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Announcements

The FHC will be closed for the following Tuesdays: October 30th, November 6th and November 20th.

The OGS Toronto Irish Family History Workshop on November 17th is FULL!

Kitchener Public Library Second Genealogy Fair – Saturday, November 3, 9:30am – 3:30pm

http://www.kpl.org/programs/program_listings/all.html#genealogy

Beginners and experts alike are invited to KPL's second annual Genealogy Fair. Attend workshops, speak with experts and enjoy more than 25 exhibits and vendors. No registration – simply drop by Kitchener City Hall. Free admission.

Keynote Speaker: Kevin James, Professor of History, Centre for Scottish Studies, University of Guelph
Kevin will explore recent efforts to connect family history and genealogy to 'public' history.

Presentations include: *Finding Great-Grandma's Grandchildren* with Ruth Burkholder; *Ask the Experts* with the Waterloo OGS; *Getting Started: Genealogy 101* with Karen Ball-Pyatt, KPL; *Researching Czech Parish Registers* with Ed Zapletal; *Researching Scottish Ancestry* with Christine Woodcock; *Deciphering German Script* with Lutzen Riedstra; *Care of Genealogy Documents* with Carolyn Bart-Riedstra; *Genealogical Research In Ireland* with Dr. David Elliott; *Surfing the Census* with Melissa Ellis; *Using Archives Online* with Lesley Webb and Sheryl Tilley; and *Researching the United Empire Loyalists* with Doris Ann Lemon.

What's New

Ancestry has updated the 1861 Census of Canada (more Toronto records were added) and the Swedish Church records, which now number over 20 million. A new database of crew lists for 11 ships that landed at Glasgow's ports between 1863 and 1901 has been added.

FamilySearch has added a PEI baptism card index 1721-1885 containing 92,218 records, and indexes to UK Merchant Navy Seamen records 1835-1941 with 2.6M records and UK Militia Service Records 1806-1915 containing 555K records. Now about 450,000 indexes of Dorset parish registers between 1538-1910 are available. The Norfolk Poor Law Union Records and Non-Conformist records have been updated. There are now nearly half a million Cheshire indexed school records and over 2 million indexed Cheshire land tax assessments 1778-1832.

FindMyPast has announced that viewing 1911 census transcripts will be free until November 18th. They have also dropped the price of viewing the original image to 5 credits.

DeceasedOnline announced today that the Woolwich Cemetery records are now available on their website. This last of the five cemeteries managed by the Royal Borough of Greenwich contains over 110,000 records, starting in 1856. (They are now promising lots of burial records for Lancashire and Yorkshire - "coming soon".)

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/37/2012. UK. Forces War Records.

I was interested when I read in a blog about this website www.forces-war-records.co.uk . It has updated its search facility and one can search by service number, specific years, nationality and type of service or filter based on whether the person died in active service, were issued a gallantry award, or mentioned in despatches. They claim to hold over 4.5 million records, including service records, regimental or unit data, medals received, etc. I have a number of relatives who served in the forces – both parents (WWII), two grandfathers (WWI), one uncle (died in WWII) and one great grandfather. The cost is £8.95 for one month or £83.95 per year. Searching produces tantalizing results but I am not sure what I will actually get. Have any readers used this website?

This question was posed by your editor and received no responses. In the name of research, I decided to try it to find out if there were any records that I could access that I did not already have. I thought it would cost me £8.95 for one month, but yesterday they offered me one month for £5 – a fair deal, I thought.

I started with my great-grandfather and two records were quickly found – his South Africa Medal Award and Clasp with a description of each, and the same record but with a description of his regiment – the 3rd Regiment of Foot. (I have a picture of him wearing his medal, but not the medal itself.) I had originally paid a UK researcher to find his WO97 records at TNA Kew and this was not new information. I had also found a book at the Toronto Reference Library that was two volumes detailing the history of the Kent Buffs (his regiment), but regiment information is also available from Google. His records are now available at www.FindMyPast.co.uk and can be downloaded without charge at any FHC.

Neither parent showed up in my search for them but my uncle did. His information was there because he was killed in action. Much of the information given is available on the free Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: <http://www.cwgc.org/> . I did find out about the medals he was awarded and information about the aircraft he was in. A search of the internet had previously found this website: www.lostbombers.co.uk/ which gave many details about his last flight, his aircraft and crew members.

Neither grandfather from WWI was found on this website. Ancestry has 14 pages of British Army Pension Records for one and nothing for the other. Ancestry has the medal cards for both. One of my husband's uncles, who was killed in WWI, had records on the Forces War Records website, but again much more information was available on Ancestry and FindMyPast, both of which can be accessed without charge at FHCs.

This website – Forces War Records – cross-references forces personnel with their regiments, bases and ships and gives basic information about each. After one finds an ancestor's service records, a more in-depth look in a library or on Google may well find more regimental background information available on this website. But it is a good start.

Q1/36/2012. Ontario. Tax Returns.

I am anxious to find more out about my one Canadian ancestor. I know when William Edmonds arrived in Canada, and the Concession numbers of the farms in East and West Flamboro he worked and those he owned in the period 1870-1910. One way I hope to flesh out his life style is to look at the kind of farms he had. I am therefore looking for Tax returns which might throw some light on this. Can anyone tell me where I should seek these?

Jane in Cooksville suggests “trying the Waterdown East Flamborough Heritage Society at wefhs@hpl.ca. They have amazing archives”.

News From the Trenches – My Favourite Ancestor

The New England Genealogical Society eNews, “*The Weekly Genealogist*” of September 12, 2012 contained this note from the Editor: “Last week NEHGS staff posted a new message on the Society's Facebook page: “My favorite ancestor is...because...” Many people found those five words to be quite evocative because they prompted eighty-three comments on the topic as of Wednesday morning.”

This got me thinking because I have several interesting ancestors, who I have enjoyed researching. Which one would I choose? Would it be my 4g Grandfather, who was transported to Australia in 1817 leaving behind his pregnant wife and four children; or my great grandmother, who died in Dartford Asylum and whose family history included a father, two brothers, and a cousin who all committed suicide; or my great grandfather, who joined the army under a made-up name, deserted a couple of months later, signed up again under his real name, was discovered and served honourably for more than 20 years? Because I was able to find more information about these relatives than about some others, they became more fascinating.

I am sure that you all have a favourite ancestor. Please tell Bulletin readers about them and why they are your favourite.

**Were You Aware ...
DeceasedOnline**

After the cemetery and cremation records for the Royal Borough of Greenwich were put online, I thought that I would see what I could find - searches are free. I was astounded to find the burial of my great grandmother in Plumstead Cemetery, where she is likely buried in a pauper's grave with five others. I purchased 100 credits for £9.75 and this is what I got: the grave details, burial register scan and 3 page map of grave location for my great grandmother, the cremation register scan of a first cousin once removed, and the burial register scan of another cousin. I am delighted to have these records and am looking forward to looking at the Woolwich records, where I am sure I will find other gems. DeceasedOnline is a pay-per-view website; each record costs a number of credits – 15 for a burial or cremation register scan, transcribed burial or cremation entry, or the grave details; 25-50 credits for a map location; and 20 credits for an image of a memorial. Credits cost £3.00 for 30; £9.75 for 100; £19.00 for 200, etc. Church graveyards were filling up in London and other urban centres by the middle of the 19th century and large cemeteries run by the borough/town were started.

UK County Resources – Sussex, next week Kent

This week we have some suggestions for Sussex. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Sussex or Kent, please send it/them to the Bulletin.

[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.]

Sussex Online Parish Clerk website - <http://www.sussex-opc.org/> - now has 360,000 baptisms, 58,000 marriages and 21,000 burials in its databases, as well as poll books, monumental inscriptions, and 12,738 people mentioned in the 1641 protestation returns.

West Sussex County Council – Historical photographs - <http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=10177>

Parish Register Transcription Society has produced over 150 CDs of transcribed parish registers; at £3 each it could be an expensive proposition but if you are only interested in a small number of parishes it may be worthwhile: http://www.prtsoc.org.uk/sussex_cd.php

On Discovery at the National Archives website, there is the online catalogue of some of the collections held by the West Sussex Record Office.

There are 17 digital directories for Sussex available at <http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/>.

The Sussex Family History Group - <http://www.sfhg.org.uk/> - maintains a baptism index, covering mainly East Sussex parishes after 1814, and a marriage index (to 1837), covering most parishes. These can be searched for a fee.

There are over 800,000 indexed Sussex burials on the CD of the National Burial Index 3, available at the Toronto FHC. The West Sussex burial records on this CD are also available online at <http://goo.gl/7CbVm> .

At the Internet Archive, a book of "Calendar of Sussex marriage licences Archdeaconry of Lewes 1670-9, and Deanery of South Malling 1620-1732" can be searched - <http://goo.gl/SArbO>.

Films received in the week ending on October 18, 2012 and due for return December 13th.

Film Content	Film No
ENG WES Various parishes PRs	1471640

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. (Closed Oct 30, Nov 6 & Nov 30) and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon and 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

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 for the following Tuesdays: October 30th, November 6th and November 20th.

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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