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Announcements

FHC Hours

Starting tomorrow, October 1, we will be open from 9:30am to 4pm every Friday and starting October 12th, we will be open on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 9:30pm. We will be closed for the Thanksgiving weekend, October 9th to 11th, inclusive. Call before you come if you do not have a booking.

Updated List of Resources

A new list of the films, fiche, CDs and books at the Toronto FHC is now available. A complete audit of the films has been done and significant changes and corrections made. The films are divided into two classifications: FILM designates any FHL film that is filed numerically and can be found in the cabinets in the "Annex", and COLLECTION designates a film that is part of a large collection of films, like the Scottish Sasines, and its location is indicated by a cabinet and drawer number (eg B1). The West Indies films and some of the British India films have been moved to the FILM category and are filed by FHL film number; this was necessary as it was becoming increasingly difficult to find a particular film. To obtain a copy of the list, go to the Toronto FHC website (<http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/>) and click on Resources; you will find the [List of All FHC Resources](#) available to download as you scroll down the page. You may also wish to download the introduction, which includes the Chapman Codes used in the list.

OGS Toronto Workshop – *The Women in Our Past* – November 6th

Has the end of September crept up on you? If so, you still have an opportunity to take advantage of the Early Bird discount. OGS Toronto has extended the deadline to include all registrations postmarked by Monday, October 4th. The Early Bird fee to register for *THE WOMEN IN OUR PAST: Strategies and Resources for Researching Female Ancestors Workshop* is only \$40 for non-members. For information about the speakers and their topics, look at <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/women.html>. Don't forget that half your ancestors are women and are often harder to trace than men; you may find ideas to help you.

What's New

Ancestry – London Records Updated

Ancestry has updated their London records from the collections at the Guild Hall. Baptisms, burials, and marriages are indexed and have been updated. However, I was unable to find anything new and I have a quibble with Ancestry – when they update a collection, they tell you it is updated but give no clue as to what was updated. FindMyPast, on the other hand, would say something like: "We have updated our London records with new information from Docklands Ancestors 1834-1841". Ancestry has also added records to their London Poor Law records; this collection is not indexed. Other recent updates to existing databases: postcards from Canada, Germany & Austria, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom & Ireland but, sadly, no dates appear to be associated with the images.

FindMyPast – More Chelsea Pensioner Records

FindMyPast has just added 341,888 records and 1,928,868 images to their Chelsea Pensioners collection for the period 1901-1913. This brings the total numbers of these on FindMyPast to 1,033,845 records and 6,131,443 images,

comprising records of men pensioned out of the British Army 1760-1913. The connection with 'Chelsea Pensioners' is that the pensions were administered through The Royal Hospital at Chelsea. It now includes Territorial Force attestations; the Territorial Force was formed in 1908. There are also attestations for men who joined the Volunteer Service Companies during the Boer War. FindMyPast is a subscription website which you can use without charge at Family History Centres through the FHL Portal.

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Thirteen new CDs have arrived for our collection; they will be available for review next week

BR112 ENG CAM Monumental Inscriptions – Parishes A-I

BR113 ENG CAM Monumental Inscriptions – Parishes K-W

These two CDs have monumental inscriptions for about 170 burial grounds in Cambridgeshire. The transcriptions in pdf format were done by many local groups and vary greatly in the information given. Some give only the name, plot number and burial/death date, whereas others have transcribed all the readable information on each headstone. One has photos to identify where each headstone was located.

BR114 WLS GLA Clydach St. Mary Marriages 1905-1931

BR115 WLS GLA Clydach St. Michael Marriages 1912-1935

BR116 WLS GLA Kilvey (Llansamlet) All Saints Marriages 1881-1936

BR117 WLS GLA Port Eynon St. Cattwg Marriages 1837-1970

BR118 WLS GLA Swansea St. Barnabus Marriages 1929-1950

BR119 WLS GLA Swansea St. Gabriel Marriages 1890-1922

BR120 WLS GLA Swansea St. Luke Marriages 1890-1949

BR121 WLS GLA Swansea St. Matthew Marriages 1886-1927

BR122 WLS GLA Swansea St. Nicholas Marriages 1886-1920

BR123 WLS GLA Swansea St. Nicholas on the Hill Marriages 1937-1950

These transcriptions are in Excel spreadsheet format. Each entry has the names, ages, and fathers' names of the bride and groom.

Many thanks to Shirley Lancaster for donating this CD:

BR124 ENG NTT Nottingham City St Mary's Marr 1566-1660 and BKM Directory - Kelly's Trade Directory 1907

These CDs will be added to our library by next week.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/39/2010. Italy/Austria. WWI. Military.

Two of my relatives, from a town in Northern Italy, fought in the Austro-Hungarian Army in WWI. Giovanni Arnoldo was killed fighting on the Russian Front and I would like to know where he was killed and where he was buried.

Q2/39/2010. Italy. WWII. Military.

Other relatives, Edigio Arnoldo and Carlo Iori from the same small northern Italian town, fought in the Italian army in WWII. They were captured and spent time in internment camps in the United States, possibly in Missouri and Massachusetts. How can I find where they were interned?

Answers or Suggestions:

Q1/38/2010. UKI, Canada. Bigamy.

My great grandfather, John Best, was born in Kilderry, Londonderry, Ireland in 1870. He was still living in Belfast in 1911, with my great grandmother and their four daughters. His occupation is shoe/boot maker in both Belfast and Canada.

John Best married again - to Edith Ellen Carter on June 8th 1918 in Toronto. I would like to know if there were children or descendants of this second marriage, who may still be living in Toronto.

The Canada 1911 census shows the Carter family, from Brighton, Sussex, England, living at 233 Oakwood Avenue.

James, b 1850, England, was a night-watchman, Emily b 1849, wife, England, and daughter, Edith Ellen b Aug 1885.

Edith's siblings and their families also live on Oakwood Avenue.

In 1937, John Best and Edith Ellen Carter lived at 1108 Dovercourt Road. John died on 6th April 1937 at his home.

Edith's mother, died on 30 March 1924.

Edith's siblings all married in England, in or close to Brighton. Records of their immigration to Canada can be found on FindMyPast outgoing passenger lists and Ancestry incoming passenger lists between 1905 and 1910. It is more difficult to trace when John Best arrives, as his name is more common and he presumably travels on his own (and one set of ship's records is very hard to read).

Using one's Toronto library card, one can search digitised online Toronto newspapers – The Globe and Mail (1844-2006) and the Toronto Star (1894-2007). A search of the Toronto Star in 1937 found the Death notice of John Best. He was buried in Prospect Cemetery on St Clair Avenue West. [The last line of the death notice is – *Belfast papers please copy.*] If the researcher lived in Toronto, I would suggest that she go to the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries (Prospect Cemetery is one of their cemeteries) to see if others buried in the same grave or neighbouring gravesites may provide more information. Emily Carter was also buried in Prospect Cemetery, which was close to where they lived. Currently OGS Toronto members are transcribing burials in Toronto area cemeteries in cooperation with FamilySearch and these records will be available in the future on FamilySearch (but not yet). We received no information from people who may be possible descendants of John and Edith Best. Again BEST is not an unusual name – there are 149 BESTs in the Toronto phone book.

Q2/38/2010. Canada/USA. Divorce.

My great grandparents divorced about 1916 in either Canada or the United States. How do I find a record of this?

Ancestry has a database of Canadian divorces, 1867-1919; the same information is also at Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html> . Ancestry states: "From 1867 to 1919, civil divorces in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba were granted by private acts of the Parliament of Canada. [This is similar to Britain.] This database includes the names of the spouses, places of residence at the time of the marriage and divorce, other marriages, and dates of marriage and divorce (the date when the act became law) for divorce acts from this period. The original records may include additional information such as other places of residence, occupations, additional court action taken, and number of children... The very restrictive grounds and the cost of a divorce made them quite rare; the records are, however, worth obtaining when they apply." This researcher has checked this database and her great-grandparents are not listed. As there was no other way to get a divorce in Canada before 1919, it appears that they were not divorced in Canada.

FamilySearch Wiki has helpful information about early divorces in the States but for a few states only. "In the early 1800s, the legislature, the circuit courts, and city courts granted divorces. Circuit or city courts have handled most divorce proceedings." In the territories, the federal district courts, the chancery courts, or the probate courts had jurisdiction over divorce cases in the later 1800s. After 1896, jurisdiction for divorce was given to the state district courts. It appears that because different courts could grant divorces, the researcher may have to look in many places. If she knows exactly where the divorce happened, local newspapers could be a good source. Ancestry has some divorce records with their state records for births, marriages and deaths. Most of these records start in the 1960s, when divorce was easier to get and cheaper.

Although the great grandfather remained in Alberta and the g grandmother went to the US and both apparently remarried, they may have never officially divorced. The researcher should try to get the second marriage certificates for each g grandparent to see what they state. Perhaps this could be another example of bigamy.

Were You Aware...

Cambridgeshire Records Available in Toronto and Online

Firstly, we like to brag about our collections: Toronto FHC has nearly 50 parish record films, 3 pre-1858 probate films, some PR fiche, two CDs containing complete indexes to baptisms and marriages (just an index), the new CDs of Monumental Inscriptions, and the National Burial index with 703,000 entries. Cambridge Family History Society website been revamped. It has indexes for baptism and burials 1801-1837; Non-conformist records index; and indexes to early (1801, 1811, 1821, 1831) censuses. It also has a link to the digitised version of the *Victoria County History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 9*. The Cambridgeshire County Council has a searchable index database for registered births, marriages and deaths (1837-2002) at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/community/BMD/camdex> . DeceasedOnline (<https://www.deceasedonline.com/>) has 175,000 burial and cremation records for the Cambridge City Cemetery. The Toronto Public Library has a number of books that would be useful for family research in Cambridgeshire – Poll Books, directories, hearth tax returns, and one entitled: *The Hidation of Cambridgeshire*. What on earth could that be I wondered? It turns out that a hide is a unit to measure land that is equivalent of 60 or 120 *old* acres or 30 *modern* (!) acres and one hundred hides was a "hundred", a division of land that is occasionally used now; eg the Chiltern Hundreds, and definitely used when one is researching English parishes.

Films received in the 8 days ending 30 September 2010 and due for return on 28 October 2010.

Film Content	Film No
ENG DOR Various BTs 1631-1880	1239226
ENG DOR Various BTs 1731-1880	1279492

Film Content	Film No
ENG HAM Various PRs 1584-1889	1041289
ENG SRY Dorking PRs 1538-1914	0994436
ENG WIL Various BTs 1598-1880	1279412
ENG WIL Various PRs 1559-1969	1279304
ENG WIL Various PRs 1599 - 1880	1279432
IND Bengal PRs V.91-92 1857	0498995
ITA Cosenza Mendocino BMD 1837-1846	1337931

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another patron should check first with staff. The patron who ordered the film will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description. A film number search in the Family History Library Catalog will reveal the full content of the film. The geographical abbreviations used above are based on 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. (Starting October 12th, 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 4pm

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: Thanksgiving, October 9th to 11th. Christmas, Dec 18th to January 2.

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

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