

Some duplicate Bulletins were sent last week because Rogers email system was down for several hours.

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Announcements

The FHC will close at noon on Fridays starting February 25th. The FHC will be closed Monday March 14, Tuesday evening March 15 and Thursday evening March 17. No Bulletin will be published on March 17. If the weather is bad and you had planned a visit, call first - we may not be open.

OGS Toronto Branch Activities

Genealogy "Summer Camp" in Toronto, 5-10 June 2011

Genealogy "Summer Camp" is a unique program for adults that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the city's many archives and reference libraries. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as "day campers". Some tutorials will emphasize Toronto sources, but most repositories have holdings from a much broader area, so researchers with ancestors anywhere in Ontario will benefit. More than 100 participants from England, right across Canada and many U.S. states have attended the 14 previous Summer Camps – some more than once! The fee for 2011 is \$220. This covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts. For complete details, please visit www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html.

Monthly Meeting – Monday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m.

It's also time to tell people about our meeting on Monday, February 28 in which Gwen Armstrong will be the main speaker on the topic of "The New FamilySearch". There will be a mini-presentation by Hilary Dawson on "Alumni Ancestors: Resources at the University of Toronto Archives". There will also be copies for sale of Marian Press' new book Education and Ontario Family History (\$19.95, cash or cheque). There is a charge of \$5 to non-members of OGS. Details on our web page www.torontofamilyhistory.org

Genealogy Courses

New Seminar! New Tests for Genetic Genealogy - Thursday, May 5, 2011, 6:15pm to 8:15pm

Room 224, Northern District Branch, Toronto Public Library - Elizabeth Kaegi and James Thomson

This two-hour session is designed to provide objective information about two exciting new genetic tests that recently have become available to genealogists: "Family Finder" from FamilyTreeDNA and "Relative Finder" from 23andMe. Both tests can help males and females to establish family relationships and enhance family trees, by comparing results with those of fellow testees, of either sex, found by DNA analysis to be "cousins". The session is intended for those starting to explore the topic, or in search of information which will assist in choosing a test; a subsequent course will assist those who decide to purchase one or other of these tests with the interpretation and use of the results in genealogical projects. The emphasis of this new session will be on the tests, with a very brief refresher of background genetics.

Other Courses

Introduction to English Family History Research runs March 3, 10, 17, 24, 2011, 6:30-8:30pm, at North York Central Library - Instructor Linda Reid,

Making the Internet Really Work for Genealogy runs March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 2011 at Toronto Central Library
Instructor: Marian Press

Introduction to Ontario Family History Research runs April 13, 20, 27, May 4, 2011 at North York Central Library --
Instructor: Jane E. MacNamara

Palaeography for Family Historians runs May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2011 at North York Central Library -- Instructor: Cherryl Moote

For more information, please see www.torontofamilyhistory.org.

What's New

UK BMD Updates

UK BMD has transcriptions of local register office birth, marriage and death indexes for civil registration starting in 1837. These are the original indexes and the transcriptions are updated regularly.

Cumbria – new to UK BMD in October – now has ¼ million births, 100K marriages and 170K deaths

Lancashire – updated yesterday – nearly 7 M births, 3.7 M marriages and 3.2 M deaths

Wiltshire – updated in February – now has 264K marriages

Yorkshire – updated in February – over 3M births, nearly 1M marriages, 1.1M deaths

Bath, Berkshire, Cheshire, North Wales, Staffordshire and West Midlands BMD are also on UK BMD as are many other local council BMD links. Go to http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/local_bmd to search.

New Orleans Slave and Free People of Color Records

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has painstakingly copied fragile old records from 1777 to 1801 of the baptismal records of slave and free people of colour and indexed them. They are now online at <http://www.archdiocese-no.org/archives/sfpc.php>. The acts in these registers were recorded in Spanish but the Spanish phonetic spelling of a surname often varied significantly from the French spelling. First names were also Hispanicized. Slaves usually had only a first name while free people had a surname. The part I looked at had a lot of bleed-through and was quite difficult to read but the old tracing trick might make a page more readable by eliminating the distractions of bleed-through. The Archdiocese also plans on making marriage and death records available.

Ancestry has added Civil Registration birth, marriage and death records for the City of **Lübeck, Germany** from 1811 to 1875. The records are not yet indexed but are browsable by date. Also new are indexed images of the burial ledgers of **Beechwood Cemetery, Ottawa** from 1873 (when Beechwood opened) to 1990. Information given varies slightly but usually includes age, occupation, place of birth and date of death.

FindMyPast added 34K baptisms and a small number of marriages and deaths to its parish register collection for West Yorkshire – Wakefield and District.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/08/2011.

Ancestry.co.uk offers London England Death Notices from The Times 1982 – 1988. Sounded great and I keyed in the name of the person I was looking for and, bingo, I had a hit. This former RN officer was there with a death date of 2 Dec 1983 and a published date of 20 Dec 1983. I quickly searched around for the hot button that would open up his specific announcement but, alas, no luck. It would appear that to view the specific announcement one has to physically go to a library that is part of the interlibrary loan system and see it on microfiche. I called the Toronto Reference Library to see if perchance they happened to be members but not surprisingly they are not part of this UK network. Other than getting a plane, what do you suggest I do next?

Answers or Suggestions:

Q1/06/2011. Canada / USA.

In the 1881 Census I discovered a child, age 6, living with my gg-grandparents. Her name was Aydelena Wilce. She had the family surname, but no one in the family ever mentioned this child being a daughter of Henry and Sarah Wilce. In 1891, she is found as a domestic servant for a household in the same township as Henry and Sarah are living and she is listed as Deleana Wilce. This past weekend I discovered a marriage of Chester Fordice Vernal to Agnes Deleana Wilce in 1904 in Massachusetts on the LDS genealogy site. The marriage registration indicated that her father was Henry Wilce and her mother was Elizabeth Runnels, born in Castleton Ontario. Chester and Deleana are found on the 1910 Census in Laconia Ward 1, Belknap, New Hampshire. In 1914, I find a marriage of Chester F Vernal (divorced) to another woman. This marriage takes place in Massachusetts. A month after the marriage, a son is born to Chester and his new wife. Is it possible to get a copy of the divorce papers to determine any other information about Deleana? Did she remarry, where did she go, where and when did she die?

On her marriage certificate, A. Delina Wilce says that she is born in Castleton, Ontario, daughter of Henry Wilce and Elizabeth Runnels. Research indicates that she is probably the illegitimate daughter of Thomas Henry Wilce and Elizabeth Dunnnett. On June 1, 1886 Thomas H Wilce (s of Henry & Sarah) marries Libbie Dunnell (d of James and Jane). Delina has a sibling, Henry James or James Henry Wilce, born after the marriage. Elizabeth Wilce, b 1860, wife of Thomas, died in Castleton in 1923.

The 1910 census for Chester and Delina, who are 32 and 34 years of age respectively, has them living in Laconia, New Hampshire. They have been married for 5 years and Delina has had one child, who died. [The researcher wanted to know where to get a copy of this census record – come to the FHC. In fact, all FHCs in English speaking countries now have access to Ancestry library edition, which includes all censuses for the US, Canada, and England and Wales (1911 coming later this year).]

Massachusetts State has an online Vital Records search from 1841 to 1910 BMD only and the 1904 Chester and Agnes marriage was registered under two towns, Revere and Chelsea (now both in Boston). See <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/vitalrecordssearch/VitalRecordsSearch.aspx>.

The Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records and Statistics maintains an index of divorces from 1952 to the present but copies of the actual divorce records are available from the probate court where the divorce was obtained. This seems to imply that divorce records before 1952 were not kept. The divorce may have taken place in New Hampshire and the researcher should check both states archives.

Q2/06/2011. USA.

I am researching an ancestor born 1840 in the US, probably Virginia--what is now Nicholas County, West Virginia. He is always listed as the son of William and Mary Pyatt, but DNA tests prove William is not his father. Another child was born very close to this time which would make it seem Mary is not likely the mother. How and where could I find out more about this person and who his birth parents might be?

This is a very tricky question to answer because it seems that you have the whole population of Nicholas County to choose from. One suggestion would be to look for unmarried sisters of Mary or some other relatives, who would not wish to acknowledge the birth of this child. When you follow this ancestor down, do his census entries always indicate the same birth town? Could this person be the child of Mary and the other child have a different mother? Check out the siblings. Or could the DNA disconnect have happened at a different generation?

Q3/06/2011. Canada.

My granduncle Alfred Walker, his wife and daughter arrived in Canada from England on April 18, 1921 to visit my Grandfather in Montreal, which they did. On their passenger declarations is a notion on the side "Deported from Halifax on December 11, 1922 on SS Andania". This was confirmed on the ships manifest where they are listed as deportees. Does anyone know where I could find the reason for their deportation?

Library and Archives Canada has a series of 26 microfilms on the Subject "*Deportation from Canada, 1893-1977*" in a collection called RG 76. One reel (RG 76, file 563236, pts. 7-13, reel C-10287) is titled "*Deportation of undesirables from Canada, 1918-1929*". "There was no central register of deportees until the advent of departmental electronic data processing systems in the 1960s, and **few** deportation case files have survived to present. However, extensive lists of deportees can be found in various Record Groups in files dating from 1893 to 1946." There are also some subject files on rejection policy scattered throughout RG 76. So it appears unlikely that the case file for Alfred Walker may be found. But the reel cited above should be checked to see if the researcher can glean any further information from it; perhaps the name and reason for deportation is given. If the researcher lives in Ottawa, he (she) can visit Library and Archives Canada; in Toronto, he can go to the North York Central Library, 6th Floor, which has all 26 films in its collection.

Were You Aware...

New Resources for Freemasonry

As freemasonry in England approaches its 300th birthday in 2017, the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, based in London, has completed a survey of the whereabouts and types of material relating to freemasonry held by record offices around the country. This covers, on the one hand, the records of individual lodges and chapters which have been deposited by their creating body and, on the other, the surviving lists of members of masonic lodges submitted to the county magistrates and held among quarter sessions records under the 1799 Unlawful Societies Act. While not complete, it will be a useful starting point for local historians. The survey is available on line at: <http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/resources/information-leaflets/>.

The Library and Museum has also completed a much larger survey of the records held by all masonic lodges and chapters in England and Wales. With nearly 12,000 lodges and chapters, each holding records of their activities and membership and going back to the 18th century and including records going back to the foundation of the lodge, a vast amount of information was received. If you would like to know what surviving records there might be

for a particular area or town, contact the Library and Museum on libmus@freemasonry.london.museum . An increasing amount of archive material on freemasonry in England and Wales has been catalogued by the Library and Museum and the searchable catalogue is available on the website www.freemasonry.london.museum/catalogue .

Reading Wills and Early Parish Records

From the Norfolk Rootsweb mailing list, I thought that this was a very useful tip: "On the subject of paleography, I have recently been deciphering several wills from the 1500s. I have found this website of immense help: <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~oel/index.html> . It makes for very informative reading - the handwriting, the Christian names and their versions, the items commonly named within the house and outbuildings, dictionaries, and masses of links including social habits and the vernacular of the era."

Amsterdam Archive news

Starting 18 February 2011 the archive will be digitizing the "banns index" or "ondertrouw-klappers" over the period 1578 to 1811. The banns indexes are the only part of the civil registry that has not yet been placed on line. Every week 300 index books will be scanned and hopefully all information will be made available on line late summer or early fall. The Banns Registry is a valuable tool for researchers for the period of 1578 and 1811. Quite often it will mention the age of the bride and groom their place of birth address and parents or their witnesses to the ceremony. Marriage registers only contain a date and names of the bride and groom and will not be digitized in the future. Further projects such as dispensations and other legal dispensations will be included in the last phase of this project.
<http://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/english/home.en.html>

Films received in the 7 days ending 24 February 2011 and due for return on 24 March 2011.

Film Content	Film No
GUY Georgetown BMDs in Argosy 1880 - 1896	6055440
PRU RHE	1573222
RUS Baltic States Pedigrees of Noble Families	0074180
Various Genealogies	1224653

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 12 noon and 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.

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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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