

In this Bulletin

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Announcements

It is expected that the Internet will be up and working reliably by Tuesday morning at the Toronto FHC. This means that all of our subscription websites will again be available for your use. If you wish to book a computer, please call us to confirm that everything is working.

The FHC will be closed from Saturday to Monday 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.

The 2011 Toronto History Lecture – Thursday, August 4 at 7:30pm

Friends and associates of the late Paul McGrath (former Chair of the Toronto Branch of OGS) have announced the first annual **Toronto History Lecture** in his memory, to be held on **Thursday 4 August** at the **City of Toronto Archives**. Author and historian Chris Raible will be presenting "*Rebel Remembered: The Legacy of William Lyon Mackenzie, 150 Years After His Death*". Admission is free, but registration is required. Attendees are invited for refreshments before the lecture and to find out more about the resources available at the Archives. Further details are online at: <http://tinyurl.com/6hshhsx> .

Finding Ontario Ancestors Workshop – Saturday August 6th, 10am – 4:30pm at North York Central Library

Find out how to get the most from familiar records or discover a new source to expand your understanding of your Ontario ancestors. You'll enjoy this relaxed, information-packed day with speakers who revel in the intricacies and richness of records—and love to share their knowledge. For more information, go to <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html> .

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Ann Nelis has donated an Ordnance Survey Map of the Londonderry area of Northern Ireland. Look for it in our Irish book section.

We have also acquired a book to help those with Scottish ancestors – ***Discover Scottish Church Records*** by Chris Paton. *Discover Scottish Church Records* explores the history and records of the various churches in Scotland prior to 1855, the year in which civil registration commenced within the country. It describes the theological changes imposed by the Reformation of 1560, the nature of the state's battles with the Kirk, and the Kirk's subsequent battles within itself. Most importantly, it also discusses the nature of the records generated by the various Scottish churches, how to interpret them, and above all else, how to find them.

What's New

FamilySearch has added or updated the 1895 Argentina census which has nearly four million indexed names with images.

Ancestry updated their collections of Liverpool birth, marriage, burial and confirmation records. They have added a few small collections for Maine – 19th century divorce records, revolutionary war land grants and some military records 1812-1865.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/29/2011. Somerset.

I have been looking at the parish registers for the parish church of Bridgewater in Somerset for the year 1817. I have found an entry that has been crossed out. It does not appear to be a correction or duplicate. Does anyone know why it would be crossed out?

Q2/29/2011.

I have a birth certificate for Florence Eveline TURNER b 26 Feb 1888 at Emsworth, Hants. The mother is Fanny Eveline TURNER - no father named. In my wife's family we have a Fanny Eveline TURNER b 1872 Cosham, Hants. She would have been just short of 16 if she were the mother. The only relevant addresses that I have for her are with her parents in Chichester until her marriage to Frederick GOFF in 1895 by which time she and her parents had moved to Portsmouth. Emsworth and Chichester are about 12 km apart. I can find no Florence TURNER b Emsworth in the 1891 or any death in Free BMD and I can find no Florence living with Fanny now GOFF. How can I ascertain if this Florence is the daughter of my Fanny Eveline?

News From the Trenches

Marie Burger wrote to the Bulletin asking that we confirm that the number of the FHL will film she was ordering was correct. She mentioned that the person in question had been divorced in 1858. This was interesting because divorce was rather unusual in 1858 and was often reported in the newspapers. I suggested that Marie search the 19th Century Newspaper Collection and she found several relevant articles. Most interesting was an article from the *Morning Chronicle*, 15 March 1858, which Marie has transcribed for readers:

“Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act

On Saturday Mrs. Jane Astrope, a fashionably-dressed and good looking female, applied to the Hon. G. C. Norton, at the Lambeth Police Court, for a certificate of protection under the 21st clause of the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act.

The applicant deposed that in 1847 she married William Astrope, at the time a shopman in the service of Mr. Digby, a brush-maker in Gracechurch Street, and she herself was a housekeeper to a gentleman of property living in Walworth. Some time after their marriage her husband was tried and convicted of embezzlement, and sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. On being released from prison, the gentleman with whom she lived, allowed her husband to live with her at his house, but he soon helped himself to her gold watch and chain, and deserted her for several months. After that she borrowed £245 from her master to set her husband up in business as a stationer, but he got through that in six months, and the last she saw of him was 16 months ago, when he was in custody at the Mansion-house on another charge of embezzlement, and she then ascertained that he had been living with a young woman at Edmonton for some time. He was committed and tried for a second time for a similar offence, and having been convicted was sentenced to four years penal servitude. In conclusion, the applicant said the object of her present application was this, that the gentleman she lived with, and who is now in the 83rd year of his age, was anxious to leave her something by his will, and also desirous that what he did leave should be beyond the control of her husband.

Mr. Norton did not see any objection to grant the protection required, and the applicant, having gone through the form of having her statement taken on oath, the certificate was handed to her.”

Her divorce was granted in 1859 and was also reported in a newspaper article.

Were You Aware ...

Access to British Newspapers from Home

Marie Burger has emailed the Bulletin with how to access British newspaper collections from home. “Anyone can register on-line with the Lancashire Public Library. Just go on-line and register and they will send you a library number. Then sign in and go to Online Reference Library. They also have newspapers for the 17th and 18th Century. <http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries/borrower/join.asp> .” From the Lancashire Online Reference Library, you have access to the 17th and 18th century Burney Collection, the 19th Century British Library Newspapers, and the Times Digital Archive 1785-1985, as well as other items – Grove Music Online, for example.

The Toronto Public Library makes the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star available online but you do need a Toronto Library card to access it and for that you must have a Toronto address.

Family Photos: Weddings

FindMyPast has published the seventh in their series of blogs on how to understand and interpret your old family photos. This blog - <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/2011/07/family-photos-weddings/> - may help you to identify studio photographs as actually being wedding photographs. It has some information on what was worn for weddings and in what period. The photographs provide good examples for each decade.

Historical Atlas of Toronto

Susan Reid has recently purchased this book and feels that it would be a great resource for researching family who settled in Toronto in the 1800s. Susan writes: “I paid \$34.95 for my copy of the *Historical Atlas of Toronto*, by Derek Hayes, published 2008 by Douglas and MacIntyre at Indigo. The detailed maps and old street names are very helpful.”

Divorce records and The National Archives, UK.

Before 1858, true divorce was rare and expensive. A divorce cost approximately 600 to 800 pounds and required an Act of Parliament. The records of these divorces (and there were less than 300) are not in the National Archives but are part of the records of the House of Lords. Because of the cost, these divorces involved the wealthy and were the scandals of the time, often reported in *The Times*. There were other ways to get rid of your wife before 1858, including private separation, desertion, wife sale (!) [remember *The Mayor of Casterbridge?*], or declaration of nullity or annulment by the Church Courts.

After the divorce act of 1857, divorce moved from the church court to the secular court and became more affordable at about £50. This still limited divorce to better-off people. Divorce also remained balanced in favour of men – men only had to prove adultery, while women had to prove adultery, plus one other offence (bigamy, violence, desertion, incest or rape). [In the case above, the wife proved desertion and adultery.]

From 1858 to 1927, London was the only court for divorce, but after 1927 ten country courts were set up for uncontested divorce and grounds were increased to include desertion for 5 years. For dates 1858-1927, the National Archives has 120,000 records, which are about 99% of cases, including failed cases. These records have been stripped so only basic documents, like the petition and a summary of the court case, remain but they will still be informative. From 1928 to 1938, they have 80% of the London cases but nothing from the country courts. In 1937, the grounds were again increased but only a minute sample (826 cases) of those records have been kept.

One can search the National Archives catalogue in series J77 (Divorce Records) at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/search.asp> by name. Up to 1884, only the surname is there; after 1884 the full name is entered; and after 1910 the reason is also there. Co-respondents names are not always there. A successful search will give you a précis only.

Films received in the 7 days ending 28 July 2011 and due for return 25 Aug 2011.

Film Content	Film No
AUT GAI RC Church Res for 3 Parishes	2398547
ENG BRK Various BT's	1279443
ENG KEN Various PR's	1850184
ENG WIL Southbroom PRs 1798-1883	0950262
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1891	0302026
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1894	0302029
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1899	0302034
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1900	0302035
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1901	0302036
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1902	0302037
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1903	0302038
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1904	0302039
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1905	0302040
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1906	0302041
PRU POS Schneidemühl Births 1907	0302042

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.

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.

Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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