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Announcements

Monthly OGS Toronto Meeting – October 25, 2010, 7:30pm

Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Hall

Criminal Trials: Case Studies in Upper Canadian Justice by Janice Nickerson

Not all of our ancestors were illustrious law-abiding citizens. Some of them were criminals. This talk will use case studies to tell the stories of four Upper Canadian criminals. Audience members will learn about the early history of justice in Ontario and the records generated by the justice system, including newspapers, government correspondence, court minute and docket books, judges' benchbooks, jail and prison registers (including how and where to find them). Janice's new book, *Crime and Punishment in Upper Canada*, will be for sale for \$20.98, including tax (cash or cheques). Mini-presentation: Marian Press: *Web Sites You Don't Want to Miss*.

What's New

Ancestry has added a number of small but interesting Canadian databases; for example, *The First Baptist Church of Halifax, 1899* or *The Ontario Medical Register*, 8 volumes between 1870 and 1898. The Return of Owners of Land for England and Wales in 1873 lists owners, where they live, the extent of lands (in acres, rods and perches) and the estimated rental income from those lands, and is now online. 1.8 million US Naturalization Records have been added.

FindMyPast added over 7,000 extra Chelsea Pensioners records this week. These were WO97 records which had been misfiled and brings the total number of Chelsea Pensioner records to more than one million. FindMyPast has also added 23,000 parish records for Montgomeryshire.

The Forum

No questions or answers this week.

News From the Trenches

Peggy Wasley responded to my request for interesting or good news stories: "I'm assuming that this kind of situation happens only once to each genealogist! After working on my own family back to great great grandparents on all 4 lines, I decided to heed my husband's plea to "do" his family. I agreed as I was annoyed at the family because no one knew anything about their grandfather - even his name! For three years I've been using the usual documents to flesh out as much information as possible, finally coming to the FHC for some wonderful help from Helen Billing to get me a little farther. I discovered the On-Line Parish Clerks of Cornwall (England) site and started to dig. I came across three separate entries relating to the family and, by chance, noticed the name of the contributor of each of these - a fellow with our surname. Assuming that this chap was alive, I sent an e-mail to the web manager to ask if there was a way for me to contact this person. Within two hours, I had an e-mail from the contributor offering to send me his research on the family which goes back to 1580!! This translated into 24 pages of print! I was happy to see that my research agreed exactly with his as far back as I had gone and am reasonably certain that the rest of his research is reliable. It turns out that he lives in Australia and his great-grandfather was a brother to my husband's. I'm so grateful that this website publishes the names of their contributors as this proved to be invaluable to our story. I hope that this happens to you at some point in your genealogical travels."

Do you have an interesting story to share?

Were You Aware...

Causes of Death and Archaic Medical Terms

Alan Billing writes: "The site, <http://www.antiquusmorbis.com/English/English.htm> , may be of interest to readers as it provides information on archaic medical terminology, diseases and causes of death. It should help in understanding those old records with an unusual cause of death." Did you know that *Calentura* was "a febrile delirium, said to be peculiar to sailors, wherein they imagine the sea to be green fields and will throw themselves into it if not restrained. [Hooper1829]?"

Beta or Test Genealogical Websites

A number of genealogical sites are testing out trial versions of applications to search for people or data.

Beta Family Search - <https://beta.familysearch.org/> - is a trial for searching more than 450 collections of data which are online. Some of the collections have images as well as record details. It is very easy to see which record collections are new – a red star. It seems that Beta Family Search is replacing Record Search Pilot.

Ancestry Labs - <http://www.ancestry.com/labs> - is a place where Ancestry tests experimental projects to gather user input. They are currently testing *Person View* and I tried it out to see if it found any records or had any leads for me to follow. I found a number of online trees that I had not looked at before but much of that data did not agree with my research [obviously they were wrong!]. I could not find anything that was new or gave me any more clues.

National Archives UK Labs - <http://labs.nationalarchives.gov.uk/wordpress/> - is an attempt to get feedback for improvements to an existing service or a completely new and innovative way of presenting the rich and vast data they have. Here they will try out new ideas without affecting the main website. A few collections are online – pre-WWII photographs, Valuation Office survey maps and a browser for the Domesday Book. Unfortunately it was excruciatingly slow – not an auspicious start after they had announced it in their latest newsletter.

[I wrote this on Wednesday and today received another email from the National Archives: "I'd like to apologise for any issues you may have experienced when visiting our Labs site, as featured in the enewsletter we sent you yesterday. The level of interest on this occasion has been far greater than on previous occasions, and our Labs site couldn't quite meet the demand. All the prototypes on the Labs site (including the Domesday tool) are trials, which have been produced at very low cost using new technology, new ideas and new ways of processing data. They are not perfect and need to be built on. Before we invest, we want to know what you think about them and whether you would find them useful. This will help us focus our limited funding and resources in a way that supports you, our customers, best. So far this has been a success and given us a strong steer on what works, what doesn't and what you would like to see. It is great to see so much interest and shows we are going down the right path in our developments. The level of interest in the site yesterday (particularly the Domesday tool) caused a number of technical issues, which we are now working to resolve. We will use the lessons learnt this week to improve both the robustness of the Labs site itself and how we tell our customers about it."]

These are test sites and will have this kind of teething product; but with our feedback, improvements will be made to our benefit.

Wiki's and Learning Courses

If you are stuck and do not know where to search or how to proceed, each of these three websites (FamilySearch, Ancestry and the National Archives UK) has their own Wiki section. FamilySearch Wiki - <https://wiki.familysearch.org/> - has a remarkable 42,297 articles to help you. They also have articles, guidance and online classes under Research Helps at www.familysearch.org . Ancestry offers free help at their Wiki - <http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/> and many other learning opportunities at their learning centre - <http://learn.ancestry.com/Home/HMLND.aspx> . The National Archives UK also has a Wiki at <http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> ; I have found the articles on probate very useful.

The Bulletin would be very interested in whether any of you have found the genealogically specific Wiki's useful.

Films received in the 7 days ending 21 October 2010 and due for return on 11 November 2010.

Film Content	Film No
DEU BAY Civ Reg Births 1818-1875	0416055
ENG BRK Hungerford PRs 1813-1914	1040522
ENG CHS Barthomley Burials 1813-1888	2000010
ENG DOR Gr Canford Wills T-Z 1650-1857	0167956
ENG DOR Gr Canford Admons R-Z 1680-1857	0167960

Film Content	Film No
NLD Amsterdam Marrs Tupber - Verm 1750-1811	0456067
URY Salto PRs 1819-1982	0625280
USA NY New York Manhattan Birth index 1866-1897	1323563

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 inclusive. Saturday, January 15th.

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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