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Announcements

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

What's New

Yesterday, in time for ANZAC Day on April 25th, **Ancestry** added a number of **New Zealand** military records: Nominal Rolls WWI and WWII, WWI Reserve Rolls, and Army Medal Rolls 1860-1919 among others. The reserve rolls contain many who did not actually serve. This week Ancestry also added "**London, England, Crisp's Marriage Licence Index, 1713-1892**". This database contains more than 10,000 original marriage licences from a dozen major London parishes. I found a curiosity. On December 13, 1864 there is a licence for William Norman Leslie of Glasgow, **North Britain** and Emma Harvey of Pimlico. And I thought that Glasgow was actually in a country called Scotland.

FamilySearch has again added significant data: **Jamaica** Civil Birth Registration 1878-1930 with images; more than 8 million transcribed records for **Massachusetts** - Births and Christenings 1639-1915, Deaths and Burials 1795-1910, Marriages 1695-1910 and Springfield Vital Records; and the 1930 **Mexico** census has been updated to include nearly three million records.

The **Irish Family History Foundation** has added the first 32,000 baptism records for County Monaghan. They will be adding to this database soon. Go to <http://www.rootsireland.ie/> to search these and the other 18 million records available there. Searches are free.

FindMyPast has added more than one million parish records for **Cambridgeshire** transcribed by the Cambridgeshire Family History Society.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Answers/Suggestions:

Q1/13/2001. Canada/USA.

I am researching John Busby born 1819 in Edinburgh and died 1899 in Ontario. 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. The first census I located him was in 1871 in Toronto.

In 1936 when his daughter died, an obituary appeared in the Toronto Star. 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. In 1927, his daughter wrote to the Washington State, USA looking for relatives, but nothing conclusive was found. So I feel that 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.

How did he get to California? Most 49ers walked to California – about 17,000 to 25,000 took the southern route from Texas to Arizona and 25,000 to 30,000 walked the northern route from Kansas and the Mississippi River.

Rail lines were not built to California until after John Busby was in Ontario. He could have arrived in San Francisco by boat through the Panama Canal if he was better off. California had been under Mexican control until the US/Mexican war in 1846-1848 and did not become a state until 1849. So California was a new state with little infrastructure in the early years of the Gold Rush. He would have had to walk or take the stagecoach back as no cross-continent rail lines existed.

Unfortunately John's arrival in North America is before complete passenger lists were compiled and kept. There is one tempting index entry in the New Orleans Passenger Lists 1820-1945: John Busby arriving in New Orleans on 14 Mar 1849, male, from Mississauga, Ontario on the ship Genesee. I was unaware of a major port in Mississauga and checked the ship's manifest – the Genesee was travelling from Sisal, Yucatan with a number of returning Americans, mostly male. The town of Mississauga was not formed until 1968 from the amalgamation of towns of Port Credit and Streetsville and a number of township settlements.

Census records, earlier than 1871, were checked. No John Busby's born in 1819 in Scotland were found in Scotland, England, the US or Canada. But the researcher should check these out again.

The obituary in 1936 of John Busby's daughter is very interesting as most of the information is about John Busby. [*Toronto Star Pages from the Past* is/are online through the Toronto Public Library website and accessible from any computer if you have a Toronto Public Library card.]

DAUGHTER OF PIONEER MRS. A BELL PASSES

Father Born, Dies Almost Same Time as Queen Victoria

Daughter of John Busby, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland the same day that Queen Victoria was born in 1819, and who was killed while crossing a railway track gazing at a flag at half mast in honor of the Queen's death, Mrs. Mary Bell, widow of Andrew Bell, was buried today in Mount Pleasant cemetery.

Her father was a veteran of the gold rush of '49 and a sheriff in California. He knew Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson, Gen. Sherman and Gen. Grant of civil war fame and President Lincoln.

Mrs. Bell, who was 72, is survived by her four daughters, ... and two sons...

His list of friends is impressive but unlikely. Buffalo Bill was only 15 years old by the time John was in Toronto, having children. Does the researcher have any verification that John was in the gold rush and a sheriff?

While looking into this question, I came across several trees online on Ancestry containing this particular John Busby. The researcher may wish to contact the owners of these trees – I have often found that two heads are better than one.

News From the Trenches

While looking at FreeREG (<http://www.freereg.org.uk/>) for church records for BORRETTs in Norfolk, I came across a Hannah BORRETT being christened in 1869 at a church called (on FreeREG) St. Peter Per Mountergate. Finding the name of the church rather odd, I had a look for this church and found the website for the Norwich Historic Churches Trust - <http://www.norwich-churches.org/>. There are 32 churches on this website with pictures and an extensive description. St. Peter Parmentergate was originally formed in Norman times and rebuilt in the fifteenth century. It became redundant in 1981, and in 2005, after being empty for some time, the main church building became the Norwich Centre for Martial Arts. "Medieval Norwich had an incredible 57 churches within the city walls, but today only 31 of these still exist. They were built by the wealthy wool merchants as a demonstration of their social standing and wealth. Norwich is renowned for its abundance of churches and boasts more than any other city north of the Alps; however only nine of these are now used for worship. Most of Norwich's churches were built from flint, which was found locally. It was very difficult to work with and a high level of skill was needed by the craftsmen who used it. The round flint was broken open revealing a dark blue face, which was used to form the outside surface of the building."

Were You Aware .

Free British Newspaper Access

John Reid's blog of Saturday, April 9th (<http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2011/04/>) said that for National Library Week in the US, Gale CENGAGE Learning is offering free online access to all their resources until April 24. The Gale NewsVault collection has both US and UK online newspapers. You must register – name and email only, and then you have access to more than ten million digitised pages. Online newspapers are fun and what you find can be amazing. The weather this weekend looks lousy – spend a few hours

browsing these collections. If you get addicted, FHCs have the 19th Century British Newspapers Collection online without charge.

Family Photos – Who Took the Photo?

FindMyPast has published its second blog by Jayne Shrimpton about family photographs. This one talks about the photographer and how to find useful information from edges and the reverse side of the photo. It is well worth reading. Find it at: <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2011/04/family-photos-who-took-the-photo/>

Films received in the 14 days ending 14 April 2011 and due for return 12 May 2011.

Film Content	Film No
CHE BE Courtelary Marriages I-Z 1866-1875	2005914
CHE BE LDS Members Various Periods	0128140
CHE BE Siselen PRs 1728-1979	2005725
CHE BE St Imier Baptisms 1858-1864	2005750
CHE BE St Imier Marriages 1858-1873	2005752
DEU HES Nieder Olm PRs 1650-1838	0949484
DEU HES Nieder Olm PRs 1650-1838	1044838
DEU HES Nieder Olm PRs 1728-1909	0949485
DEU OLD Ahrensböck Bapt 1742-1845	0362700
DEU OLD Ahrensböck Bapt 1846-1862	0362701
DEU OLD Ahrensböck Bapt 1893-1941	0362703
DEU Wurttemberg 4 towns BMDs 1649-1802	0897725
ENG HAM Portsea St Mary's PRs 1801-1812	0919738
ENG HAM Portsmouth BTs 1833-1850	1596261
ENG HAM Portsmouth PRs Marriages, 1855-1872	0919733
FRA MOS 2 Parishes Catholic PRs	1959648
IRL Civ Reg Births V.1-1 `1877	0255968
IRL Civ Reg Births V.16 1868	0101175
POL WA Karczew Jewish BMD 1828-1853	1618646
PRU SCI Hirschberg Civ Reg Oct 1880-Jun 1883	2271976

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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