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Announcements

We have an internet access problem currently at the Toronto FHC. This means that none of our subscription websites are available for your use. If you have booked a computer, please be aware that Ancestry, FindMyPast, TheGenealogist, etc. are unavailable. We hope to rectify the problem as soon as possible. We are sorry for the inconvenience.

The FHC will be closed from July 30th to August 1st inclusive for the Civic Holiday weekend. The FHC will also be closed every Thursday morning during July & August. Don't forget that if no patrons are booked, the volunteer on duty may go home and if you phone in later, we will not be here to answer your call. Our apologies if that happens to you

What's New

FamilySearch has added or updated this week: an index to Illinois marriages 1811-1959; US WWII 1942 Draft Registration cards with images (4.7 million records); an index to baptisms, marriages, and burials from the Catholic Church parish registers of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, Phillipines for 1615-1982; and an index to the England & Wales 1901 census, among others.

Ancestry added an index to the British Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969 which show when a person began working for the Post Office. The books were kept from 1831 until 1969. This index contains name, date of appointment and location. Several other databases were updated including the Andrew's Newspaper Card Indexes 1790-1976 for England. The images for this collection are newspaper announcements cut out, pasted onto a card with dates and other relevant names written on them. The announcements are births, death, marriages, notices about wills and estates, and missing persons. The collection is well-indexed and I have found a lot of interesting information, including that my great grandfather appeared to be estranged from his family.

DeceasedOnline has uploaded all the records for the Kettering Crematorium in Kettering, Northamptonshire and it now includes 116,000 cremations.

FindMyPast has added a number of databases this week.

An additional 290,000 parish registers are online for: Handsworth Cemetery, Warwickshire - 62,252 burials 1909 - 1991; Sheffield - 99,611 baptisms 1558 - 1934; Suffolk - 50,608 marriages 1753 - 1837; Suffolk - 75,258 baptisms 1812 - 1905; and Rugby - 1,436 marriages 1564-1837.

WWI Records for Surrey - These records detail the lives of over 85,000 soldiers in the Surrey area between 1908 and 1933. Regimental area recruiting offices were established at Richmond, Putney, Wandsworth, Streatham, East Dulwich, Peckham, Upper Norwood, Tooting, Mitcham, Wimbledon, Sutton, East Molesey, Walton on Thames, Epsom and Wallington. These recruitment registers cover these areas and those who were born in the area but attested in other regimental districts.

1861 Worldwide Army Index - The 1861 Worldwide Army Index (or The 1861 Worldwide Soldier Index) was compiled from the extraction of details of some 245,000 serving soldiers listed in the National Archives April-June quarter Pay lists held in WO 10 (Royal Artillery), WO 11 (Royal Engineers) and WO 12 (Cavalry, Guards, Infantry and other units)

series War Office records. It includes records not only of other ranks of soldiers serving in Britain, but also men serving in Queen Victoria's Army in the empire – Canada and British India.

Royal Fusiliers Collection - The Royal Fusiliers Collection 1863-1905 comprises the names of close to 5000 officers and men who took part in a series of British military campaigns between 1863 and 1904. Information is taken largely from medal rolls and includes the name, number (for other ranks), battalion, campaign and medal clasps awarded.

Paddington Rifles Collection - The Paddington Rifles database contains the names of over 8,600 men who served with the battalion from its inception in 1860 until its demise in 1912. Its official title was the 36th Middlesex (1860-1880), later the 18th Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps, and later still (from 1908) the 10th (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (Paddington Rifles).

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/27/2001. England.

Thanks to your mention about probate records being free during the royal visit, I was able to find quite a few records. However, it is not at all clear how to order these. Any links I found were out of date and the main one seems to have no options for ordering copies. Can you tell me how to go about it and what it costs?

Marie Burger writes: "I ordered a will recently but had my application and Money Order returned as I had sent an insufficient amount. Apparently the Organisation and fees for service changed recently (4th April 2011) but the last time I checked there were still several sites that quoted the old rate of £5. A copy of a Will is now £6 and the cheque or Money Order should be made out to HMCTS or Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal Service. I was told to send my request to Postal Searches Section, York Probate Registry, Castle Chambers, Clifford Street, York, YO1 9RG and put the name of the deceased on the back of cheque/moneyorder. If you are ordering from outside the U.K. you cannot place your order online but have to send a Money Order in pounds sterling. www.theprobateservice.gov.uk "

Record copy wills for all of England and Wales from 1858 to 1925 are available on Family History Library films (cheaper and probably faster). Record copy wills from District Probate Registers 1858-1899 are available on 1173 films; for 1900-1925 on 591 films; for the Principal Registry (London) 1025 films. It is not immediately obvious how to find these films in the FHL catalogue (an understatement) but at the Toronto FHC we have a book that lists each film and contents - volunteers can help you find the one you want.

I have a couple of examples:

Ann Taylor died in Norfolk on 29 October 1862. Information from the Ancestry probate index shows that her will was probated on 14 March 1863 in Norwich. Using this information, I am able to find film #1526338, whose description is "S Oct., 1863 (Birmingham) to Dec. (York) T Jan., 1863 (Birmingham) to May (York)". This film contains wills for surnames which start with S and T; the S's are for wills probated between October and December for all the districts courts, and the T's are for wills between January and May again for all the district courts. Please note that these films do not contain any wills for the Principal Registry (London).

Ernest Edward Kindred died on 19 August 1920 and his will was probated on 14 September 1920 in Lewes. The film containing his will is 1657047 - "1920 J Nov. (Bangor) - Dec. (York) 1920 K Jan. (Birmingham) - Dec. (Winchester) 1920 L Jan. (Bangor) - May (York)". All wills for people whose name starts with K and whose will was not probated in the Principal Registry but was probated in 1920 will be on this film.

Were You Aware ...

Probate - England and Wales

FamilySearch has a very good Wiki article on Probate here: https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/England_Probate_Records. It starts with the basics like definitions and gets more detailed. As well as record copy wills from 1858 to 1925, the FHL catalogue has many wills - both copies and originals available from the 1400s to 1858. Navigating through these wills which were organized by courts (prerogative, bishop's, archdeaconry and peculiars) is not easy and the FHC has a book to help you decide which court your ancestor may have left a will in - "Guide to Pre-1858 Probate Jurisdictions".

Our resources include many films with probate records. We also have books, CDs and fiche with helpful information on probate.

Probate for Other Places

At the Toronto FHC we have literally thousands of films, fiche, CDs and books with probate information. We have excellent resources for probate in Scotland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jamaica, Bermuda, Grenada, etc.

The Wiki article above says that wills were made by middle or upper class men but I have found early (before 1800) wills for women, who were distinctly not upper class. Some wills I found were fascinating, adding great detail to the lives of those ancestors.

Films received in the 7 days ending 21 July 2011 and due for return 18 Aug 2011.

Film Content	Film No
CHE TG Arbon Kirkenbuch 1598-1950	995260
CHE TG Landschlat LDS Church records, 1854-1873	128142
DEUHAN Marienwerder Churchbooks 1768-1852	185309
ENG CUL Kirkoswald PRs 1580-1843	1472355
ENG LAN Prestwich StMarys PRs Marrs 1713-1813	2113205
ENG SAL Shrewsbury St Marys PRs 1813-1862	1702203
ENG YKS Doncaster BTs 1711-1814	919338
ENG YKS Hatfield BTs 1601-1876	919302
JAM Clarendon Birth & Marr Registers 1921-1930	1699183
POL LU Lukowa Birth records 1777-1788	1982235
POL WR Siedlecin BMD 1874-1885	2385848
POL WR Siedlecin Kirkenbuch 1748-1880	1201479

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 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 Civic Holiday weekend - July 30th to August 1st. Closed Thursday mornings in July and August. If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed on Thursday, July 14th.

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.

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