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Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Family Day, February 21, and will close at noon on Fridays, February 25th, March 4 and 11. Please also call the FHC if the weather is bad and you are planning a visit - we may not be open.

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

We have added a new CD to our collection for British military records to help those with army ancestors at the time of the Napoleonic Wars. This new CD has the Regimental Indexes for the Cavalry, Foot Guards, and Royal Waggon Train. There are 34,522 entries which were transcribed from the National Archives records WO25/871-908. These records include the Life Guards, Royal Horse Guards, Foot Guards, Dragoon Guards and Light Dragoon regiments in 1806. It will be filed:

BR126 Army - Index to Service Returns for the Cavalry, Foot Guards & Royal Waggon Train (1806)

Mr. Bob Huggard has kindly donated a CD of his family history book entitled "*John Helferich Family of Essex County, Ontario*". This 145-page book contains the descendants of John Helferich (1776-1865), many old photographs, lots of stories about his descendants, ancestral information going back to Germany in 1645, and lots of historical background.

CA07 Genealogy of HELFERICH - John Helferich Family of Essex County, Ontario

These two CDs will be available from our library by the end of next week.

What's New

FindMyPast announced this week that it had published more than 2 million new Derbyshire records. The news release says that they are baptism, marriage and burial records. They are not; they are the county civil registration indexes for births (nearly one million for 1837-2008), marriages (750,000 for 1837-2010) and deaths (470,000 for 1837-2009) in Derbyshire. Confusingly, they are to be found under the *Parish Baptisms, Marriages or Burials* heading. The marriage index gives more information than the national BMD index (found at FreeBMD) – the spouse, the place (church or registry office) and the town. The death index gives the age at death even for deaths before 1866; this can be extremely helpful.

FamilySearch is adding new records daily. To find out what is new, go to www.familysearch.org and click on the label "All Record Collections" to the left of the map of the world; when the list of records appears, click on the "Last Updated" button and the newly added record collections appear at the top. This week the following additions were made: Massachusetts births 1841-1915 with images; US Draft Registration Cards 1942 (with images); Warwickshire PRs 1538-1900 – 600,000 index entries; Italian Civil Registration for the provinces of Rovigo and Teramo (browseable images) for limited years and towns only; index of Ontario deaths 1869-1937; and Bristol Parish Registers 1538-1900 (500,000 index entries currently for 1837-1900). These records are FREE.

Ancestry added seven record collections of interest to New Zealand researchers yesterday: Jury Lists 1842-1862; Maori Land Claims; Electoral Rolls 1853-1981; and Naturalizations 1843-1981 are four of them.

February is Black History Month and a number of new record sets celebrating Black history will be put online. This week Ancestry added nine US record collections dealing with slaves, their emancipation and Black troops at the time of the Civil War. FamilySearch added Freedmen's Bureau Letters for Virginia.

With record collections being added so rapidly, it is hard to remember back less than ten years when I spent hours excitedly finding English ancestors on the 1881 Census CDs just produced by the LDS church. What will genealogy look like ten years from now?

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/05/2011. UK.

My great grandfather, William Lewis of Burry Port, Carmarthenshire (b. 1814 d. 1892) was a pilot as was his brother. Their father, Robert Lewis (b. 1788 d. 1862) was also a Pilot and presumably worked in the Bristol Channel. How were they made aware of incoming Tall Ships? Anything one can add would be very much appreciated.

Answers:

Q1/04/2011. Canada.

Library and Archives Canada has recently put the Canada Gazette online in a searchable form at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/canada-gazette/>. In several cases when I search using names of family members I find entries in the Gazette among long lists of names headed "Insolvents" with each name followed by one or more numbers. I am guessing that this has something to do with bankruptcies and that the numbers may be file numbers of some kind. Does anyone have any knowledge about this or what specifically the numbers refer to? As an example, when I search for Robert Wynn, I find an 1865 entry: 1841-1869 (Province of Canada), Annual Index, 1865, page 14 which shows his name followed by the numbers 2759, 3228 and 4433.

The Canada Gazette is the official newspaper of the Government of Canada. It "contains formal public notices, official appointments, proposed regulations, regulations and public Acts of Parliament from government departments and agencies. It also contains miscellaneous public notices from the private sector." It is one of the "colonial" Gazettes. Being "gazetted" meant having the official notice of one's bankruptcy being mentioned in the Gazette but it could also be when one's military promotion was published.

Your example, Robert Wynn, was an insolvent in the town of Brighton, Ontario and the three numbers for him in the index are the page numbers of the bankruptcy process. If you enter those page numbers, his name, and the year in the Advanced Keyword Search and choose the entry that is not the index entry, you will find the history of his insolvency. The first, page 2759, was published on August 19, 1865 and was the bankruptcy notice to his creditors:

PAGE 2759 - Bankrupt Notices August 19, 1865

"Insolvency Act of 1864

The creditors of the undersigned are notified to meet at the Office of Henry Squire in the Village of Brighton, on TUESDAY, the FIFTH day of SEPTEMBER 1-5, at TWO o'clock, P.M. for the purpose of receiving statements of his affairs and of naming an Assignee to whom he may make an assignment under the above Act

ROBERT WYNN Brighton, 19th August, 1865 3518-2"

The second notice on page 3228 in 1865 notifies creditors to whom they can lodge their claims and the third on page 4433 in 1865 requests that creditors meet at Ketchum's Hotel in Brighton on December 19th to order the affairs of the insolvent, Robert Wynn.

News From the Trenches

A reader writes: "My primary interest has related to family history in England. It has been my understanding that baptisms typically took place about one month after birth, except for sickly children at risk of early death. However, as I reviewed a film at the Family History Centre, I found an easy way to look at this myself. Baptism records of St. Mary Rotherhithe, Surrey (one of the less-exalted parts of London that was the home of a goodly number of my forebears) happen to list the age of the child at baptism, in days.

I tabulated the records for 1800 and 1801, and looked at the 744 records that were present and legible (I also omitted the tiny minority that took place more than one year after birth). The percentage of those baptisms by age of the child was as follows:

1 week or less	7.4%
1 to 2 weeks	7.8%
2 to 3 weeks	12.6%
3 to 4 weeks	36.7%
4 to 5 weeks	23.1%
5 to 6 weeks	5.6%
6 to 7 weeks	3.0%
> 7 weeks	3.8%

This sample appears quite consistent with the "one month" generalization, as 60% of baptisms took place for children between 3 and 5 weeks of age. Not an earth-shattering revelation, but just one more little piece to fit in the puzzle."

Were You Aware...

The Canada Gazette

I found browsing the old Gazettes interesting and so I did a couple of searches for well-known Toronto names. The first one "CUMMER" turned up this reference in the *Province of Canada - 1841-1869 (Province of Canada), volume 18, number 11, 19 March 1859, page 42:*

"Sheriff's Sale

On Saturday, the THIRTIETH day of APRIL, 1859, will be sold by Public Auction at the Court House, at NOON, the undermentioned lands, viz:

Sydney Shepard, Amos F. Fay, and Augustus F. Tripp, plaintiffs, vs. Joseph C. Cummer, defendant; All the defendants; right, title and interest in lot no. 81 in the Township of Whitchurch, east side of Yonge street. FRED. W. JARVIS, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office, Toronto, 26th January, 1859 [First published 19th March, 1859.] 430-6"

The second search I did was for "GOODERHAM", finding in the *1841-1869 (Province of Canada), number 316, 16 October 1847, page 3:*

"NOTICE is hereby given, that in terms of the 48th Section of the Imperial Statute, 8 and 6 Vict. Chap. 93, I have approved the Wharf and premises of MESSRS. GOODERHAM & WORTS, situate on the Bay at the foot of Trinity Street, in the City of Toronto, for the Warehousing of Salt, without payment of duty on the first entry thereof, under the conditions, and for the purposes of the said Act, and the Provincial Act 4 and 5 Vict. Chap. 16 ROBERT STANTON, Collector Custom House, Toronto, 2d Oct. 1847. 299-13"

I presume that GOODERHAM & WORTS started in salt and progressed to liquor?

London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes

These Gazettes are also searchable online through a scanned and OCR'd index and a pdf of the page of the paper can be downloaded. Go to <http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>, <http://www.edinburgh-gazette.co.uk/> or <http://www.belfast-gazette.co.uk/>. They, too, have many records for insolvents, and military appointments and recommendations. When people are "mentioned in despatches" in the Gazette during times of war, they have usually done something brave and often received a medal for this particular act. The first newspaper in English was the London Gazette, first published in 1665 as the Oxford Gazette, and a current project to find the 100 events that were most significant in shaping the English language has nominated this first newspaper (although that claim to fame is disputed).

Other Ontario Newspapers – Articles in *The Global Gazette*

Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy (an online store selling genealogy books and products) writes articles for his online newsletter. Two recent articles highlighted old Ontario newspapers that have been digitized and are now online. These are the Georgetown and Acton newspapers, searchable online through a cooperative effort of Halton-Peel Branch OGS and the Georgetown Library. In the other article Rick Roberts talks about searching digitised local Ontario newspapers to find information about an ancestor's regiment in Kingston in the early 1800s. To read both these interesting articles, go to: <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/index.htm>.

Films received in the 7 days ending 03 February 2011 and due for return on 03 March 2011.

Film Content	Film No
ENG SRY Carshalton PRs 1875-1900, Banstead PRs 1875-1910	0994414
WLS AGY Llanfair-yn-neubwll BTs 1675 - 1870	0104525

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 25th, 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.

Should you decide that you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, reply to this email with the word "Delete" in the subject line.

Toronto Family History Centre

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