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Announcements

The FHC will be closed for the May weekend (May 21 to May 23 inclusive).

What's New

FindMyPast - More than 211,000 new West Yorkshire baptism records were added to the FindMyPast parish records today. The four parishes added are: Almondbury with 49,184 baptisms, Dewsbury with 57,160 baptisms, Huddersfield with 66,299 baptisms, and Kirkburton with 39,262 baptisms.

Ancestry put an unindexed collection for Kent, England online this week. Called the Tyler Collection of Misc Notes and Pedigrees of Kent Families, it is a collection of scanned notebooks of vital records for families from East Kent. It is difficult to look through; hopefully Ancestry will index this collection.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions were received this week.

News From the Trenches

Joan Challis was delighted to read about the new parish register additions on Ancestry for Liverpool, England. "I have found marriages I never thought I would find; births and deaths for children not seen on census sheets; but the best of all was to find the burial of Hannah Molyneux nee Carey who was the first of 3 wives to my great great grandfather. For years I have searched all over (or so I thought) and never found it. I knew that she had died between 1826 and 1828 and it turns out she died in 1827 and was buried in a churchyard that I had not thought of checking. My gg grandfather remarried in 1828. Anyone searching Lancashire should try this new addition - it is fantastic!"

Old newspapers are fascinating and I find it hard to read only what I am searching for. Here is a tidbit or filler from the Toronto Star in 1899: "It requires 10,800,000 pounds of meat a week to feed the inhabitants in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Jersey City." End of article!

Were You Aware ...

Errors of Place Names in the Census

Most of us have come across peculiar place names in censuses and wonder why the place is so wrong. What we are searching when we look at online censuses now is often a transcription of a transcription. In Britain the first step was for the head of the house to write their household information onto the household schedule. If the household head was illiterate, the enumerator recorded the information. These household schedules were then transcribed by the census taker into his enumerator's summary books. In England and Wales, this transcription (the summary book) is what we see for all the censuses up to 1901; only the 1911 census is the original household census. When the censuses are transcribed into a searchable format for online use, these records are again transcribed. Sometimes these odd names seem to have arisen from the enumerator misunderstanding the person perhaps because of accent. Other errors likely occurred when the enumerator could not read the householder's writing; and more errors are introduced when contemporary transcribers have difficulty with the writing or are very unfamiliar with local geography.

I regularly search for people in censuses with just a first name and a place of birth, especially if they were born in a town [this turns up married women and those people whose last names have been mistranscribed]. A recent search for a Martha Jarvis who was born in 1824 in the town of Heston, a small parish to the west of London was interesting. In 1851 her place of birth was Deston; in 1861, Dutton; in 1871, Heston; in 1881, Sutton; and in 1891, Keston. As Martha was living in London, it is likely that the enumerators were unfamiliar with this small town, causing some of the transcription problems.

Laura Holland has been looking at a census from ScotlandsPeople. It is the original from the enumerator's summary book in Lochee, Dundee, Scotland; the birth place is recorded as the Parish of Finooy, Ireland and another shows the county of Autrine, Ireland. Laura speculates that the Irish accent may have contributed to a misunderstanding for Finvoy in the county of Antrim.

Many times I have heard a patron expostulate "How could they have mistranscribed that – it is obvious". Having transcribed many many pages of BMD indexes for the FreeBMD project, I can empathize with the transcriber. Expectations will definitely influence the way you see letter formations.

Occupation Searches in Censuses

FindMyPast has transcribed all the censuses for England and Wales from 1841 to 1911. [If you cannot find your relative on Ancestry, come in to the FHC and try FindMyPast.] For the 1851, 1861, 1881, 1891, 1901, and 1911 censuses, they have transcribed the Occupation field. This can sometimes be a great help. Looking for a George Jarvis, plasterer [the information given on a marriage record] in 1861, FindMyPast immediately found the right person. More often, however, the occupation search is not so useful; but it is **always** worth trying. An ancestor, whose occupation we thought was printer, was only found by an occupation search in the 1881 census. This was because he recorded his occupation slightly differently for each census: in 1861 color printer; in 1871 letter press printer; in 1891 pressman printers; in 1891 printer pressman; and in 1911 retired printer. Other printers in the family were stereotypers or compositors.

Family Photos: What Style of Mount?

FindMyPast has published its third blog by Jayne Shrimpton about family photographs. The previous two blogs have focused on how to identify photographic formats and how to discover the photographer's operational dates. These techniques both offer the potential for dating a photograph. Another effective method of determining the circa date of an unidentified card

mounted studio photograph is recognising the style of the mount. This is another interesting blog. Find it at: <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2011/04/family-photos-what-style-of-mount/> .

I have scanned or photographed many family photos. While I have copied both the fronts and backs, I have not thought to measure the mounts thickness. Perhaps I will in the future.

Films received in the 14 days ending 28 April 2011 and due for return 26 May 2011.

Film Content	Film No
DEU BAD Epfenbach Marriages 1826-1870	1189284
DEU BAD Epfenbach PRs 1642-1961	1189287
DEU BAY Variuos PRs	1676553
ENG HAM 6 Parishes H-I PRs	1596168
ENG HAM Abbots-Ann & Old Alresford PRs	1041195
ENG HAM Various PRs	1596403
ENG YKS York PR's 2 Parishes	1068538
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1874-1876	0302017
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1877-1878	0302018
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1881-1882	0302020
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1887-1888	0302023
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1889	0302024
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1893	0302028
UKR Repuzhyntsi Orth Church Civil TRs Births 1890-1905	2383967
UKR Repuzhyntsi Orth Church Civil TRs Births 1906-1919	2383911
UKR Repuzhyntsi Orth Church Civil TRs BMD 1873	2415478
UKR Repuzhyntsi Orth Church Civil TRs Deaths 1893-1901	2346838

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 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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