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Announcements

OGS Toronto Call for Speakers for Scottish Family History Workshop

OGS Toronto is looking for speakers for the June 2011 workshop on Scottish Family History. The principal speaker at this workshop, genealogist and author Chris Paton from Scotland, will be giving three presentations, titled: "**The Godly Commonwealth**", "**Scottish House and Land History**" and "**The Weavers of Perth**". Summaries of these presentations are available at www.torontofamilyhistory.org/Scottish2011.html. They are looking for other speakers who would like to be part of this one-day workshop and are inviting proposals for full-length (one-hour) presentations on topics related to Scottish genealogy (such as online resources, poor law records, education records, migration to and within Scotland, or Scottish repositories), as well as shorter case study presentations (20 to 30 minutes). The deadline for proposals is Monday, 1 November 2010. For further information, see www.torontofamilyhistory.org/Scottish-Call.html.

What's New

Ancestry – London Records 1538-1812 Indexed!

Ancestry has indexed some of the early records for London, England, which are part of the London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Library. The images have been online for sometime and one could painstakingly work through them. This indexing is very exciting for anyone with roots in London (like me). However, not all the records with online images have been indexed.

Ancestry has also improved its 1910 US Census database with the addition of two new search fields (mother's birth place and father's birth place) and many alternate names.

Ancestry can be accessed without charge at the Toronto FHC.

The Forum

Questions: No questions were received this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/40/2010. England to Toronto.

I am researching the life of Leonard BENNETT, who was born on March 6, 1887 and married Alice Warr in 1911 close to Birmingham, England. He left her with two young sons and went to Canada about 1916. According to his US immigration document, he landed at Montreal in May 1916 on the S S Metagama, although he has not yet been found on any passenger or crew list. He emigrated from Toronto to the USA via Detroit on the train on March 19, 1924. By the time of the 1930 census, he is living with/married to Ruth in Michigan. By 1937 he is younger (but still the same birth month/day) and is married to Edith Louise. He died in 1967 in Florida, leaving his widow, May G Bennett, a stepson and two grandchildren. I live in England and I would be grateful for any hints on how I might be able to illuminate the years he spent in Canada - especially Toronto. It doesn't seem impossible that he might have married there and had a family, although I have seen no trace of that. It may be that he was in contact with his own family, and avoided marrying again until he knew that his first wife had actually died (not until 12 June 1927, by which time he had emigrated to the USA).

The Bulletin editor found the date of Leonard's emigration, May 1916, from England to Toronto very interesting. By the end of 1915 more than half a million soldiers in the British Army had been killed, wounded or presumed dead. In January 1916 the Military Service Act was introduced – it started with conscription for unmarried men between 18 and 41. But it

was widened in May 1916 to include married men as well. Perhaps Leonard left because he did not wish to be conscripted and not that he wished to leave his wife and children. Or perhaps he had been given a *White Feather* (see below *Were You Aware...*).

One suggestion for this researcher is to track down Leonard's siblings. His parents, George and Hannah, seem to have moved around a fair bit [not unlike Leonard], judging from the disparate places their children were born. By 1911 George has been dead for some time and Hannah is a nurse to the inmate of an almshouse and says that of the ten children she had, only six are still alive. I have found four: Mary Hannah, Arthur, Harry and Leonard. The first three are married by 1911. If Leonard wrote letters back to England, descendants of these siblings may well have letters or information about what prompted Leonard to leave, what he did in Toronto, and why he left. Contacting these descendants may involve things like joining LostCousins, GenesReunited or the local Family History Society; posting information online on GenWeb, GenForum, or RootsWeb; or checking the Public Trees on Ancestry. [Ancestry Trees made the link between several third cousins and me and I now have postcards written by my great-grandfather to his sister.] Harold Lane has posted most of his queries at <http://genforum.genealogy.com/>, narrowing it down to country, and county, if possible, to try to avoid being swamped. His greatest success came this year in response to a 2003 posting.

In 1920, Leonard is a salesman at the T. Eaton Company. Eaton's operated from 1869 to 1999 and the Archives of Ontario acquired some records from Eaton's but it does not appear to include employee information. The researcher should confirm this.

The other snippet of information is that he said that he mentions that a Mrs Eva Bridges, living in Toronto, is his cousin. The only Eva Bridges (born in Ontario) I found was married to Joseph Arthur Ernest Bridges, who was born near Birmingham. How is Eva related?

A search of the Toronto Star – Pages of the Past online at the Toronto Public Library was done but no mention of this Leonard Bennett was found.

News From the Trenches

Have any readers made any interesting discoveries recently or do any of you have interesting stories to share with other readers? This section is for you to contribute. Your discovery may well help another or provide encouragement for readers to pursue a line. Please email any contributions or suggestions to us.

Were You Aware...

White Feather Campaign

The White Feather Campaign in Britain during WWI involved women (mostly) handing out white feathers to those men who were not in uniform and who, in the women's opinion, should have been serving in the forces. The white feathers were a symbol of cowardice recognized within the British Army and in the forces of countries in the British Empire. Apparently the symbolism came from cock-fighting and the belief that a cock with white tail feathers was an inferior cross-breed. In the early 1900s the book, *The Four Feathers*, was written and it tells the story of a young man during the time of the War of Sudan who is given a feather by each of four people, including his fiancée, and who goes on to redeem himself. [Also a movie starring Heath Ledger.] The practice seems rather cruel by today's standards. According to a usually reliable source (my mother), people working at the munitions factory in Woolwich, the original Woolwich Arsenal, were given a badge to wear to indicate that they were working in support of the war, with the hope that these workers would not receive a white feather.

Reasons for Discharge – UK

Having found a number of relatives in the British WWI pension records on Ancestry and Chelsea Pensioners records on FindMyPast, I found this website of use: <http://myancestors.wordpress.com/2007/08/20/paragraph-392-kings-regulations>. It translates the number given on the soldier's discharge paper into a meaningful reason for discharge. Unfortunately one I found was XXVIII – one more than the last reason given at this website.

Films received in the 7 days ending 14 October 2010 and due for return on 11 November 2010.

Film Content	Film No
BHS Indexes to Crown grants, wills, etc. #1	0223445
BHS Indexes to Crown grants, wills, etc. #2	0223446
HUN SRM Mátészalka PRs 1867-1895	0623253
IND Bombay BMDs Vs. 23-25 1849-1851	0528777

Film Content	Film No
ITA CHIETI Rocca San Giovanni BMDs 1838-1841	1333290
ITA CHIETI Rocca San Giovanni BMDs 1841-1843	1333291
ITA CHIETI Rocca San Giovanni BMDs 1843-1845	1333292
ITA CHIETI Rocca San Giovanni BMDs 1845-1848	1333293
POL KI Jewish Recs 1871-1875	1192427
USA CT Bridgeport United Congregat CRs V.1-3	0003830
USA NY New York - Trow's City Dir 1890	1000862
USA NY New York - Trow's City Dir 1891-2	1000863
USA NY New York Police census, Trows City Dir	1304784

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. 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 4pm

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: 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.

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