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## Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> for the Family Day weekend. Please remember that the FHC may close without warning if the weather is inclement. Please call if in doubt. We will attempt to reach patrons who have appointments.

**The List of All Resources** available at the FHC has been updated with the new acquisitions of the previous three months. We have more than 14,000 items in our library, including films, fiche, CDs and books. To download the report, please click on "**List of All Resources**" or "**List of All Resources 2012 01 18**" on the Resources page of our website: <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/>. You will also find a numerical list of all the films that we currently have.

## Additions to Our Permanent Collection

David J. Parker has generously donated a copy of his new book, "*John Turner 1835-1900 - A Queen's Soldier in The King's Own*", to our library. As David says in his introduction, this is less the story of John Turner, but more of a story of the times and events through which he lived. It can be found in our English book collection.

## What's New

**FamilySearch** has added or updated the following: a Florida Marriage Index 1822-1875, 1927-2001 (contains 11 million entries), an index of 15 million deaths and burials in England (taken from an old CD collection of English Vital Records available at the Toronto FHC), and a new browsable collection of Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records 1760-1923. Indexing has started on a collection of 230 parish register films for Derbyshire. Indexing help is always welcomed; it can be done from home; go to <https://www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing> if you are interested in helping.

**Ancestry** has added Dorset Electoral registers 1839-1922 (incomplete) and a couple of small New South Wales records sets – Convict Indents 1788-1842 and Colonial Secretary's Papers 1788-1825. A large indexed collection of US City Directories is new this week. The over 400 million records come from only seven states: California, Connecticut, Illinois, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas. (I was surprised to find husbands of female entries mentioned; it turned out to be an entry like *Rapuzzi, Christina (wid Paul)*. The indexes of civil registration of British Columbia have been updated to include new years.

**DeceasedOnline** has a new collection of Memorial Inscriptions available – Scottish Memorial Inscriptions (15 Highland cemeteries) – 4,500 headstone images and 12,500 names are included. Name searches are free but details require purchased credits.

## The Forum

### Questions:

#### Q1/03/2012. Canada and the US.

I'm looking for any additional information I can find on a great grandfather, John Simons. He married my gr.grandmother Mary McBean Oct. 28th, 1865. Their daughter Grace Jane was born in June 1866. In 1870, Mary McBean Simons left her child with her great aunt & uncle John & Anne Wheeler in Dundas ON, & emigrated to the U.S. They "adopted" her, as her name is given as Jane Wheeler in the Census of 1871. We know nothing of Mary McBean Simons employment or

whereabouts in the U.S. until she married John Howes in Connecticut in 1882. They are living in New Haven CT in 1900 and 1910.

JOHN SIMONS simply seemed to disappear, until a family member recently found him on the 1880 Census, in Waterbury, New Haven, CT (age 35, birth year 1845, birthplace Canada, occupation- burnisher, with a wife, Elizabeth, age 45, 2 children, age 9 & 1 year old). Several of John's siblings remained in Ontario. Did he & Mary McBean leave Canada together? How long did they remain married? Where and when did John Simons die? It took me 37 years to find the descendants in the U.S. of my gt-grandmother, Mary McBean Howes, but I don't think I have nearly that many years left to find John Simons and his descendants.

#### **Q2/03/2012. Scotland.**

I am researching the Sangster family of Peterhead, Scotland. The St. Peter's Parish Church film #0993353 is missing some records between 1790 and 1800. I am trying to learn the parents of Isabella Sangster born about 1798 at Stirlinghill or Peterhead. I believe her parents may be James Sangster and Ann Sangster nee Scott. Isabella married Alexander Davidson at Peterhead on or about July 30, 1820 and it is registered on the film p.261 on Aug. 2, 1820. Isabella purportedly died on October 9, 1869 at Stirlinghill. If you can help it would be very much appreciated.

#### **Q3/03/2012. Ireland. Canada.**

James Frances Byrne was last heard from in a letter from Montreal to his father in Ireland in 1908. He was born in Galway, Ireland in on April 4, 1880 to parents James Byrne and Sarah Mary Mellon. He was still in Ireland at the time of the 1901 census and afterwards came to Canada. It is not known whether he ever married. Searches of the 1911 Canadian census and various shipping records, Ancestry etc have not been fruitful. Does anyone know about Quebec records which could be searched including BMD or any other sources which might help?

#### **Suggestions:**

##### **Q1/02/2012. FamilySearch IGI.**

I have a question about the records on the IGI LDS Church site. The person I am looking for is John Price and on the IGI it states he was born about 1774 of Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan. (I have not found any record of this in the Merthyr Parish records). The record also states that he married Elizabeth Jones on July 6th 1799 at Merthyr Tydfil. I know that the information about the marriage is correct because it is on the Merthyr Tydfill parish film (#0104886) – John Price married Elizabeth Jones on July 6, 1799 by banns, both of this parish. The IGI record is a member-submitted record and has a film number of 456920. I would like to find who has submitted some information to see if they are studying the same family branch as me. How do I get the information of the submitter?

The film #456920 is a film of "sealings of the dead" and there is **no circulation to family history centers and access is restricted to church members who are related**. This researcher cannot get more information on the submitter. The Merthyr Tydfill parish register film was checked for the marriage entry and no additional information is given. The birth date and place given for John on the IGI entry cited by the researcher are a guess on the part of the submitter, suggesting that he was 25 years old when he married and that he was born in the same town as he was married.

Some member or patron submitted information is not similarly protected because it is not part of the Sealing of the Dead. In this case a film number and page number will be given. If you get the film, the submitter information may be there but in a lot of cases the records are very old and the contact information will be out-of-date.

#### **Q2/02/2012. Scotland.**

Mr brick wall is my great grandfather John Harvey, named as father on my grandfather's birth certificate. My great grandmother's name was Jane Coutts, born Strachan, Kincardine July 27, 1848. As far as I know they never married. My grandfather, born in 1875, went by the double barrelled name of John Harvey Coutts at least until 1903 when he was married to Anne Eliza Smith in Glasgow. Their marriage certificate states that his father was deceased at that time. He seems to have been raised by his grandparents in Strachan, Kincardine, according to the 1881 census. The 1881 census in Strachan has John Harvey (mistranscribed as Henry) living with John Coutts age 73, Elizabeth Stewart age 64, James Copland age 10, John age 5, William Findlay age 2 and Elizabeth Duncan age 2. William and Elizabeth are also children of Jane's by unknown fathers. Any help to find John's father would be greatly appreciated.

Gwen Armstrong has done some research on this question. "Scotland civil registration began in 1855. The LDS church seems to have ceased filming church records after 1854 and begun filming civil registration beginning in 1855. You will find very few, if any, church records after 1854.

"In the case of an illegitimate birth, a father could have his name on the birth certificate if he and the mother registered the birth together. Sometimes a father's name was added as an RCE – Register of Corrected Entries. This was done when the sheriff went after the father and a Decree of Paternity was made. Usually this was done because the mother applied for Poor Relief. Usually when an illegitimate child was given two names the middle name was the father's surname. In

this case we can assume the father's surname is Harvey. The fact that he later used this name is another clue. However what we cannot assume is his father's first name.

"I have checked Jane's son's (John Harvey) birth record and he is illegitimate, no father listed. There is also no Decree of Paternity. It would seem that the only proof that we have of his father's name is from his marriage record. It is not unheard of to invent (for lack of a better word) a father. I have seen this a few times. I have also seen where surname is correct and first name is not.

"The other slight problem is that John Harvey (Coutts) and Annie Eliza Smith were married in the United Free Church. Currently those records are only available in Scotland. John Harvey Coutts may not have been christened in the Church of Scotland or even christened at all. The simple answer is that we may never know with a certainty who his father was. The name John Harvey is too common to make any kind of assumption. If he was a farm labourer, he could have been from anywhere.

"Re: 1881 Census – Strachan, Kincardine

James Copland and Elizabeth Anderson Duncan Coutts are the children of Jane's sister Helen. Both are illegitimate, but the father of James registered the birth.

"John Harvey Coutts and William Findlay Coutts are Jane's children. Both illegitimate, neither father is listed on birth registration. In 1884 Jane Coutts marries Thomas Urquhart, a farm servant. She is listed as a spinster age 31. I was not successful finding her in the 1891 or 1901 censuses. Her other child, William, seems to have disappeared too."

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

#### **FamilySearch IGI Records**

Q1/02 above sparked this info. IGI (International Genealogical Index) records come in several types. Some entries are records which have been extracted from church records and are usually very accurate; a film number is usually given indicating where the record was transcribed from. Other entries have been submitted by patrons or church members and can be reliable or may not be – much like online family trees. Often film and page numbers are associated with these entries; the film can be ordered and the entry seen, along with the submitter's information that would enable you to contact them. However, much of this contact information is more than 20 years old and may not be of use. A third type of record is like the one in the question above – it is LDS church member submitted and is kept private.

One of the biggest criticisms of the new FamilySearch website (<https://www.familysearch.org/>) was the inability to use batch numbers. Batch numbers were created when the church records were transcribed and can be a good way to search for siblings. Batch numbers can now be entered as part of the search requirements on the new FamilySearch website. The old FamilySearch IGI website is still accessible at <http://goo.gl/HibY>. Unfortunately a batch number search in the old search will give one results in the new search.

For a good description of Batch numbers and their use, please go to Hugh Wallis's website at <http://goo.gl/HDrOm>.

### **Swedish Records Online at FHCs**

ArkivDigital Online is now available at Family History Centres as part of the FHC Portal. ArkivDigital is the largest online private provider of Swedish church records and other historical records. The collection contains newly photographed color images of the original documents. ArkivDigital Online can be accessed by a shortcut on the computer's desktop and not on the FHC Portal webpage.

### **1940 US Census Free Online on April 2, 2012**

Madeleine Gill sent the Bulletin a reminder that the National Archives (US) has announced that users will be able to search the 1940 US census online on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Users will be able to search, browse, and download the 1940 Census schedules from their own computers or from the public computers at National Archives locations nationwide through the new 1940 Census web site, free of charge. **A name index will not exist when the information is first released.** The National Archives has indexed the schedules by state, county, city, township or minor civil division, and enumeration district. Researchers can prepare for the launch by searching the 1940 Census maps and enumeration district descriptions in the National Archives' Online Public Access catalogue [ [www.archives.gov/research/search/](http://www.archives.gov/research/search/) ], then browse the 1940 Census population schedules for that enumeration district. For the release of the 1940 Census online, the National Archives has digitized the entire census, creating more than 3.8 million digital images of census schedules, maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

### **Ancestry.ca Subscription 40% off**

The Globe and Mail had an ad today that **new** subscribers to the World Deluxe Ancestry membership would receive a 40% discount (\$179.99) until January 22<sup>nd</sup> (Sunday). Go to [www.ancestry.ca/globe](http://www.ancestry.ca/globe) for more information. It is lamentable that Ancestry never ever offers discounts to their loyal subscribers.

**Films received in the seven days ending on January 19 2012 and due for return on February 17 2012.**

Film Content	Film No
ENG LIN Wills A - H, 1819	0199130
ENG LIN Wills B - L, 1827	0199152
ENG LIN Wills E - F, 1816	0199124
ENG LIN Wills Registered wills v. 291 1805	0199100
ENG SAL Whixall/Whittington Parishes 1756-1812	0501819
IRL WIC Land & Property v.3 & v.4 1860-1940	0870986
USA NY Albany PRs 1683-1985	0017508

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. 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 noon; 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 Saturday, February 18 and Monday, February 20 for Family Day.

**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.**

*Should 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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