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Announcements

Toronto FHC – Fragrance Free

Because some of our patrons are allergic to scented products, we remind you to refrain from using scented products if you are coming in to the Toronto FHC.

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

This Saturday OGS Toronto will be holding their workshop, *The Women in Our Past: Strategies and Resources for Researching Female Ancestors*, at the North York Central Library, starting at 9:30am. With nine different sessions offered during the day, everyone should be able to learn valuable techniques and approaches for researching female ancestors.

There will be no registration at the door. Please e-mail info@torontofamilyhistory.org, or call 416-733-2608 to check availability or to reserve a place. You can call and reserve a place (and pay at the door), but not just walk in because they might be completely full by then.

What's New

Ancestry has been busy adding a number of small Canadian databases that those with Canadian ancestors should check out. The Land Grant records from Quebec 1763-1890 look very interesting: this is an alphabetical index of people who received land grants, and from this index entry you will be able to look up the Land Grant Letter of Patent, which contains more genealogical details. The index contains name of grantee, county, township, acres granted, book, page and Letters Patent date. Also, one new Australian database is the Registers of Coroners' Inquests 1796-1942 for New South Wales.

FindMyPast announced this week that they are going to work with FamilySearch to produce indexed and digitised records of eight million Welsh parish records – baptisms, marriages and burials. FamilySearch will be digitising the images and FindMyPast will index them. These records should become available over the next two years. FindMyPast published the Army List 1787 – nearly 10,000 records giving name, rank, regiment, and page number. There may also be extra notes for each soldier. FindMyPast is available at Family History Centres through the FHL Portal. [The Toronto FHC also has the Army Lists for 1740, 1743 and 1744 on fiche as well as a number of CDs filed in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Army section of the list of All Resources.]

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

A new CD has been added to our collection and is the Part II of UK regimental indexes taken from WO25/951-991. It contains more than 31,000 names of non-Commissioned Officers, Trumpeters and Privates in these regiments. The CD of Part I which we have in our collection is BR090 and it has nearly 31,000 names in the 1st to 25th Regiments of Foot 1806. If you have a soldier serving in the Napoleonic era, this nominal index should be very valuable. In addition, there is a brief discussion of where each regiment served. This CD will be available next week.

BR124 Army - Index to Service Returns for the 26th to 50th Regiments of Foot (1806)

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/44/2010.

Do you have any information or would Salt Lake have any information on the Indentured Labourers who left India in 1837-1917 to the West Indies? I am looking for the names of everyone who came on the ships.

Q2/44/2010. Denmark/USA/Canada.

I have a very surprising family history story that I just learned of in the past few days. I would like to look into this story and I ask your assistance on how I can proceed. My great great great grandparents on my mother's side of the family were:

Jens Frederikson father born 1801 or 1802 in Denmark
Anna Pedersen mother born 1810 or 1811 in Denmark

They had 7 children that I know of:

Birthe Jensen	December 3, 1832	born in Drylov, Denmark
Peder Jensen	March 30, 1835	born in Drylov, Denmark
Ann Margarete Jensen	June 2, 1839	born in Drylov, Denmark
Karen Marie Jensen	April 1, 1842	born in Drylov, Denmark
Inger Jensen	July 18, 1845	born in Drylov, Denmark
Frederikke Jensen	October 26, 1848	born in Drylov, Denmark
Rasmus Jensen	April 15, 1853	born in Drylov, Denmark

Birthe Jensen, the oldest child (born December 3, 1832) was my great great grandmother. She was married in Denmark, had four children, and then in 1880 the 6 of them came to live in Ontario. I always assumed that the brothers and sisters of Birthe stayed in Denmark. However, I came across an old photograph which dates from 1900 – 1910 (I estimate) that says on the back "Birthe's sister – Mrs. Christopherson, Duluth". It would seem that one of Birthe's sisters came to North America and was living in Duluth and married a man by the name of Christopherson. Which sister? There were several sisters in the family. When did she come? Have you any suggestions on how next to proceed?

Answers or Suggestions:

Q1/43/2010. UK – Military Wills.

My gg and ggg grandfathers were in the British army in the early 1800s. They were apparently both quartermasters. I understand that it was common for members of the military to make a will. I have looked at the PCC [Prerogative Court of Canterbury] wills at DocumentsOnline [<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/>] but have not found them listed there. Is there somewhere else that I should be looking?

Christine writes from England: "I found a copy of a soldiers' Will in my great uncle's service record at Kew. He was a WW1 officer, so his records don't appear online yet. It's possible that there might be a Will amongst the records if you can find them in one of the online databases. Otherwise, early UK Wills could be proved in all sorts of different places - and, consequently, appear in lots of separate places. There are some Wiki-type guides around on this topic." [The National Archives UK has a brief discussion of pre-1858 wills on its website at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/wills.asp> and on this page there are links to research guides, which may help this researcher.]

Frequent contributor to this newsletter, James Thomson, writes: "If the soldier died abroad, the records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury are indeed a good place to start looking. But it's important to remember that the records on DocumentsOnline are, at this point, only wills --- no access to PCC administrations is available through that site. The first edition of Wills and Other Probate Records (Grannum and Taylor) provides this information:

"The Prerogative Court of Canterbury claimed jurisdiction for soldiers and sailors who died overseas, although from 1817 the estate had to be valued at over £20 before the PCC could act. In 1837 the Wills Act allowed soldiers and sailors to make wills of personalty and from the age of 14 to make valid unwitnessed wills before going on expeditions. It also allowed them to make nuncupative [oral] wills in the presence of two witnesses."

If the soldier died in the British Isles, the regular range of pre-1858 probate records could be searched. If the soldier died in British India, the probate records in the India Office records could be consulted. Many of the above records, and many indexes, are available on Family History Library microfilms (some of which are at the Family History Centre). In the event that the soldier's estate was subject to death duties, the death duty indexes on FindMyPast, or on film at the Family History Centre, could be used to identify the court in which the will was probated or a grant of administration obtained.

In addition to the above sources, wills of non-commissioned officers and other ranks might be found in the casualty returns in War Office series WO 25. Grannum and Taylor give the following details: "Also useful are the casualty returns in WO 25/1359-2407 (1809-55). These sometimes include wills, or copies of wills, of deceased soldiers and inventories of their effects. They are arranged by regiment." "

Q2/43/2010. UK. School Photo.

My mother has her school (Northampton School for Girls) photograph from 1936. I have had it professionally scanned and, although the files are huge, it has turned out very well. I would like to put this photo somewhere on the web where others can access it but I don't know where. The school has changed over the years and their website gives no indication that they are interested in the past and there appears not to be an "old girls" network. Has anyone ideas as to how to share the photo?

Paul Jones writes: "I would suggest that the person contact the Northamptonshire mailing list on Rootsweb. I don't have any experience with this particular group, but I've found the members of similar lists in other counties to be tremendously knowledgeable and helpful."

Christine in England noticed a message on line about "old girls" of Northampton School on the web and this was passed on to the researcher. She also suggested Friends Reunited and the Northants Record Office. She thought that it might be worth emailing the school to see if they do have some kind of association - or even their own archives.

Your editor suggested that the researcher contact the Northants Family History Society. They were pleased to have the photo for their archives and will be taking a copy of the photo to the Northants Record Office.

News From the Trenches - Do you have an interesting story to share?

Were You Aware...

New Lincolnshire Marriage indexes

Margaret Taylor sent in this website, advising us of recent updates.

Lincolnshire Post 1837 Marriage Index - <http://mi.lincolnshiremarriages.org.uk/>

Updates have recently been made to the following Registration Districts:

Sleaford - Leasingham parish marriages added from 1837-1911 (recently deposited)

Caistor - many parishes now transcribed to 1911 - Spilsby - many parishes now transcribed to 1911

Stamford - All parishes, Register Office and non-conformist up to 1863 from the Registrar's book - please note, fathers' names were not given in the book.

Gainsborough - All Saints to 1850, Blyton to 1850 and Coats by Stow to 1911 added

The indexes give the names of the bride and groom and their fathers.

Films received in the 7 days ending 04 November 2010 and due for return on 02 December 2010.

Film Content	Film No
BEL Census & taxation	1446733
DEU HES Dieburg Taufen 1603-1784	0938986
DNK Holbaek Tollose Fødte og Døbte 1687-1767 v. 3-4	0049506
ENG CUL Matteredale 1721-1886 Melmerby 1660-1867 BTs	0090646
ENG DOR Various PRs	1239251
ENG HAM BTs Foxcott-Gosport	1596133
ENG LAN Hinckley BTs 1570-1848	0590785
ENG SAL Various BTs	1701121
EUROPE Baltic States Nobility von May - Roop	0074184
IRL Civil Reg Births 1952 March v2-1 to 2-2	0258400
NLD Noord-Holland Amsterdam Heseigers 1750-1811	0456042

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.

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Toronto Family History Centre

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