-1945 contain:

- British Navy & Air Force Officers: 19,229 records
- Officers of Empire serving in British Army: 39,808 records
- British Army held in German territories: 107,000 records

The records will usually provide you with name, rank, regiment, army number, camp number, Prisoner of War number, camp type, camp location and extra notes, where applicable.

Ancestry has added the following databases for Dorset: 646,000 Land Tax Returns 1780-1832, 500 Convict Transportation Records 1724-1791, nearly 5,000 Calendars of Prisoners 1854-1904, nearly 5,000 Vagrant Passes 1739-1791, 350,000 Jury Lists 1825-1921, an update to Wills and Probates 1565-1858 (now 28,000 records), 63,000 Dorchester Prison Admission and Discharge Registers 1782-1901, 4,000 Alehouse Licence Records 1754-1821, and 31,000 Militia Lists 1757-1860

FamilySearch has added indexes to the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses for Scotland, adding to the 1841's release last week. While this is good news for Scottish researchers, not all the fields have been transcribed. If you find someone on FamilySearch, I suggest looking them up on Ancestry and/or FindMyPast for more information. Nineteen US states are now searchable for the 1940 census.

New Irish Records Online

The Irish Family History at www.rootsireland.ie has added East Galway Family History society records to the 19 million records available there. These Galway records include pre-1911 Roman Catholic marriage and death records and all of their available pre-1900 Church of Ireland baptismal, marriage and burial records. A detailed list of what is online can be found here: <http://goo.gl/8OASX>.

There are now nearly three million pre-1900 church records available at <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>. This database now contains church records for Dublin City, Carlow, Cork and Kerry.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/23/2012. England. Jewish ancestors?

A cousin of mine, when in Devon looking for information on our shared Stacey great-great-grandparents, was told that the Stacey family were originally tinsmiths or tinkers. In my gggrandfather's era, they were primarily agricultural labourers. The story (entirely oral) was that the Stacey family of Devon and Cornwall (our ancestors) were originally tinkers and were Jewish or Turkish in origin, and I would love to find out if anyone has anything to add to this. I suspect it goes back a few centuries and it intrigues me...

Q2/23/2012. England. Illegitimacy.

In 1833 in England if a pregnant woman belonged to an independent church, would the bastardy bonds and/or any interrogation materials be located at her independent church or at the official Church of England local parish? Is there any place else a record might be found? What if she left England before the birth of the baby?

Suggestions:

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?

Linda Reid wrote with these suggestions: "In the Family History Library Catalogue select a parish name. Then go to "church records". Scroll through the list and look for something like:

Record of members, 1841-1948

author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Leeds Branch (Yorkshire)

(This is under Leeds, York, England.)

By 1891 the number of converts had dropped off sharply from the peak period of 1840 to 1860 and didn't rise significantly until after World War II.

There is also the "Minnie Margetts File" (Membership Card Index) on 16 rolls of microfilm. It contains records of membership of early English branches of the church for the years 1839-1913. You can find it in the Family History Library Catalogue by doing a keyword search for "Minnie Margetts" or by doing a film number search under the first film number 415443.

If your LDS ancestors emigrated, there is the CD 'Mormon Immigration Index' – US68 in the Toronto FHC resources."

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.

Christine Cocks wrote from England with the following suggestions:

"I am a (non-admin moderator) member of FamilyTreeForum.com. The name is indicative of what it is.

It is a free site, but access to some areas is restricted to people who actually register, such as:

<http://www.familytreeforum.com/forumdisplay.php/8-Sensitive-Research>

That particular part of the site is visited a lot by people with a lot of expertise in this kind of area, who are usually very helpful and supportive. There is a policy on the site of not naming names of anyone who might still be alive, and not putting e-addresses into posts. That information is expected to be shared via personal message (PM).

In terms of the questions asked:

- 1 - not sure
- 2 - not sure - but someone on that section would know
- 3 - Adoption records are not very accessible at all - even the adoptees have to "jump through hoops" to get at their own records.
- 4 - the husband of the mother is presumed to be the father unless some very strong representations are made
- 5 - births and deaths are required to be reported within 6 weeks, under penalty of a fine, I believe.
- 6a - the initial registration would be with the mother's married name, unless divorced and choosing to use her maiden name, and showing her maiden name in a separate column.
- 6b - The adoption registration is separate.

This link is likely to answer most of the questions:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/Registeringlifeevents/index.htm>

Re question 1, there were American servicemen in England for a long time after the war. There were still American air bases in England in the 21st century at Lakenheath, Suffolk and Mildenhall, Cambridgeshire.

Were You Aware ...

Parish Maps for England

Alan Billing writes: "Bulletin readers may be interested in the useful maps of English parishes at <http://maps.familysearch.org/>, based upon parishes of 1851 (and so including some "new" Victorian parishes split off from an ancient parish).

The viewer is first shown a county map of England. There is a search window in which to enter a name (e.g. Southgate); it then lets you choose from a list of possible choices (unless it is unique). In this case, there are three entries, and the one I want is Southgate, Middlesex. It then displays a plan view of the parish of Southgate, and additional parishes, overlaying a Google map or satellite image if desired. A panel lets you look at "Info" (basic parish information such as date range of parish records), "Jurisdictions" (the relevant jurisdictions within which it falls including county, civil registration district, probate court, diocese, poor law union) and "Options" (see below).

Using the map overlay, it is quite easy to determine if an existing road is within Southgate, or an adjacent parish (all named); and where an address is relative to the adjacent parish churches (if you have their addresses).

"Options" can give you a list of selectable adjacent parishes, and also will list the name and distance to all adjacent parishes within a specified radius. The latter is very handy when seeking a possible out-of-parish marriage since most such are within about 10 miles of the home parish. It is possible to print at least some of the information and maps, though I've not explored that much yet."

Historic Maps for Norfolk

While on the subject of maps, Norfolk County Council has a remarkable map collection to view at <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/mapexplorer/>. One can compare the following maps side-by-side: First Ordnance Survey map, Tithe map, Enclosure map, 1946 Aerial map, 1988 Aerial map, and the 2011 Ordnance Survey map. Buildings and fields are clear.

UK County Resources – Devon and Somerset, Next week - Dorset

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

[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.]

Devon

Sue Reid noticed a mistake in last week's section on Devon Notes and Queries. She says that a search at Internet Archive (<http://archive.org/index.php>) will work a lot better if you use "Devon notes and queries" as the search term (rather than "Devon Quotes and Queries").

Paul Cohen wanted to know what parishes were covered in the West Devon records available on FindMyPast. As the Bulletin did not elucidate the issue, Paul phoned the Devon Records Office in Exeter and received the following clarification which he thought readers might be interested in.

"There are three records offices in Devon. For the north, there is one in Barnstable, another one in Plymouth, called the Plymouth and West Devon Records Office, and the central records office in Exeter. With the exception of more current records (20th century) which are not yet filmed, Exeter holds copies of all the holdings of the other two offices.

The records recently posted on FindMyPast are for the area of Plymouth and West Devon, which basically covers an irregular area about 10 miles beyond greater Plymouth. Those are the first of an ongoing effort to release all the Devon records, a substantial task.

For a listing of the Parishes and their holdings the following link will show the record, and where it is held. If the Location column is blank, it means the records are in Exeter. If it shows a code starting with a B, it means Barnstable, and a P means Plymouth.

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/councildemocracy/record_office/record_offices_in_devon/parish_register_list.htm

The chap I spoke with at the Exeter office was quite helpful, and can be reached at +44 (0)1392 384253 or devrec@devon.gov.uk."

Somerset

FindMyPast has an online index to Somerset marriages in two sections – pre-1754 (146,765 marriages) and post-1754 (184,710 marriages). These records come from the Somerset and Dorset Family History Society and contain the spouse's name and place of marriage. A very few Somerset parish records are online at Ancestry. BathBMD at www.bathbmd.org.uk has indexes to local registration for Bath and North East Somerset births, marriages and deaths for the years 1837 to 2007. The Toronto FHC has an index to marriages in North Somerset Parishes 1754-1837 on CD #BR145. The National Burial Index CD has 869,000 burials in 542 Somerset parishes (also available at the Toronto FHC).

Old Weather Records for England

I was interested in a question posed on the Norfolk RootsWeb list this week. A researcher was writing her family history and wanting to make it more interesting, she was hoping to find some weather records for the mid 1700's. She received several responses, excerpted below.

"Weather records for that period are very few and far between for the UK in general. Generally speaking the period you ask about was in what is known as "The Little Ice Age". During this time the winters would have been cooler than today, ice on the rivers in most winters and the summers generally cooler than today as well. In other words our ancestors had a bleaker climate than you have today. That is not to say that there would not have been warmer years. Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_England_temperature "

"The Laki eruption in Iceland affected the weather from 1783-1784 across parts of Europe. Some years ago we had a bit on here about this and a local newspaper report of how the sky went dark and the crops were covered in ash. Europe was plunged into a bit of nasty weather."

"The History of British Winters" - <http://www.netweather.tv/index.cgi?action=winter-history;sess>

Historical British Weather compiled from various sources: http://booty.org.uk/booty.weather/climate/1750_1799.htm

"In the Norfolk and Suffolk Weather book there is a section Early Battles with the Waves. '1762 More than 300 houses and eight parish churches were inundated during the Great Norwich Flood which rose 12 feet perpendicular in 24 hours. It was 15 inches higher than a similar flood in 1619 but lower by 13 inches than in 1613.'"

Films received in the seven days ending on June 12, 2012 and due for return on August 9, 2012.

Film Content	Film No
ENG NFK Misc Norfolk PRs and Manor Court recs	1471681
PRU WPRU Groß Bellschwitz PRs 1750-1900	0208135

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.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed Thursday and Saturday mornings.

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.

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