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What's New

TheGenealogist has added a number of record collections in the last month: New Zealand 1938 Post Office Professional and Street Directories; some 16,000 Leicestershire parish records (Baptisms, Marriages and Banns); 175,000 Shropshire parish records; 135,000 Yorkshire parish records; 14,000 Lincolnshire marriage records; and some new PCC Wills with images. TheGenealogist.co.uk is available without charge at all Family History Centres through the FHL Portal.

OriginsNetwork has a US Thanksgiving special from November 26th to December 3rd – 25% off all subscriptions (Promotional code is **TG2009**). Origins is useful for those with Scots, British or Irish ancestors. Toronto FHC patrons can access OriginsNetwork without charge.

The FamilySearch Beta Site (<https://beta.familysearch.org/>) has added a few interesting new collections: Netherlands, Zuid-Holland Province, Civil Registration, 1811-1942 – images only; New York State Census 1905; and England, Lancashire & Cheshire & Yorkshire Parish Registers 1603-1992 (images only, covers a good selection of Lancashire parishes and a few in Cheshire and Yorkshire). This month's newsletter about FamilySearch Indexing had an article about the US 1930 census (which is apparently the most frequently used census on Ancestry) – FamilySearch will be indexing 8 more fields than Ancestry does: Gender, Race, Marital Status, Father's Place of Birth, Mother's Place of Birth, Year of Immigration, Line Number, and Family Number.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Answers:

Q2/44/2010.

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 and 6 of them came to live in Ontario; one was Birthe. 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.

This question really piqued Mike Webber's interest and he found the following which may provide further leads:

"Peder & Karen seem to have had 4 children in Denmark from 1864 to 1871 [marriage in last week's Bulletin]. This may help in tracing their movements. I have not yet found any marriages of the children in Denmark. There are directories for Duluth on Ancestry for years pre-1902 and after 1935. Searching is a little laborious, but in 1899 there is a Mrs Anna Christopherson, a cook. If the photo is around 1900, could this be she? She does not appear under that name or variants in the 1900 or 1901 directories.

In the 1910 US Census, Hans and Anna (71, b. approx 1839, Denmark, m 30 yrs, stepmother, imm 1902) Christapperson (?Christafferson) are shown in Olmsted County, MN. I believe "step" was sometimes used instead of "in-law" by census takers. The wife in the family (Peterson) they are shown with is named Minnie; Anna had borne 2 children, both living. Nothing obvious appears closer to the Duluth area. In the 1920 US Census, Hannah (sic) is now widowed and shown as mother. In the 1899 Duluth directory, Hans A Peterson appears. In 1900 there are entries for a Hans A, a Hans and a Minnie. In the 1901 directory, Hans A appears and a Hans K, but no Minnie.

There is a wealth of information related to Birthe and her family and their families in Ontario in Censuses and BMD records."

News From the Trenches

In October, the Toronto FHC was pleased to receive a book written by patron, Rodger Archer. It had a huge amount of information on his wife's Spratt/Chirnside family. I was interested in why and how Rodger had published his book and thought that Bulletin readers might also be interested. Rodger has prepared a long article which will appear in this spot over the next four weeks. He says: "When you find someone out there who is really excited to get a photo of an ancestor born in the eighteenth century, it makes it worthwhile".

"Background:

Many years ago, my wife was given a family bible by her aunt. We knew it contained a number of old pictures, but no identification was provided for the individuals in those pictures, and members of the family could not say who they might be. It gathered dust in the closet. Two years ago, I rediscovered the bible and decided to try to identify the people in the images. This led down a path of several hundred hours of research, such as contacting various people in Canada and the UK, and visiting cemeteries, museums, the Ontario Archives, OGS branches, and also the Toronto Family History Centre. The result was a genealogical success. Ancestors in many of the photos have been identified; new branches of the family have been found in Canada, the US and England; much has been learned about the area of England where the family lived; and some interesting events and stories have been uncovered. The most valuable aspect was the ability for my wife to put faces to names in her family tree, from her grandmother as a baby, as far back as her ggggrandparents. The photos are an absolute treasure. I realized there are other descendants of the people in these photographs, and was motivated to contact them and make the photos and family tree data available. This caused me to consider my best approach to doing this, and to think about the general context of how to make family information available to others in general. Eventually I created a website and published a book, and also tried to contact folks through online messaging services included with subscriptions to Ancestry and Genes Reunited. The effort has been very much a learning experience and also rewarding.

The Bible:

The family bible passed down to my wife came via her grandmother, Barbara Wilson, born 1881 in Canada. Barbara's mother was Agnes Stephenson, born in England. The bible was a Stephenson family bible. The original bible was a large book, published in 1867 in Hamilton, Ontario. It had been split into two sections and rebound in a leather cover with an insert between the original sections. This insert included preprinted pages designed for handwritten data for births, marriages and deaths, as well as two double-sided pages for photographs, sixteen images in total. The photo pages comprised of heavy cardboard paper cut with four rectangular slots each to hold back to back pictures. A paper facing was laminated on each side of the photo page, to frame the pictures with a decorative border. The outer edge of each picture was hidden as well as the back. The pictures could not be removed without damaging the laminated border. So with some trepidation, I eventually cut the bordering paper with a fine knife and carefully removed the pictures. I kept track of their placement, scanned all of them, some both front and back, and then reinserted them. I numbered all the scanned images by page and position in case there might have been a rationale for their placement based on family grouping. To my surprise and delight, ten of the pictures had studio markings, not visible when bound, one only on a front border, four only on the back, and five on both the front border and the back. Three of the pictures were from Canadian studios and seven from various studios in England. The pages inserted for births, marriages and deaths had some written notes. It was apparent that the original notes were made by one hand when the bible was "commissioned" and others added in various hands and times later. The four initial birth entries were made at the same time and identified the original family, John Stephenson born 1833, Margaret Spratt born 1825 and their children, Agnes Stephenson born 1854 and James Stephenson born 1857. The dates were complete day/month/year but no birth locations were given."

To be continued next week.

Were You Aware...

Australia

Christine writes from England: "For those who want the Rookwood (NSW) records, and don't have a FindMyPast subscription, this site may be useful: <http://blogs.manly.nsw.gov.au/manlyfamilies/2008/05/rookwood-cemetery.html> . It includes images, in the case of the Jewish section, anyway. [FindMyPast is available at all Family History Centres.]

This site is useful for the Victoria info: <http://necropolis.net.au/necropolis/>

The Victorian Archives have the passenger list indexes freely available: <http://www.access.prov.vic.gov.au/public/PROVguides/PROVguide023/PROVguide023.jsp> . There is a load of other interesting things, such as probate/Wills - with the images to download."

The National Library of Australia now has over three million pages of newspapers available on its website: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> . One can limit searches by state or newspaper. I have found several new items of interest this week.

Indiana State Archives (USA)

Indiana State Archives has nearly three million digitised records indexed online at <http://www.indianadigitalarchives.org/>. These records include death indexes (Social Security Death Indexes), Military Records (Book of Merit, Civil War, Early Military, Gold Star, Indiana Veterans Home, Mexican War Veterans, & National Guard), Naturalization Records for 28 counties, and some Institutional Records (prisoners).

UK Military

The Norfolk Rootsweb Mailing List had a couple of interesting links to military records this week. *The Long, Long Trail* (<http://www.1914-1918.net/>) is about the British Army in WWI, aimed at the family and military researcher. One of its very useful areas is the histories of various units of the army and where various divisions served, including Canadian, Australian, Indian and New Zealand Divisions. This is a very comprehensive website with a huge amount of information. My grandfather served in the 12th Battalion of the Rifle Brigade and I found that they were attached to the 60th Brigade in the 20th Light Division. Following this, I could find out where in France he served. The other website is the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum website (<http://www.rnrm.org.uk/>); it has a lot of information on the Royal Norfolk Regiment under the various names it had over 300 years.

Hertfordshire Names Online

If your ancestors came from Hertfordshire, check out *Hertfordshire Names Online* at https://www.hertsdirect.org/ufs/ufsmain?formid=HALS_INDEXES. It contains indexes to records of marriages (1538-1922), wills (1413-1857), removals (1688-1908), apprentices (1599-1903), fatalities (1827-1933) and newspaper articles. The records themselves can be ordered for £5.

UKBMD adds Cumbria

UKBMD has added CumbriaBMD (<http://www.cumbriabmd.org.uk/>) to its local Birth, Marriage and Death indexes. It contains local civil registration indexes for about 400,000 records from 1837 for the pre-1974 areas of Lancashire which are now in Cumbria, e.g. Barrow-in-Furness. Since the beginning of October, the following local UKBMD sites (<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>) have had data added: Bath, Berkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Staffordshire, West Midlands, Wiltshire and Yorkshire. These records often contain more information than the national indexes at FreeBMD – mother's name (for birth) or parish of event.

Films received in the 7 days ending 25 November 2010 and due for return on 06 January 2011.

Film Content	Film No
CAN ON Toronto St Paul Cath PRs 1833-1910	1305633
CAN ON Toronto St Paul Cath PRs 1833-1910 with index	1305632
ENG DOR Great Canford PRs 1656-1998	2427478
ENG DOR Poole PR 1538-1994	2427560
ENG DOR Various BT's 1579 - 1880	1279493
ENG DOR Whitchurch-Canonicorum	2427604
HUN Gömör Rimabrezó Church records 1724-1897	2362867
HUN Gömör Rimaszombat Church and Jewish records 1774-1943	2362866
POL TP Chorostkow RC PR 1818-1945	2005223

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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