

Email Gremlins Again – Some of you received Bulletin #2 and found that half of it was crossed out; others on the same group mail received it correctly. I have no clue why that happened. Remember that the Bulletin is always uploaded to our website – <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/> – within a couple of days. You can read it there.

### **In this Bulletin**

**Announcements** – FHC closures and OGS Toronto Meeting on Monday evening

**What's New** – FindMyPast, Ancestry and FamilySearch updates

**The Forum** – No real suggestions for Q1/01/2011

### **Were You Aware...**

Chains, Rods and Perches! - A Fishing Expedition?

London Bomb Damage in WWII and Canadians in Siberia in WWI

Online Cemetery Records for Vancouver and Edmonton

### **Announcements**

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Family Day, February 21, and will close at noon on February 25th, March 4 and 11. Please call the FHC if the weather is bad and you are planning a visit – occasionally we will have to close because of bad weather and, even if you have a booking, we may not be open.

### **OGS Toronto Meeting, January 24, 2011 at 7:30pm in the Burgundy Room at North York Centre**

#### **Wikis as Genealogical Information Tools** presented by Marian Press

A wiki is a web site that allows individuals to collaboratively build content. As a result the content may continue to change and is always a work in progress. Over the last year, wikis as genealogical information tools have begun to flourish and are being used by such institutions as the LDS Church (FamilySearch Wiki), the Allen County Public Library (We Relate Wiki) and by individuals such as Dick Eastman (Encyclopedia of Genealogy). This lecture will cover the technology of wikis, the location of the major genealogy wikis and how to contribute to them, as well as providing information on how to use freely-available software on the Internet to establish one's own wiki. The pros and cons of such a step will be discussed. The mini-presentation will be "Dearly Beloved" by Michele Skehill.

### **What's New**

**FindMyPast** has added a small number of baptism records to their Docklands Ancestors collection – 12,600 for St. Matthew, Bethnal Green and 10,000 for St. Dunstan, Stepney.

**Ancestry** has added Tickets of Leave for New South Wales, Australia for 1824 -1867 and has updated the Canadian 1916 census for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

**FamilySearch** added a number of new items this week: images for a number of Norfolk records (Bishop's Transcripts, Poor Law Union Records, Archdeacon's Transcripts, Marriage Bonds, Monumental Inscriptions, Non-Conformist records, & Register of Electors); Napoli Province, Italy Municipal Records (Indexed); Swiss Church Book Extracts; Ontario Marriages 1869-1927; Delaware Death Records; 1935 Rhode Island Census; and images of Quebec Notarial Records 1800-1900. The online records for Norfolk at FamilySearch are growing rapidly and in addition to those just listed, there are many complete parish records (images to browse only). Add that to the indexes available at FreeREG for Norfolk (<http://freereg.rootsweb.com/>) and more indexes available online if you are a member of the Norfolk Family History Society (NORS), Norfolk researchers have many resources available at their fingertips.

### **The Forum**

**Questions. No questions were received this week.**

### **Suggestions:**

**Q1/01/2011. Scotland/England.**

Does anyone have any suggestions on learning more about my grandfather, James Morrison? He was born in Moray, Scotland in 1855. On the 1871 census he was working for a draper in Elgin. In 1891 he was barman in Liverpool, married to a woman who left him nearly 7000 pounds when she died. He immediately married my grandmother and they were living in Stourbridge, Worcestershire in 1901. In 1911 he was in a men's hostel and he was still living there when he died in 1915. In 1881 there is a James Morrison, born circa 1855, Scotland, working as a draper's assistant, in Cambridge. There are no likely James Morrisons in the area in 1891. His employer had moved back to Scotland by 1891. I didn't find a James in 1891 working in any sort of related job to a draper. And there aren't that many to choose from. Any suggestions are welcome.

The census entries for James were looked at. In 1891 his age is listed as 34 and he is a barman; in 1901 he is a 45 year old retired person. The 1881 census for James Morrison in Cambridge has an age of 22, a bit younger than the researcher is looking for. Cambridge is a bit out of the way for someone who ends up living in Liverpool. I can think of no Cambridgeshire resources that would help in finding that particular James Morrison, as he was not an apprentice. Does the researcher know if the employer, John Rae, was from the Moray area as well? Judging from the ages of John Rae's children, he was in Cambridge for at least ten years. Do any readers have suggestions?

### Were You Aware...

#### Chains, Rods and Perches! - A Fishing Expedition? – No, Measurements Useful in Genealogy

Last week a couple of mentions were made of old Ontario maps, available at McGill's Digital Library <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>. The Toronto FHC has a number of the old map books by county referred to and the scale on the maps is "60 chains to the inch". I could not help but wonder what a chain was.

I had previously encountered roods and perches when looking at land transfers and tax assessments in England. One relative in Norfolk acquired 10 acres 3 roods 3 perches in 1836 and in 1842 he was the occupier and landowner of land totalling 35 acres, 2 roods and 19 [square] perches; the rent-charge in lieu of tithes was £2/3s/4d payable to the vicar, and £6/11s/8d payable to Sir Thomas Hare, Improrietor. How big were these roods and [square] perches?

Length: 1 chain = 66 feet = 4 rods  
1 rod or perch = 16.5 feet  
1 furlong = 10 chains = 660 feet  
(furlong is literally a furrow long, theoretically the length a team of oxen could plough without resting)  
1 mile = 8 furlongs = 80 chains = 5280 feet

#### Area:

1 acre = 10 square chains = one chain by one furlong (66 feet x 660 feet) = 43,560 ft sq  
1 acre = 4 roods = 160 perches  
1 square mile = 80 chains x 80 chains = one section  
1 rood (sometimes called rod) = ¼ acre = 1 rod by 1 furlong = 40 square perches  
1 square perch = area of 1 rod (16.5') x 1 rod (16.5')

(Does anyone else remember high school math textbooks with measurement conversions on the inside covers? I remember *useful* things like pecks and bushels but not chains.)

A chain is a length of measure 66 feet long. It was developed by Edmund Gunter in England in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century as a way of measuring land. It was a physical chain of 100 links which could be carried around for surveying. This was an attempt to standardize length; previously the lord of the manor would provide the chain when allotting his peasants land one chain by one furlong. Over time chains were made with a handle on each end. An experienced surveyor or chainman could throw the chain to his helper 66 feet away. As the chains were used, the links wore away and the actual length may have increased.

British surveyors brought their chains to North America for land measurement. Townships in Ontario were divided into lots that were 10 chains wide and 60 chains long. I have not yet determined why some of these long skinny lots ran north/south and others ran east/west. In Manitoba and Saskatchewan the land was divided into sections or square miles, 80 chains by 80 chains. In urban Australia and New Zealand most building lots in the past were a quarter of an acre, measuring 1 chain by 2 and a half chains.

Chains are still used – the length of a cricket pitch between the wickets is one chain, and bridges on British rail lines are identified by their distance from its origin in miles and chains. Road allowances in Ontario are typically one chain or about 20 metres wide.

Rods, poles and perches were all units of measurement derived from words meaning poles or staffs. In 1607 Gunter also standardized the length of a pole, perch or rod to be 16.5 feet or one quarter of a chain. (Not surprisingly the Irish and the French did not adopt this standardization.) Measuring area, a square perch was ¼ chain by ¼ chain, or 16.5' x 16.5', about 30 sq. yards or 25 sq. metres – a very small area. A rood was a rectangle, one rod wide and one furlong long, approximately 1,000 square metres. My urban lot is nearly 30 square perches, sadly only ¾ of a rood.

In 1999 an article entitled *Early Land Surveys in Southern Ontario* appeared in *OGS Families*. That article can be read here: <http://www.generations.on.ca/genealogy/genealogy-land.htm> .

### London Bomb Damage in WWII and Canadians in Siberia in WWI

Joan Mayhew in New Zealand found an article on an archaeological website about bomb damage in London England fascinating (<http://www.archnews.co.uk/featured/4082-the-edvience-of-ww2-bombing-in-london-part-1.html>) especially since she grew up there . Apparently “conflict archaeology” is fast becoming a popular activity. Who knew?

Joan also found an interesting article about Canadian soldiers in Siberia in WWI, entitled *Forgotten Battlefields – Canadians in Siberia 1918-1919* on the website on National Defense. She thought some readers may be interested - <http://www.journal.forces.gc.ca/vo8/no3/moffat-eng.asp>. It has a number of paintings by Colonel Louis Keene.

### Online Cemetery Records for Vancouver and Edmonton

From the New England Historic Genealogical Society's *The Weekly Genealogist* of January 19<sup>th</sup>, the research recommendations are for online records for some Canadian cemeteries:

The Mountain View Cemetery database is available on the City of Vancouver website. Go to <http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/NONMARKETOPERATIONS/MOUNTAINVIEW/> and click on Genealogy Resources to access an alphabetical list of burials in the cemetery, including name and location. The site includes stories of people buried there and the cemetery's history. There are also links to the City of Vancouver Archives (<http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/archives/index.htm> ) and the British Columbia Vital Statistics Agency ([http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC\\_OUR\\_COLLECTIONS/BC\\_Vital\\_Rrd\\_Collect.aspx](http://www.bcarchives.bc.ca/BC_OUR_COLLECTIONS/BC_Vital_Rrd_Collect.aspx) ), which has online indexes to Births (1872-1903), Marriages (1872-1934), Colonial Marriages (1859-1872) and Death (1872-1989).

The City of Edmonton has a searchable cemeteries database available on its website - <http://webproxy.edmonton.ca/external/cemeteries/default.aspx> . More than 60,000 burials before 1985 in the cemeteries of Beechmont, Clover Bar, Edmonton, Little Mountain, and Mount Pleasant have been indexed.

### Films received in the 7 days ending 20 January 2011 and due for return on 17 February 2011.

Film Content	Film No
AUT GAI L'viv RC PRs 1840-1859	2386972
DEU HES Bechtolsheim PRs 1717-1798	1044837
DEU HES Various PR's 1678-1899	1340310
ENG YRK Various parishes starting with "H"	0816625

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another patron should check first with staff. The patron who ordered the film will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description. A film number search in the Family History Library Catalog will reveal the full content of the film. The geographical abbreviations used above are based on 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 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 4pm

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: Closed Family Day, February 21; closed at noon on February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4 and 11. Bad weather may also close the FHC.

**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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