

In This Bulletin

Announcements – Computer film scanner working again, Christmas Closing, OGS Toronto Winter Courses

What's New – FamilySearch (updates to Spanish & Italian records), FindMyPast (Doncaster & area records), DeceasedOnline (two Bolton area cemeteries added), British Columbia BMDs Online Free

The Forum – No new questions

Were You Aware ... Caribbean Resources, Waipu Migration – Scotland to Canada to Australia to New Zealand, UK County Resources – Bedfordshire

Announcements

We are delighted to announce that the computer that scans and saves copies of microfilm or fiche has been repaired. The new system is much faster and easier to use. Do not forget to bring in your USB drive to save the images on.

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Christmas from December 20th to January 6th inclusive.

OGS Toronto Winter Workshop & Courses

Workshop - Introduction to Genealogy and Family History, taught by Toronto FHC volunteer Linda Reid, will be a fast-paced introduction to the principles of genealogical research. You will learn how generations can be linked together using vital records, the census, church records, probates and other records, using online records and records that have not been digitized. Examples will pertain to Canada, the U.S. and the British Isles. Saturday, January 23, 10am-noon & 1pm-3pm.

Two Courses taught by Marian Press

Using Newspapers for Genealogy Research will examine the uses of newspapers for genealogy research as well as where to find them. Both online sources – available by subscription, for free, and through public and academic libraries – and paper sources in libraries and archives will be covered. The emphasis will be on newspapers from North America, United Kingdom and Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, with some examination of what is available for continental Europe. Four consecutive Tuesday afternoons, starting January 8, 2013.

Australian and New Zealand Genealogy will examine the sources available for research in these countries. Sources covered will be those available for Australia and New Zealand in local libraries, those available online (both free and commercial), and those that need to be accessed through Australian and New Zealand libraries, archives or government departments. A brief history and geography of each country will be provided to put family research in context. Thursday evenings, Feb 28, Mar 7, 21 and 28, 2013.

For all the details of these courses, including location and cost, go to <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html>.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated some Spanish municipal records and some Italian civil registration records.

FindMyPast.co.uk has added more than half a million Doncaster and area parish register transcriptions – 181,000 baptisms, 328,000 burials, and 34,000 cemetery records.

DeceasedOnline has added the records for two more cemeteries in its Bolton Council collection. Astley Bridge Cemetery has 18,767 burial records from October 1884 until May 2012, while the tiny Blackrod Cemetery has just over 3,000 burials from January 1887 to January 2007. The addresses of the deceased will not be shown for burials after 1997 and no data will be shown until it is three years old.

British Columbia Birth, Marriage and Death Index and Images are now online at the [Royal BC Museum](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/). You can search and download, free of charge, births (1854-1903), marriages (1872-1936), deaths (1872-1991), colonial marriages (1859-1872) and baptisms (1836-1888). This is the result of a partnership between the BC Archives and the Vital Statistics Agency, as well as an in-kind donation by FamilySearch International. Exciting news is that more images will be added by the end of next year, including earlier images.

The Forum:

Question: No new questions this week.

Were You Aware ...

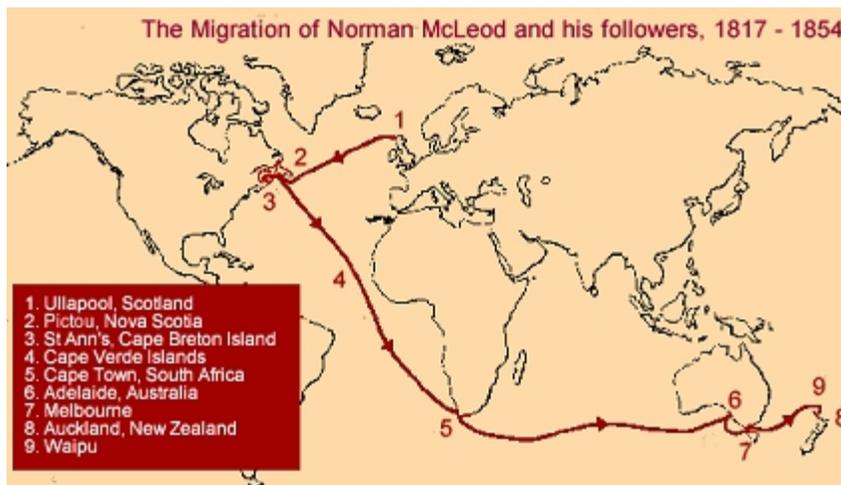
Caribbean Resources

Florence Bell brought a book to our attention last week: *The History of the Island of Antigua: one of the Leeward Caribbees in the West Indies, from the first settlement in 1635 to the present time* by Vere Langford Oliver. This book was written in the last decade of the 19th century and was reproduced in a limited edition in 1999. The three huge volumes contain many family trees, will extracts, appointments, and birth, marriage and death extracts from magazines. *Caribbeana* is another eight volumes by Vere Langford Oliver that contains the registers of St. Thomas, Middle Island, St. Kitts in seven volumes, with the eighth volume having the indexes for the first seven volumes. All volumes of both these books are available at the Toronto Reference Library.

Waipu Migration – Scotland to Canada to Australia to New Zealand

A young Australian came into the Toronto Family History Centre a couple of weeks ago, looking for information about a Daniel McKenzie, who was born in Pictou, Nova Scotia and died in Melbourne, Australia. This patron had been sent to the Toronto FHC by his mother to find out what information there might be in Canada about Daniel's birth. The date of Daniel's birth was from his death certificate – about 1835. I expressed surprise that someone would leave Canada to go to Australia. By happy coincidence, James Thomson was doing some research in the Centre that evening and he heard the discussion. He suggested that we look at the Waipu Migration, which he had heard about just the previous evening.

Most Canadians know that Cape Breton, Nova Scotia (New Scotland) became the destination of many Scots fleeing the difficult economic conditions after the Napoleonic Wars and the Highland Clearances. Highlanders were successful pioneers, suited to the harsh conditions and privations endured by new immigrants. Once established they attracted followers from their homeland regions. In 1817 Norman McLeod, an unordained minister, and his family moved to Pictou NS to set up a church for the Scottish settlers there. When Pictou became crowded, he was asked to go to Ohio and he and his followers built a ship, named *The Ark*, and set sail for Ohio. A storm forced them to land at St. Ann's, Cape Breton Island where he established a new community (and was finally ordained). But economic conditions in St Ann's were difficult with winter storms blocking the harbour with sea ice; a potato blight in 1846-47 forced the community to seek better land. After building two new ships, McLeod with his family and about 150 "Normanites" (his followers) left St Ann's in November 1851 and arrived in Adelaide, South Australia in April 1852. There was a goldrush in Adelaide and life there was not pleasant for the Normanites. They moved to Melbourne, which was little better. In 1853 the little community set sail again for New Zealand, where they had been granted land. They established a new community in Waipu on the North Island where the land was good for fishing, ship building, and farming. After the community became successful, others sailed from Nova Scotia to join them. I thought this migration was remarkable and the map shows just how amazing it was. Nearly 1000 people made this trip. A good description can be found at the [Waipu Museum](#).



Elizabeth Kaegi writes that she visits the Waipu Museum each year when she visits New Zealand. "It is a great little museum and among other things it hosts a genealogical resource station that is a resource for folk who think they may have had ancestors who went out to NZ with the Norman McLeod group. There were 5 ships involved - two of which were the Breadalbane and the Geraldine. There is a lovely monument to the early settlers (with their names listed) and the five ships on the main street."

Waipu is holding "The Grand Pageant of Waipu" on January 11th and 12th next year to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the founding of Waipu. "The Pageant, involving more than 200 people, celebrates the extraordinary story of a thousand Gaelic-speaking Scottish Highlanders who, forced out of their homes during the notorious 'Highland clearances' settled for 30 years in Nova Scotia, and later sailed to New Zealand in search of a better life." www.waipumuseum.com/events

A book, available at the Toronto Reference Library, called *To the ends of the earth: Norman McLeod and the Highlanders' migration to Nova Scotia and New Zealand* by Neil Robinson looks like an interesting book for further information.

For the Australian looking for the birth of Daniel McKenzie, I was unsuccessful in finding him in the Nova Scotia 1851 census, which lists heads of households only, and civil registration had not started before 1850. The ships passenger lists usually list only heads of household also at that time and Daniel was probably a teenager when he went to Australia, and in the company of his parents. If anyone has suggestions for finding Daniel, the Bulletin would love to hear about them.

UK County Resources – Bedfordshire, next week Northamptonshire

This week we have some suggestions for Bedfordshire. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Bedfordshire and/or Northamptonshire, 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 by using the civil registration index at FreeBMD 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:

The [Bedfordshire Archives](#) has details of the holdings that they have in their collection of parish registers, censuses, etc. They have also put an amazing amount of information about each town on their [Community Archives](#) website. So for the small village of Stagsden, there are maps; the history of Stagsden (pre-history, Iron Age and Domesday); the five manors; the village church with its vicarage and list of vicars; non-conformity; education; interesting buildings; some pictures of buildings; and its pubs. Reading all of this would certainly give one a better picture of how one's ancestors lived.

Bedfordshire Gaol Records – There are over 40,000 detailed records of prisoners in Bedfordshire gaols between 1800 and 1879 on this website - [Bedfordshire Gaol Records](#), part of the Bedfordshire Archives. Wouldn't it be great to find the following information for your early 1800s ancestor: John Smith, 26 years, male, 5'6 ¾", brown hair, hazel eyes, dark complexion with a small scar over his left eye, a married labourer, born and living in Pavenham, committed for breach of the game laws on October 24, 1822 to the Bedford New House of Correction, where he did mill work before he was discharged after three months.

Victorian Crime and Punishment is a database of prisoners, mostly from Bedfordshire but some from Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, and a few case studies. There are pictures of some of the criminals. [Victorian Crime and Punishment](#)

The [Bedfordshire Pubs](#) collection of the Bedfordshire Archives is an incredibly detailed record of pubs in Bedfordshire. It includes a picture, a list of licensees going back to the mid-1700s and a long history of information about each pub that was found in the Bedfordshire Archives.

Pictures of [Bedfordshire Churches](#) and [Bedfordshire Towns and villages](#).

Bedfordshire burials are very well represented on the National Burial Index CDs, with approximately 356,000 burials listed for their 141 parishes. The NBI CD is available at the Toronto FHC.

A [History of Bedfordshire](#) can be found here.

The Bedfordshire Family History Society has transcribed all the parish records for every parish and these can be purchased from [Parish Chest](#).

[Biggleswade History Society](#)

[Leighton-Linslade Past Times](#) has photos of this area.

Check out the directories at [Historical Directories](#).

Don't forget to look at [GENUKI Bedfordshire](#) for more useful information and links.

No films were received in the week ending November 29, 2012.

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 FamilySearch 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 am to 2 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm, and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 4 pm

Thursday 9:30 am to 12 noon and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Saturday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed for Christmas from December 20th to January 6th inclusive.

For a copy of a searchable listing of all 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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