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Announcements

The FHC will be closed for the following Tuesday mornings: October 30th, November 6th and November 20th. We will also be closed on Saturday, November 3rd.

An updated List of All Toronto FHC Resources is available on our website at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.ca/>. You can download it as a pdf file by looking on the Resources page and clicking on the link "**List of All FHC Resources 2012 10 24**" or "**List of All Resources**". If you wish to know if we have a particular film at the Toronto FHC, please check this list. It contains every film, fiche, CD, etc that we hold. Do a search (*Ctrl F*) for the film or fiche number you are looking for.

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

We have a new CD of memorial inscriptions for Ireland. This includes the St. John the Baptist Cemetery in Contarf, the St. Canice's Cemetery in Finglas and the Moravian Cemetery in Whitechurch, all in County Dublin as well as St. Peter's Churchyard, Little Bray, County Wicklow, and the graveyards in Knockcommon, Rosmere and Tymoole in County Meath. It will be available next week and is numbered BR156.

Mary Belford has donated a fiche which contains an Index to Pauper Apprenticeship Indentures for 116 Lincolnshire parishes. It is numbered 7000178.

What's New

Ancestry has added a searchable database of Canadian tax assessment and collector rolls 1855-1919 for Ottawa and Gloucester Township and these records contain the name of the occupier, his age and occupation and the name of the owner, as well as the property's value. Over 1.5 million names are indexed in the Police Gazettes 1854-1930 for New South Wales, Australia (another new database). The Poor Law Records for London England 1430-1973 have been updated but these records are only available to browse – a difficult and time-consuming task lies ahead for those looking at these records. Occupational and quarter session records for Warwickshire 1662-1866 have been added as well; included are records of boat owners (canal boats), free holders, freemasons, gamekeepers, jurors, printing press owners, flax bounty, hair powder taxes(!), and hearth tax returns. These records may provide name, age, profession, residence, dates, and other details.

FamilySearch has updated the county marriages for California 1850-1952 and births and christenings for Iowa 1830-1950. FamilySearch currently has 1304 different databases (well, it had that number on Wednesday; they now number 1288!). Many of these can only be browsed and many of the browsable collections are only available at Family History Centres (and often not even there). One huge collection available at home contains 5 million pages of Austrian Seignorial Records 1537-1888.

FindMyPast.co.uk has added 20,000 new London Docklands baptism records: over 20,000 baptisms for St. Dunstan, Stepney 1697-1712. **FindMyPast.com** has added an index to Byrne's Irish Times Abstracts 1859-1901 containing over 200,000 names for Dublin and area; New Zealand Electoral Registers 1865-1869; and 56 million new Australian records including BMDs for NSW, government and police gazettes, and directories and almanacs.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/39/2012. Travel in the mid-1800's.

In looking at My Favourite Ancestor (see below – Fanny Lazarus), I see from the births of her children that she travelled a lot – London England, Hamilton ON, Hartford Connecticut, and Toronto ON between 1857 and 1875. Can anyone suggest to me what modes of travel she would have used between these cities?

News From the Trenches – My Favourite Ancestor

As Remembrance Day will be in just over two weeks, perhaps some of you have an ancestor whose participation in military action might make them a candidate as your 'favourite ancestor'. One of the benefits I feel of being a volunteer at the FHC is the fascinating family stories I am privileged to hear. Two respondents have sent us their pick of 'favourite' ancestor this week. We look forward to more.

Eve Richardson wrote about her choice: "Fanny Lazarus/Lawrence was not, strictly speaking, my ancestor; she was the sister of one of my gr gr grandfathers and wife of her cousin Nathan, the brother of one of my gr gr grandmothers (there was a lot of intermarriage in the family). The couple were from Devon, England, originally, but they traveled to Canada and the US before returning to England and settling in London. Nathan, like many of his relatives, was in the optical trade, and I assume he was looking for business opportunities. What fascinates me - and has raised my admiration for Fanny - is that their travels can be traced in the census records by looking at the places of birth of their eleven children over twenty odd years (from about 1857, when Fanny was 19, to 1875): one in Buffalo, USA; one in Upper Canada; one in Hamilton ON; two in Toronto ON; two in Hartford, CT, USA; and four in London at at least two different addresses. All except possibly one of Fanny's recorded children survived to adulthood (there is a five-year gap for which no births are known). This is in sharp contrast to Fanny's own siblings - her mother also had eleven (known) children, but only five survived to adulthood and one of those disappears from the records, in Toronto, aged twenty. I haven't actually plotted the pregnancies, births and abodes, but Fanny must often have moved her ever-increasing family while pregnant or nursing (or both) and managing a trail of small children. I'm torn between the picture of Fanny and Nathan as a devoted couple, and Fanny being darned if she was going to let Nathan loose on his own to get up to goodness knows what (or whatever the equivalent in Yiddish is)."

Ian McLeod replied enthusiastically: "Lynne and I had a spirited discussion on whom we would chose. Our first inclination was to go with one of the many rascals and rogues whose behaviours would have gained your readers rapt attention. However on reflection we weren't sure that you were looking for the ancestor with the best entertainment value. We then went on to discuss which of our ancestors had led us the merriest of dances before being discovered. This too we discarded on the basis that the story here was probably more about our research inabilities than anything else. Then there were the key matriarchs and patriarchs down the centuries who in hindsight turn out to be the lynchpins for the generations that follow them. A number of these were considered but none of them did anything significant other than to guarantee the strength of the line by producing male children at the right time.

"After much debate we decided to look for an ancestor whose own actions in his or her own lifetime made the biggest contribution to the family. We decided to nominate my g-g-grandfather James who was christened on November 13th 1804 in a small village in Sussex.

"No father's name was entered on the Parish Register. The Curate had scrawled the word BASTARD in bold letters to the right of his entry. However the Parish Register showed my g-g-grandfather James to have two given names instead of the usual one the second being quite clearly a surname. We were told that to add the father's surname to the child's first name as a second name was the only way to telegraph the paternity of a child born out of wedlock.

"To dishonour his father's surname in this way was something that obviously stuck in g-g grandfather's craw from an early age. From his subsequent actions it is clearly evident that he was determined to "set the matter right".

"Here's how he did it but firstly some more background. My g-g grandfather James waits until 1827 before marrying his first wife Joyce at his local parish church; oddly the same church that had stigmatized him 23 years previously. In January 1841 he marries for a second time. We assume that his first wife Joyce is deceased. There is no record of any children from his first union.

"On Census Night 1841 enumerators find James, his new wife Elizabeth, and their 2 week old daughter, Elizabeth. Also in the house are two older infants, Charles and James born in 1839 and 1840 respectively. These two have surnames that match Elizabeth's maiden name however there is no clue as to who their parents are.

"Ten years later on Census Night 1851 there are three more of their own children, Richard, Mary and George living in the house: however their eldest daughter, Elizabeth has died. Most intriguingly my g-g grandfather and the youngest son George were enumerated using his g-g grandfather's birth surname (that of his mother Hannah's) and his father's surname as a double-barrelled surname. This is phase one of g-g grandfather James's plan to change the family name back to g-g-g grandfather's surname

"Another ten years go by and the 1861 Census enumerators are back on his doorstep. The three eldest children Charles, James and Richard have moved away to apprentice jobs one going to Tunbridge Wells and the other two to Brighton. Interestingly all three choose to be enumerated at their new domiciles under g-g-g grandfather's surname alone. G-g grandfather's birth surname has now been dropped. Meanwhile in the marital home g-g grandfather James and his wife Elizabeth together with George have welcomed three new arrivals, Dorothy, William, my g-grandfather and John. All six residents are now using the double-barrelled surname. This is phase two of g-g grandfather James plan to eradicate all traces of his mother's family name and the disgrace he feels of being born illegitimate.

"Yet another ten years pass by and by the time of the 1871 Census with g-g grandfather James now dead, John, still at home with his widowed mother, my g-g grandmother Elizabeth and he have now finally dropped the double-barrelled surname in favour of g-g-g grandfathers surname on its own. The other children have all moved out BUT in every case have been using their g-g-g grandfathers surname on birth, marriage and death certificates, censuses and other official documentation.

"G-g Grandfather had "set the matter right" an odyssey that had taken him 30 years to complete. He must have died a happy man having brought the family name back from the abyss. It was my g-g grandfathers dedication to a cause that he obviously felt very passionate about which makes him our choice of 'favourite ancestor'."

Were You Aware ... Forces War Records

David Parker wrote: "*I have serious doubts about the site www.forces-war-records.co.uk. I am interested in the service records of many family members who fought in WWII, but cannot get them as National Archives will not release them. If NA will not release them how can a commercial agency obtain them?*" They cannot. They have no unreleased records but have just linked basic information about regiments, etc. to records already available. More records for WWI and earlier are available from Ancestry and FindMyPast, which are free at all FHCs.

Last week I mentioned that I had previously found this website: www.lostbombers.co.uk/ which gave many details about every UK bomber lost in WWII. Ian McLeod wrote to say that this website is no longer online due to the death of the compiler. Ian recommends a printed source as the definitive record: *RAF Bomber Command's Losses of the 2nd World War* by WR Chorley which is published in nine volumes. The Toronto Reference Library has at least eight of these nine volumes.

UK County Resources –Kent, next week Suffolk

This week we have some suggestions for Kent. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Kent or Suffolk, 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.]

FamilySearch has put the parish registers for many many parishes online. Unfortunately these cannot be accessed at home. It says that access is available at Family History Centres on their computers but I know that this is not always the case. Please check with your local family history centre for availability. The scans are excellent but it is time-consuming to go through a few years. There are also other Kent films online including probate records, quarter session records, land tax assessments, bishops transcripts, workhouse records and electors. This is an amazing collection of records and I trust that accessibility of the records will improve.

<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/> - Kent Archaeological Society - the oldest and largest society devoted to the history and archaeology of the ancient county of Kent. This site has a fine Research section which includes: Maps, place names, MI's and photographs, as well as Tithe Award Schedules and Wills. Not just archaeology! The memorial inscriptions available on this site are extensive and are taken from notebooks by Leland L Duncan and others between the 1760's and 1923. Many of the monuments no longer exist because of the ravages of time and war.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~mrawson/> - an excellent resource for genealogy in the County of Kent, England. It includes many indexes and transcripts containing over 80,000 names and over 350 links to other useful sites.

<http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/> - the web presence of the Medway Council Archives Service which is based at the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre, Civic Centre, Strood, Kent, England. They preserve and make available for research the archives of the Medway area of Kent and also the parish records of north-west Kent. The oldest records date from 604. One can browse through the parish registers of many parishes in Kent at this website; go to **Parish Registers Online** in the links on the left.

Two family history societies cover Kent:

www.kfhs.org.uk/ - Kent Family History Society

<http://www.nwkhfs.org.uk/> - North West Kent Family History Society (includes South East London). Online they have Ladywell & Brockley Cemetery Memorial Inscriptions (Ladywell and Brockley were originally called Lewisham and Deptford cemeteries).

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~penney/> Sheerness and Isle of Sheppey census, PR and other interesting information

www.kentfallen.com - Many items of interest for Kentish folk who served and died

<http://extranet3.kent.gov.uk/sp/rois/home.html> Online indexes of Kent County Council BMD certificates from 1837-2002

<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/> - some historical directories online here

<https://www.deceasedonline.com/> - DeceasedOnline has recently added the cremation and burial registers for the Royal Borough of Greenwich and several of these cemeteries used to be in Kent, like Woolwich. They are now officially part of London.

Films received in the week ending on October 25, 2012 and due for return December 20th.

Film Content	Film No
ENG KEN Birchington BTs 1564-1813	1736526
IRL DUB Dublin Jail Reg females, 18 Nov 1907 to 28 Jan 1911	2357027
ITA UDINE Azzano Decimo Civ Reg 1871-1910	2097171
JAM Kingston PRs 1878-1950	0821448
JAM Kingston PRs 1880-1950	1389506
SCT PER 1841 Census Returns	1042691
SCT PER Old Parach Reg for 3 parish 1652-1865	1040074

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. (Closed Nov 3)

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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