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Announcements

The FHC will be closed Saturday, April 16 and Easter weekend (April 22 to April 25 inclusive).

BIFHSGO Fall Conference - September 16-18, 2011

The British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa is holding their 17th Annual Conference in September and this year they are featuring England & Wales, London & the Home Counties. It will be held at Library and Archives Canada with twelve speakers, including Audrey Collins, Phil Jenkins, Helen Osborn, and "our own" Linda Reid. Brochures and registration forms are available at the Toronto FHC or online at <http://www.bifhsgo.ca/> . Audrey Collins is Family History Specialist at The UK National Archives and her TNA podcasts have been very helpful and entertaining.

Toronto OGS *Finding Ontario Ancestors* Workshop - Call for Speakers

The Toronto Branch of OGS is holding a workshop entitled *Finding Ontario Ancestors* on August 6, 2011. They are looking for speakers who would like to be part of the workshop. You are invited to submit proposals for lectures on any aspect of Ontario genealogical or local history research that focuses on a single type of record or source, a record group, or demonstrates how several sources can be used together. Complete information is available at their website: [http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/Finding Ontario Ancestors 2011.html](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/Finding_Ontario_Ancestors_2011.html) .

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

Thanks to Bob Huggard who has donated another CD of local family history:

CA10 CAN Genealogy of STEAD - John Edward Stead Family of Essex County, Ontario

It also includes Gordon Steed and Agnes Hendron of Essex County; John Steed and Jane Gordon of Co. Antrim, Ireland; Lennow Thompson Hendron and Annie Karneghan of Essex County, ON; and John Edward Hendron and Margaret Thompson of Co. Antrim, Ireland.

What's New

FamilySearch has added the England and Wales 1891 census, 90 million records indexed with images, and Arkansas County Marriages 1837-1957, nearly 2 million records indexed with images.

Ancestry.com has started to chronicle military headstones, starting with 33 Civil War cemeteries. "This interactive collection lets you search gravesites, attach headstone images to your tree and find GPS coordinates for your soldier ancestor's final resting place. You'll also get rich context about some of the Civil War's most important battlefield cemeteries."

Footnote.com - Free access April 7-14th

Additional Civil War era documents, like Confederate Soldiers Compiled Services Records and Union Soldiers Compiled Services Records, can be viewed on Footnote.com during their Free Access Week. Search the Civil War record indexes on Ancestry.com, then click through and click on the Footnote.com icon to see the actual record images. Access to Footnote.com is always free at Family History Centres through the FHC Portal.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/13/2001. Canada/USA.

I am researching John Busby born 1819 and died 1899. His Ontario death registration indicates he was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. The earliest record I have found was an 1862 Baptismal record for his son John Busby at St. Paul's R.C. Church in Toronto. He married Ellen Fitzgerald presumably before 1862 in Toronto. Even though some of his children were baptized at the Roman Catholic Church, John Busby is listed as Presbyterian, but his wife is listed as Roman Catholic. The first Census I located him was in 1871 in Toronto.

In 1936 when his daughter died, an obituary appeared in the Toronto Star. In the article it stated that John Busby was born the same day as Queen Victoria (24 May 1819) in Edinburgh Scotland and had been in California for the 1849 Gold Rush, where he was a sheriff. I have not located any other Busbys in the area that were not his children. In 1927, his daughter wrote to the Washington State, USA looking for relatives, but nothing conclusive was found. So I feel, he must have been in the USA prior to Canada.

I would like to find out how he got to California and how he made his way to Canada. Can you suggest where I could start my search?

Answers/Suggestions:

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.

Ship pilots guide ships and their captains through shallow waters as the ship makes its way to or from port. Ship pilots know the port they are guiding in very well and would steer the ships around the hazards in the harbour. It seems likely that incoming ships were spotted by a third party - either lighthouse operators or watchers on the cliffs around the Channel; the information that a ship was coming that needed a pilot would be relayed down the Channel to the pilot.

How was the information relayed to the pilot? If I remember correctly, Francis Drake was warned of the approaching Spanish Armada by a series of fire towers built along the cliffs of the English Channel. A bit of overkill if you just need a pilot. Optical telegraphs would have been used. Torches were used by the Greeks; smoke signals could be used. But by the time Robert Lewis became a pilot more sophisticated technology was available.

In 1792 the French engineer Claude Chappe and his brothers covered France with a network of 556 optical telegraph stations stretching a total distance of 4,800 kilometres and this was used for military and national communications until the 1850s. Their semaphore was composed of towers with black movable wooden arms, the position of which indicated alphabetic letters. [Did this pre-date or post-date the flag semaphore I was taught in Brownies many years ago?] In Britain Lord George Murray, stimulated by reports of the Chappe semaphore, designed a system of visual telegraphy. His towers used large wooden boards with six large holes which could be closed by shutters. Starting in 1795, chains of shutter telegraph stations were built along four busy maritime routes. While one of these was not the Bristol Channel, there was likely something similar. By 1847 electric telegraphs had been invented and Morse code became a standard method of communication, usually following rail lines.

Ships employed flags as codes for communication between ships and to land. Captain Frederick Marryat wrote his *Code of Signals for the Merchant Service*, which first appeared in 1817 and was reportedly quite popular. It went through several editions before being supplanted by the International Code of Signals (ICS), which were extremely similar to Marryat's Codes. [Frederick Marryat was also a novelist, writing *Mr. Midshipman Easy* after retiring from the Royal Navy.] As far as I can determine, ICS letter "G" meant "I need a Pilot" and ICS letter "H" meant "I have a Pilot". Gwen found this website - <http://www.fotw.net/flags/xf-pilt.html> - had a lot of information about flags as signals.

If anyone has more to add, correct or clarify on this subject, I am sure the researcher would be interested.

Q1/12/2011: Ontario.

Can you give me a suggestion that would help me locate a record for Eveline Jennette McBrady's birth or death. The following record was recorded in my grandmother's Clara McBrady's bible - "Eveline Jennette McBrady, born Sept. 3, 1905, died at 13 months". The problem is I cannot find any birth or death record for Eveline Jennette. Eveline would have been born and died in the Goderich - Clinton area. Clara Higgins (Carter) (1873 - 1946) was Eveline Jennette's mother. At the time of Eveline Jennette's birth, Clara Higgins was a widow with three sons. Joseph Edward McBrady (1873 -1946) was the unmarried father of Eveline Jennette. I used all three last names - Higgins, Carter & McBrady when looking for Eveline's records, with no luck. I used the cemetery finding tool also with no luck. Joseph & Clara went on to have four more children. No record of Clara's marriage to Edward McBrady can be found. She kept her marriage certificate from her first marriage to Samuel Higgins (1872 - 1902).

Marie Burger did a search on Ancestry Library Version but was unable to find a birth for Eveline Jennette McBrady. She did find a birth for Caroline Lillian McBrady, which gives a date of the parents' marriage. (Born: 2nd March 1909, in Hamilton, parents Edward McBrady mechanical engineer, and Clara Carter previously married to Samuel Higgins, parents married in Toronto on Nov 6, 1904.)

Marie found information about the family on Rootsweb - a Google search *Rootsweb Canada* and *Higgins* will find it. There she found a posting from July 2008: "I am seeking information on the family of Samuel Higgins, b 1 Jan 1869, Beech Valley Dungannon, Ireland, d. in a railway accident in Columbus, Ohio, USA 5 Jul 1902, buried in Clinton Cemetery, Clinton, Huron County, Ontario, Canada. Immigrated to Canada in 1887, living in Hamilton, Ontario in 1901. His wife: Clara Carter b. 17 Nov 1873, Hullet Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada, d. Feb 1951, m. 2 Jan 1896 Huron County, Ontario, Canada. Later second marriage to Joseph Edward McBrady 3 Sep 1906. Samuel's father Samuel Higgins and mother Maria Givan (Giffin) m. 22 Mar 1862, Banbridge, District of Banbridge, Ireland. Samuel's father was David Higgins and Maria's father was Samuel Giffin."

On Ancestry, I found a death record for Eveline Jeanette TYE, female, on September 29, 1906, 1 year old, place of death Goderich, born Buffalo, died of Diarrhoea. Buffalo records are not online but birth certificates can be ordered. As there cannot be very many Eveline Jeanette's dying in Goderich in 1906, this is extremely likely to be Clara's daughter but TYE is a name unknown before. How was this death record with an unknown last name found? By giving only the known information for a search in the Ancestry Ontario death records - Eveline dying in 1906; there are only three Eveline's dying in Ontario in 1906 and Eveline Jeanette TYE fits the date and place of death. When searching for people on any website, when I cannot find the person with my known details, I remove some of the things I "know". I almost never put in occupation. To find married women or persons with an incorrect/mispelled last name, I often use only a first name and place and date of birth. Gwen has found that if one knows the exact date (birth/marriage/death) of an event in Ontario, just putting the date in the search will give a manageable number of results to look at.

News From the Trenches

Susan Reid found an unusual tidbit as she browsed through 19th Century British Newspaper Collection, available at the FHC.

The Hull Packet - Birth, Marriage and Death Notices

"Lately, in Haute Garonne, at the age of 158, a woman, named Marie Pirou, retaining her mental faculties to the last, although her corpse weighed only 42 lbs., her flesh being gone and her skin and muscles adhering to her bones like parchment. At the age of 66 she sold a cottage and some trifling peices of land for an annuity of 165£, which the purchasers have, consequently, been obliged to pay for no less a period than 92 years." Friday, November 9, 1838; Issue 2813. The Leeds newspaper that had the same article on October 20, 1838 credits the *Moniteur Parisien* with the original information.

Were You Aware .

Jerri Grimley writes: "I have found the Northern New York Newspapers website very helpful if you are researching for the Kingston, Brockville, Prescott, or Ottawa Ontario area. If they had relatives that were in Ogdensburg or Watertown, NY, there is often an obituary or news item. <http://news.nynl.net/> "

Margaret Taylor found a Newspaper map which gives current headlines for papers around the world. "Put your mouse on a city anywhere in the world and the newspaper headlines pop up. Double click on the city and the newspaper page gets larger...you can read the entire paper on some if you click on the right place.

<http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/flash/> AND, this site changes every day with the publication of new editions of the paper."

FindMyPast has a blog and this week's was about old photographs - *Family photos: what's the history?*. In it Jayne Shrimpton talks about the different types of photographs over the ages to add context to your old photos. It is available here: <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2011/04/family-photos-whats-the-history/> .

Films received in the 14 days ending 07 April 2011 and due for return 05 May 2011.

Film Content	Film No
BLR Various PRs	2435505
ENG ESS Chelmsford PRs 1813-1959	1472065
ENG ESS Various PRs 1538-1830	1702046
ENG HAM 3 PRs 1538-1877	1041368
ENG HAM Alton BTs 1677-1861	1595976
ENG LAN Bury PRs 1854-1860	1545471
ENG LAN Bury PRs 1861-1873-	1545472
ENG YKS Hull Holy Trinity Church BTs 1762-1813	0990828
HUN BAN Mercifalva PRs 1734-1832	0858463
HUN BAN Mercifalva PRs 1734-1843	0858464
IRL Quarterly Returns for Births V.18 1868	0101177
ITA COSENZA Various PRs 1866-1900	1607681
POL WA Wieczfnia Koscielna 1801-1886	1958821
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1879-1880	0302019

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.

Closures: The FHC will be closed Saturday, April 16 and Easter weekend (April 22 to April 25 inclusive). Also closed the May long weekend - May 21 to 23 inclusive.

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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Toronto Family History Centre

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