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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.

Because our volunteers will be taking advantage of the summer weather while they can, we have reduced August hours even further for two weeks. We will be closed Friday August 10th, Monday August 13th, Tuesday evening August 14th, Friday August 17th, Monday August 20th, Tuesday evening August 21st, and Friday August 24th.

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Many thanks to Nancy Conn, who has donated a number of books to the Family History Centre. Some of these are available for patrons to take as they are not needed for our library; they are on the table in the front room. Others we will be added to the library over the next couple of weeks. Please check back for these new additions.

What's New

Ancestry says that their indexing of the 1940 US Census for all 50 states and territories except the Philippines is complete and can be searched immediately. Ancestry has also updated to include 1928 in their Ontario marriage registrations.

Not to be outdone, **FamilySearch** says that their transcription of the 1940 US Census can be searched but a few states are not yet online (and I could not find out which ones were not available).

TheGenealogist.co.uk has added over 147,000 individuals to their London Parish Record transcripts. These include baptisms, marriages, banns, marriage banns, and burials, and bring their total to over 1,400,000 individuals. TheGenealogist is one of the subscription websites on the FHC Portal, available without charge at FHCs. The complete list of parish register transcriptions on TheGenealogist can be found at <http://goo.gl/Gb98o>.

FindMyPast has added records for 8,900 prisoners held captive on prison ships, or hulks. This collection covers the period 1811-1843 and contains records for prisoners on the following hulks: Bellerophon, Euryalus, Hardy and Antelope, as well as a small number of records for Parkhurst prison. The records hold details about the prisoners, including the crime they had committed, the sentence they received and the report from their gaoler.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/31/2012. Ontario. Galt.

How does one find city directories on-line? I am looking for Galt (Cambridge) in particular, about 1925-35. My Grandfather had a shoe store there, Neil's Shoe Store, and we'd like to find the correct address.

Answers and Suggestions:

Q1/30/2012. Canada.

My grandfather, Samuel Courtney, married Bella or Isabella McIntyre (?) in Toronto and my father was born here in 1916. I have been unable to trace either grandparent. Can you give me suggestions as to where to look?

A number of readers had excellent suggestions for this researcher. Many thanks go to Jeanette Colgan, Barry Spinner and Patricia Sheehan, as well as to Gwen Armstrong for the Scottish research.

The marriage of **Samuel Courtney** to **Bella Lyons** is in the Ancestry Ontario Marriages; it took place on the 29th March, 1916, Toronto, in the County of York.

Groom; Samuel Ardile Courtney, age 22, bachelor, born Ireland, Anglican, father William Thomas Courtney, mother Sarah Bond.

Bride; Bella Lyons, age 23, spinster, born Scotland, Anglican, father Robert Lyons, mother Annie **McIntyre**.

Look at the original image and you will find that Bella signed herself Lyon – no “s”.

Also on Ancestry (Soldiers of the First World War) or at Library and Archives Canada (free - <http://goo.gl/rvrUL>), Samuel's attestation papers:

Samuel Ardile Courtney attested for WWI on 3rd May 1916. His number was 681799, 170th Batt. CEF.

His next of kin was wife Bella, living at 1208, King St. W. Toronto. He gave his date of birth as 8 Feb 1893, County Tipperary, Ireland. Physical description on page 2. (Barry suggests that further research may find the source of this unusual middle name – perhaps the surname of an ancestor?)

Tracing Samuel Courtney leads us back to Ireland. **Samuel** arrived in Halifax, Canada with his brother, **Isaac**, on May 3 1913 on the Arabic. (Ancestry – Canadian Passenger Lists – 1865-1935) FindMyPast will also have the passenger list of the ship as it left Liverpool. They show up in Toronto Directories from 1914 to 1922 (Internet Archive - <http://archive.org/index.php>) working as clerks for Eatons and Simpsons, with Samuel "on active service" for part of that time.

One can check the 1901 and 1911 censuses for this family. The National Archives of Ireland website (<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>) has both censuses available to search and download without charge. In 1901 Samuel is living with his parents (William Thomas and Sarah Anne) and seven siblings in **Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary**. In 1911 Samuel **Ardell** Courtney is still living with his parents and 6 siblings in Carrick-on-Suir. Again the transcription does not give all the details; particularly important are the birth places of each individual on the actual census image.

William T had been with the Royal Irish Constabulary and retired to become an insurance agent. Ancestry has an index to men in the Royal Irish Constabulary 1816-1921. William Thomas Courtney, born in County Clare, enlisted at the age of 18 in 1869. Also included in the Ancestry index is the FHL film number to order to see his service records; order film #856066. Additional information, like pension, may be found at the National Archives UK in Kew.

For more information on Samuel and his parents, check the online civil registration records at FamilySearch.org.

William Thomas Courtney died in 1927 (b 1851) in Carrick-on-Suir.

Sarah Ann Courtney died in 1936 (b 1865) in Carrick-on-Suir. Age 71

Samuel Courtney – civil reg online at FamilySearch birth: Jan - Mar 1894 Carrick-On-Suir
volume number: 4 page number: 487

Certificates can be ordered from Ireland GRO <http://www.groireland.ie/> at a cost of €10 each.

The Irish Family History Society (www.rootsireland.ie) has only one suitable baptism - 1894 - father: William, mother: Sarah.

Unable to find a marriage of William Thomas Courtney in the online civil registration records at FamilySearch, the FHL films were searched. This revealed a marriage registration of William Thomas Courteney (note spelling) in 1881, third quarter vol 3 page 259, matching the registration for Sarah Anne Bond. The researcher may wish to order this certificate as well, as the fathers of both parties will be listed.

Back to **Bella**, who was born in Scotland. The Canadian Passenger Records on Ancestry show **Bella McIntyre Lyon** (dressmaker, age 25) and Robert (widower, joiner, age 67) arriving in Canada in Dec 1914 on the Pretorian, heading for Toronto. [They can also be found leaving Liverpool on FindMyPast.] The next people on the list were a family headed by David and Annie Wright, also going to Toronto, with two children, Ruby (9) and David (8). Since Bella had a sister Ann in the 1901 census, Patricia thought it might be worth checking that family out. Robert's death record (on Ancestry) in 1937 shows an informant David Anthony of Davenport Rd. grandson. David Wright's death record in 1935 also shows informant David Anthony Davenport Rd. son-in-law. On checking the marriage records, she found a marriage of David Anthony to Roberta Lyon Wright in 1928. Her parents were David Wright and Annie Younger Lyon. In 1901 Annie is listed in the census as "Annie U. Lyon". Bella's death record is also on Ancestry: Isabell Courtney date of birth August 2,

1891 in Scotland – father Robert Lyon; Died Jan 31, 1938; buried Feb 2 1938 Prospect Cemetery; Husband Samuel Courtney – address 519 Brock Avenue

Gwen searched ScotlandsPeople for Robert and Bella in the 1911 census:
1911 Innerleithen, Peebles, 762/1 enum dist 2 pg 17, Co-operative Store Buildings

David Wright, head, 35, manager of co-operative society, Alloa, Clackmannan
Annie, wife, 35, Alloa
Roberta, daur, 5, Alloa
David, son, 2, Alloa
Robert Lyon, father-in-law, 64, wid, private means, Dollar, Clackmannan
Bella Lyon, sister-in-law, 22, unrm, tweed cloth picker, Alloa
[This verifies the relationship of Annie and Bella.]

Having spent money to find the family in 1911, one can then search Ancestry or FamilySearch for transcriptions of the earlier censuses. BUT transcription errors often exist and it is always better to view the original document.

In 1901 the family is living in Alloa, Clackmannanshire and Robert is a widow. In 1891 Robert is married to Isabella and Bella is the youngest child by far.

Searching further on ScotlandsPeople:

Marriage for **Robert Lyon and an Isabella**. Results:

465 entry 17, 1 Feb 1887 Alloa, Clackmannan, After Banns according to the forms of the Church of Scotland
Robert Lyon, joiner, widower, 36; father: Robert Lyon, deceased, mother: Annie Younger, deceased
Isabella McIntyre or Begbie, widow, 32; father: Alexander McIntyre, mother: Janet Stewart
witness: 1) illegible 2) Alexander McIntyre

Birth of Bella - ScotlandsPeople:

465 entry 275, **Bella McIntyre Lyon**

born: 23 Jul 1888 4 hours, 30 minutes PM, Greenfield Place, Alloa, Clackmannan
father: Robert Lyon, joiner; mother: Isabella McIntyre, married: 1 Feb 1887, Alloa
father registered the birth but was not present for it

Death of Bella's mother - ScotlandsPeople:

465A entry 121; **Isabella Lyon**, married to Robert Lyon formerly to Robert Begbie
died: 30 May 1899, 1 hour, 30 minutes PM, 41 Greenfield St, Alloa, Clackmannan
cause: Influenza; father: Alexander McIntyre, mother: Janet Stewart

By tracking **Robert Lyon** back through the Scottish censuses on FamilySearch or Ancestry, one finds the family living in Dollar, Clackmannanshire. The Old Parish Registers (OPRs) for Scotland are on FamilySearch – go to www.familysearch.org; choose Scotland; then choose the births and baptisms (9 million records) or the marriages.

- **Robert Lyon** born Apr 23, 1847, bapt May 30, 1847 in Dollar, son of Robert Lyon and Ann Younger
- Marriage **Robert Lyon and Agnes Younger** 20 Nov 1830, Dollar, Clackmannan, Scotland

One can quickly get back to William Lyon and Elizabeth Halley, Robert's grandparents, who were born in the middle of the 1700s!

The last suggestion for this researcher came from two readers who suggested looking at the Family Trees on Ancestry. Patricia wrote: One of the three trees has much detail on the family (although Bella is only shown as a "birth date"). The McKay Family Tree has images of Robert's birth record and of both of his marriages plus lots of other information about his parents and the descendants of most of his siblings. There is also information about the descendants of some of Robert's children, but notably nothing for Bella or Annie. Nor is there a death date or place for Robert himself. So if your questioner got in touch with the owner of this family tree on Ancestry, they might have something to offer each other!"

Were You Aware ...

Then and Now – How Research Has Changed

Gwen had a look on ScotlandsPeople for the Scottish branch of Bella Lyon and wrote back to me:

"It is truly amazing what can be done in an evening now with all that is available online. I almost feel cheated! A search like we did tonight would have taken 1 to 2 years of dedicated weekly research only a few short years ago. Searching the BMD indexes - ordering the films - ordering census, searching each year etc."

"Since I last wrote I got to thinking and 20 years ago [or even 10 years ago] you would have had to:

"Search index for birth record, hope that you had chosen the correct one - 1 to 2 days
Order the microfilm for the birth registration - 4 weeks & \$4.50
View microfilm, get parents names - 1 day
Search index for parents' marriage - 1 to 2 days
Order microfilm for marriage registration - 4 weeks & \$4.50
Search 1881 Census index - 1 day for CD's, 2+ for fiche
Order microfilms for 1871 & 1891 Census - 4 weeks & \$9.00
View microfilm of parents' marriage registration - 1 day
View 1871 & 1891 Census microfilms - 1 to 2 weeks
Search IGI & Scottish Church Records for christening records of parents - 1 to 2 days
Order microfilms for 1841, 1851 & 1861 Census - 4 weeks & \$13.50 (double that if parents were from different villages)
View Census microfilms - 2 to 4 weeks
Revisit IGI & Scottish Church Records - 1 to 2 days"

"If everything went smoothly - you ordered the correct certificate the first time, the films really came in four weeks and you came into the FHC at least once a week - it would have taken about 6 months.

"Even then you probably wouldn't have the passenger list and certainly none of the Ontario BMD's." And the cost would have been less.

One of the best or worst new things on the internet these days are other people's family trees that you believe connect to your tree. Searching on Ancestry often results in hints for you to follow including public trees on their website. Please regard these trees and those on other websites, like GenesReunited, as hints only. Backup your tree with your own research and sources. I am sure that each one of us has come across children being born before the parents; children with the same names living through several censuses; trees with no sources listed (be very sceptical). True collaboration should result in a dialogue; taking the information from someone else's tree is not collaboration and may just be propagating other people's errors further.

UK County Resources – Bedfordshire, next week Hertfordshire

This week we have some suggestions for Buckinghamshire. **Please** send the Bulletin any websites or items that you use for Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire.

[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.]

Bedfordshire

Bedfordshire burials are very well represented on the National Burial Index CDs, with approximately 356,000 burials listed for their 141 parishes. See also the index online at FindMyPast.com.

Leighton Linlade Past Times - <http://www.leighton-linslade.com/>

Bedfordshire Family History Society - <http://www.bfhs.org.uk/>

Bedfordshire Towns and Villages Photo Album - <http://www.countyviews.com/beds/index.htm>

Bedfordshire Gaol - <http://www.schools.bedfordshire.gov.uk/gaol/>

Poll Book of Bedfordshire 1722 - <http://www.rabancourt.co.uk/abacus/p1722h.html>

Poll Book of Bedfordshire 1784 - <http://www.rabancourt.co.uk/abacus/p1784h.html>

Bedfordshire and Luton Archives - <http://blars.adlibsoft.com/form.html>

Biggleswade History Society - <http://www.biggleswadehistory.org.uk/>

Victorian Crime and Punishment - a database of prisoners, mostly from Bedfordshire, and a few case studies. There are pictures of some of the criminals. <http://vcp.e2bn.org/>

Best Canadian Genealogy Websites

Elizabeth Lapointe who write the blog, Genealogy Canada, had a blog this week about the best Canadian Genealogy Websites from Family Tree Magazine. You can read this blog at <http://goo.gl/HtZmP>

Films received in the seven days ending on August 9, 2012 and due for return on October 11, 2012.

Film Content	Film No
DEU Obernfeld (Kr. Duderstadt), Ochtersum & Ochtbergen, Nörten	1258475
ENG LAN Probate records Original wills "A-Z", 1747-1748	0089774
ENG LAN Probate records Original wills "A-Z", 1786	0089785
IRL Deeds, conveyances and wills Grantor index K-L 1800-1809	0100279
USA GA Jones Co Ordinary Court Probate Records	0454232

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. Closed Friday August 10th, Monday August 13th, Tuesday evening August 14th, Friday August 17th, Monday August 20th, Tuesday evening August 21st, and Friday August 24th.

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.

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