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Announcements

The FHC will be closed this Saturday, August 20th and every Thursday morning during 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.

Toronto OGS presents Audrey Collins: *What's On at TNA, September 19th, 7:30pm*

Audrey Collins, Family History Specialist at The National Archives, UK, will be presenting '*WHAT'S ON at TNA*' on Monday, 19 September, 2011 commencing at 7:30 p.m. This will be a two-part lecture with an opportunity to mix and mingle at half-time. Light refreshments will be served. Having listened to Audrey's TNA podcasts, I suspect that she will be an entertaining speaker, imparting lots of useful information. Pre-register by email to courses@torontofamilyhistory.org. Cost is \$15 for non-members who have pre-registered; \$20 at the door.

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

We have added three new books to our library. They have all been published within the last year and have up-to-date information and websites. They will be available next week at the FHC.

***Researching Scottish Family History* by Chris Paton** Is an introductory guide to those wishing to explore their Caledonian roots. Filled with handy tips throughout, the book also provides many useful contextual asides on various aspects of Scottish history relevant to your ancestral pursuits. Completing the book are handy appendices listing the contact details of all Scottish based county archives, and family history societies, etc.

***Tracing Your London Ancestors* by Jonathan Oates** describes the principal record offices, archives, libraries and other sources researchers can go to, and shows how Londoners can be tracked through censuses, registers and directories over the last 500 years. Oates explores key aspects of London's history from a family historian's point of view. Crime, religion and education are covered, as is the historical trail left by taxation, health, welfare, work and business. He looks also at the military and wartime records available in the city, and at the records of immigrant communities who have had such a notable impact on the development of the capital. As noted by John Reid in his *Anglo-Celtic Connections* review of this book on August 7th (<http://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2011/08/book-review-tracing-your-london.html>), there is a paucity of maps. This is why I like the next book - more maps.

***Tracing Your East End Ancestors* by Jane Cox** takes readers through the maze of courts and alleys that was the home of their ancestors, bringing to life that vibrant, polyglot society, and describing the many sources researchers can consult – archives, records, books, the internet – in order to discover the lives of individuals who lived in the area or passed through it. I found the small maps included in this book particularly helpful when trying to visualize how my ancestors moved around this part of London. The appendices are useful.

What's New

Ancestry has updated their collection of West Yorkshire parish records of births, marriages and burials to include over 800,000 indexed records with images. A new set of London parish records with images was added – a small collection of confirmation records between 1850 and 1921. Find this collection (and the collection of Liverpool Catholic confirmations) under *England Schools, Directories, and Church Histories* and then under *All Related to England*.

FamilySearch added indexes to parish registers in two counties this week – Warwickshire and Essex. Essex has half a million records taken from 528 FHL films; Warwickshire has 800,000 records. Vermont vital records now include nearly 1.5 million indexed entries, each with their associated image.

FindMyPast added a new collection of burial records today – 20,000 for St Mary parish in Lambeth dated 1819-1838 and 128,000 records for East Kent dated 1802-1846.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/30/2011. Consanguinity.

Last week there was a question about consanguinity and a person marrying his niece. Daniel Parkinson who has done a great deal of family research in Quebec sent the Bulletin his thoughts reflecting his research. "In the nineteenth and early 20th Century, it was more a question of don't ask / don't tell, at least in the Anglican and Methodist marriages I have investigated in family research in Quebec. On second thought, I would say it was hardly even considered as a factor because so many first cousins married and even double first cousins, who had healthy, attractive and absolutely normal children. Everyone in the family and the community would have been aware of the relationship between the bride and groom and I expect even the minister. I have no idea if anything was stated in Canadian Anglican prayer books about this, at that time. This was in an area of Quebec where the majority were Irish-Protestant by extraction which is a community and culture with a long tradition of marriage between cousins. I believe there were legal strictures against cousins marrying in many American states but not in Canada.

"I have read that marriage to Roman Catholics was forbidden. While I am not sure if that is accurate, it was certainly socially unacceptable. I would suggest that for those in the Irish upper classes, it was an issue of class. The Protestant community was small and localized. I have a sense that for the wealthy, keeping their estates within the family was important, but this was true in England as well. In the community in Quebec that I wrote of they were not wealthy but I have a sense that there was a certain snobbishness in that parents may have looked down on their neighbours' children as "not good enough". There is also the issue that in pioneer communities, as they grew, the people who lived closest to you and with whom you associated almost exclusively, were your relatives. This was not unlike the upper class communities in Ireland.

"Although off the point, keeping the family name was important and went so far, in some instances, that the groom would take the bride's name. Whether the couple were cousins or not, in these instances, I cannot say."

News From the Trenches

On the topic of marriage (but not consanguinity), Jane Cox writes in her introductory chapter of *Tracing Your East End Ancestors*: "Often they [the East Enders] did not bother with formal marriage; according to Henry Mayhew, writing in the 1850s, costers [hawkers] rarely married. East Enders resisted the registration of births and, according to Alexander Heriot Mackonochie, vicar, ... displayed a 'positive hostility to the sacrament of baptism'." Perhaps I will never find a baptism for my great-grandmother.

Were You Aware ...

UK Death Duties

One of our patrons, in researching an ancestor, was looking for probate records for her. After finding her probate index record on Ancestry in the National Probate Calendar 1861-1941, she found that the lady had not left a will and so the patron was looking to see if the FHL catalog contained films of administrations for 1898. It did not, although earlier administration films do exist. It was suggested that she look for the death duty registers. Death duties are the taxes to be paid on the estate before it is divided among the legatees. The index to death duty registers (TNA reference IR27) can be searched at FindMyPast from 1796 to 1903 and the ancestor was found in 1898 complete with the details needed to find the administration – Registry, Affidavit number, Will or Admon. Folio, Date of Death and Administrator. Unfortunately no films were available from the FHL for that year and the researcher will have to go to TNA to get it. [Note that while the National Probate Calendar on Ancestry covers only 1861-1941, the probate calendar films that the Toronto FHC has in its collection go from 1858 to 1957.]

Again quoting Jane Cox in *Tracing Your East End Ancestors*, "Admon entries only reveal the name of the deceased, address, and the name of next of kin, widow or creditor who got the grant. It is possible to find out more information about intestate estates from the death duty records".

At the Toronto FHC we have a collection of 92 FHL films which are the Death Duty Indexes for the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) and County Courts Wills and Administrations from 1812 to 1857. James Thomson has written a Pathfinder/Guide on how to find the corresponding Death Duty records (kept on the Admin Desk at the FHC). If an FHL film is available for the death duty records, they will provide a valuation of the estate, the names and addresses of the legatees, and their relationships. I have found two records of death duties paid on estates in the early 1800s that certainly helped further my research. Anyone wishing to try to find death duty information is advised to come into the FHC and consult the Death Duty Pathfinder and one of our volunteers.

There are several guides available to help figure out wills and probate records. Here are three: TNA Wills and Probate Records (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/research-guides/wills-and-probate-records.htm>), FamilySearch Wiki (https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/England_Probates: Locating_the_Records) [this article has links to the lists of probate films available from FHL], and Dorset History Centre (<http://www.dorsetforyou.com/media.jsp?mediaid=129746&filetype=pdf>). Note that record copy wills from 1858 to 1925 for the Principal Registry are all on film and can be ordered to any FHC; in the catalog, search for keywords – *record copy wills 1858-1925 principal registry*. Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries are also available from 1858 to 1925. Please let us know if we can help you find something.

Lost Cousins

LostCousins is free until the end of August. The LostCousins website allows you to enter relatives for various censuses complete with the census reference number. LostCousins then checks its database for a match. You can always join and enter your data without charge but contact with matching entries requires a membership. Until the end of August no membership is needed to make that contact. (www.lostcousins.com)

Films received in the 7 days ending 18 August 2011 and due for return 15 September 2011.

Film Content	Film No
DEU British Consulate BMD 1871-1945	1485272
DEU PRU Klein Tromnau BMD Index 1766 1900	0208176
ENG KEN Various BT's & AT's	1835665
ENG YKS Doncaster BTs 1815-1829	0919339
IRE C of I Marr Lic Killaloe Clonf. Limer. Kilmore & Ar Meath	0100869
IRE CAV 1921 Census Annagelliff Ballymach. Castler. Castleterra	0597154
IRE Griffiths Valuations for Antrim Armagh Carlow Cavan	0919001
IRE Thrift's genealogical abstracts Card index: A - F	2232809

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 Labour Day weekend – Sept. 3rd to 5th inclusive and Saturday, August 20th. Closed Thursday mornings in 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.

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Toronto Family History Centre
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3C 3V4 Phone: 416 422 5480 Ext. 111.
Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet dot ca