

In This Bulletin

Announcements – Christmas Closing, no longer open on Thursday mornings

What's New – FamilySearch (Newfoundland PRs, Italian civil records), FindMyPast (new military records), DeceasedOnline (Scottish memorial inscriptions), Irish Family History Foundation (Armagh records)

The Forum – No new questions

Were You Aware ... England & Wales – Killing Them Off, Bomb Sight – Map of London Bombs during the Blitz, 2011 Census Data for England and Wales – Statistics Released, UK County Resources – Warwickshire

Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Christmas from December 20th to January 6th inclusive. After the Christmas Break we will no longer be open on Thursday mornings and on Wednesdays we will close at 3:45pm.

What's New

[FamilySearch](#) has added records to browse for Newfoundland – a **few** Church of England and Catholic Church records from 1793 to 1945. More Italian civil registration records have also been added and are available to browse.

[FindMyPast.co.uk](#) and [FindMyPast.com](#) have added a lot of new military records. The collection now includes the Royal Hospital, Chelsea: pensioners' discharge documents 1760-1887 (**WO121**), Royal Hospital, Chelsea: pensioners' discharge documents, foreign regiments 1816-1817 (**WO122**), War Office: Imperial Yeomanry, soldiers' documents, South African War 1899-1902 (**WO128**), and Royal Hospital, Chelsea: documents of soldiers awarded deferred pensions 1838-1896 (**WO131**). The records are made up of soldiers' attestation forms and discharge papers and include biographical information, appearance and service history. They have also published Royal Hospital, Kilmainham: pensioners' discharge documents 1783-1822 (**WO119**) and these record men discharged to pension from English, Scottish and Welsh units, as well as Irish regiments, even though the pensions were administered from the Royal Hospital in Kilmainham near Dublin, as opposed to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea. There are 41,651 images of discharge documents for 19,109 men for the period 1783-1822 and that also provide biographical information, appearance and service history.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added 40,000 records to its collection of Scottish memorial inscriptions with 14 more burial sites in Ayrshire. These are: Darvel New Cemetery 1901, Darvel Old Cemetery 1824, Dreghorn Churchyard and New Cemetery 1695, Dreghorn Old Cemetery 1846, Glaston Cemetery 1810, Hawkhill Cemetery, Stevenston 1901, Kilmaurs Cemetery 1881, Mauchline Churchyard 1717, Muirkirk Cemetery 1685, Muirkirk Church 1719, Newmilns Cemetery 1851, Newmilns Churchyard 1666, Sorn Churchyard and Cemetery 1806, New Street Cemetery, Stevenston 1817, Kilmaurs St Maur's Glencairn Parish Church 1721, and Stevenston High Kirk 1611.

The [Irish Family History Foundation](#) (IFHF) has added 41,090 new Census Substitute records for County Armagh. This database contains an index to people recorded in fourteen sources: Muster Rolls of 1611, Armagh Rent Rolls of 1620, Hearth Money Rolls of 1666, Drumcree Rents of 1737, Protestant Householders of 1740, Signatories for 1st Markethill Presbyterian Church of 1763, Religious Census of 1766, Census of Heads of Households for Creggan parish of 1766, Armagh City Census of 1770, County Armagh Flax Growers List of 1796, Forkhill Cess Lists of 1820, County Armagh Tithe Applotments of 1823-37, Census of Newtownhamilton 2nd Presbyterian Church of 1826, and Emigrants from Derrynoose Parish 1840-1855. These sources usually contain only names of heads of households; each source returns the name of head of household, year, civil parish address, and, in most cases, townland (or street/town) address. The Flax Growers Lists of 1796 and some of the 1740 and 1766 returns do not record townland addresses. The IFHF now has over 19.5 million records online. While searching is free, downloading records is not.

The Forum:

Question: No new questions this week.

Were You Aware ...

England and Wales – Killing Them Off

A few weeks back, I looked at our genealogy database and realized that there were a lot of people, who should have died for whom I had no death information. I created, with my program, a list of people born after 1820 and before 1920 for whom I had no death or burial information. The resulting list was daunting in length and so I eliminated the females (because of name changes). Then I started looking for death index entries on [FreeBMD](#) and corresponding entries in the probate indexes on Ancestry. I was amazed at the amount of information I was able to collect. While not many of my early ancestors left wills, by about 1920 a goodly percentage of the men were on the probate index and about 1940 some female relatives had wills.

The Probate Index, on Ancestry between 1858 and 1966 and on film in the Toronto FHC between 1856 and 1956, is only an index and does not contain full will information. But it does have the person's full name, home address, exact date of death, address of where they died (if different from home address), the probate registry office, the executors with their addresses, and the amount of the estate. Do check the probate index for your relative even if they were not well-to-do; I have seen estate amounts of "Under £5" and "Under £100" is fairly common. You may well be able to correlate the address on the Probate Index with the address on the Lists of Electors, now coming online, which would be helpful for more common names (the earlier Rolls usually include full names, later ones just a middle initial, but still useful). I found the names of the executors very useful as they often confirmed the marriage of a daughter or the names and addresses of the children. The probate index lists the person's complete name, including any middle names; the James Marmaduke Smiths will stand out!

If you have a person of considerable interest who died between 1858 and 1925, I would recommend that you find the will on the will films available from the Family History Library. To find the will you want, you will need to know the year of probate and the registry office where the will was probated; a probate in London is the same as the Principal Registry Office. Then search the Family History Library using the following links for the year and registry office: [Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries 1858-1899](#), [Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries 1900-1925](#), and [Record copy wills for the Principal Registry 1858-1925](#). If you have any questions on how to do this, volunteers at your local FHC will be able to help you. Otherwise, email us and we will try to help.

I was able to track a number of relatives a bit further, including a divorcée, who had remarried, had one child and died in 2000. The only problem was that I greatly alarmed my husband as I gleefully announced that I had killed off ten more relatives in one day!

Bomb Sight – Map of London Bombs during the Blitz

The [Bomb Sight](#) project is mapping the London WW2 bomb census between 7/10/1940 and 06/06/1941. Bomb Sight is making the maps available for researchers to explore where the bombs fell and to discover memories and photographs from the period. The maps are available [here](#). I found them fascinating. These maps validated some of the stories my husband and I had been told about the bombing. My father recalled returning to his home very late at night just before he was posted overseas to find an air raid going on and a scene of devastation. There were no windows or doors in his house and glass everywhere; while the Anderson shelter had not been hit, a house around the corner about 30 yards away no longer existed. My father-in-law was at home when a small incendiary bomb hit their house but luckily landed in a pile of carpets his brother-in-law had hooked for his upcoming marriage. He got a stirrup pump and put the resulting fire out. Only two nights later a 100 pound high-explosive bomb took out a house only 100 yards away. They moved in late 1940 to the south side of the River Thames a bit outside London but it was not any safer. Stories about bombs shattering glass all over the baby's cot and, also damaging mirrors on the wall opposite the window, were from bombing that did not occur during the Blitz.

2011 Census Data for England and Wales – Statistics Released

John D. Reid's Anglo-Celtic Connections blog of Wednesday the 12th ([here](#)) mentioned a good website – the UK Office of National Statistics has released statistics from the 2011 census. The most interesting section was a series of bar charts showing the distribution of the population by age available [here](#). It was remarkable to follow the decrease in males of fighting age during WWI continue through the years. The baby boom bulges after each war was also obvious. And as one scrolls up the charts, the percentage of women dramatically increases because they tend to live longer. For those of you who do not like graphs, the descriptions at the side of the graphs were equally helpful.

UK County Resources – Warwickshire, next week – column on hold

This week we have a few suggestions for Warwickshire. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Northamptonshire or Warwickshire, 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.]

Warwickshire

Ancestry has quite a few databases with many records; the major ones are a collection of parish registers – Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1535-1812, Baptisms 1813-1910, Marriages & Banns 1754-1910, and Burials 1813-1910. There are also Midlands Electoral registers 1832-1955 (this includes Birmingham), and Quarter Session Records 1662-1866.

FindMyPast.co.uk has some parish records for Rugby, Southam, Bilton St Marks and Hillmorton St John the Baptist. They also have 154,000 burials in the Key Hill and Warston Lane cemeteries in Birmingham.

FamilySearch has indexes for 1.2 million parish records online dated 1538 to 1900. For each record a film number is given so that you will be able to order that film to get all the information the record has, like the names of the fathers in marriages after 1837.

The National Burial Index 3 on CD at the Toronto FHC has over half a million burial record transcriptions.

Warwickshire Manorial Documents can be searched at the National Archives [Manorial Documents Register](#). The records in the Manorial Documents Register include court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, documents and all other documents relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor. Title deeds are not included in the Register.

The Warwickshire County Record Office has a number of databases online that complement the Ancestry databases. Follow the links on their [Online Catalogues and Databases](#). The databases include: the Victuallers Database containing details of licensed victuallers between 1801 and 1828; the Tithe Apportionments containing information about apportionments after 1836; Calendars of Prisoners containing lists of prisoners in county prisons in Warwick, Birmingham and Coventry between 1800 and 1900; Access to Archives database; Windows on Warwickshire containing historical photographs; and Warwickshire's Past Unlocked listing many of the original archives in the County record Office.

No films were received in the week ending December 13, 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 3:45 pm

Thursday 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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