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## Announcements

### OGS Winter and Spring Courses

**Biographical Research for Ontario Genealogists** - This course is for experienced genealogists researching in Ontario and would be ideal for anyone intending to write a family history book. Jane Nickerson; Tuesday evenings; Feb. 1-22; \$66.

**Introduction to Family History Research** – Learn about records available for researching English ancestors. Linda Reid; Thursday evenings; March 3-24; \$66.

**Making the Internet Really Work for Genealogy** – This course, for people with considerable experience in using the Internet for genealogy, is hands-on and will help participants fine-tune their search abilities and take advantage of social networking opportunities. Marian Press; Wednesday evenings; March 23-April 13; \$66.

**Introduction to Ontario Family History Research** – This course will introduce you to the records essential to Ontario Research and the best ways to access them. Jane MacNamara; Wednesday evenings; April 13-May 4; \$66.

**Paleography for Family Historians** – This course will help students decipher historical documents and gather information from them. Cheryl Moote; Tuesday evenings; May 3-24; \$66.

For more complete information about these courses and registration details, please go to <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html>.

## What's New

**FindMyPast** has added a couple of interesting items. Yesterday they added a small number (about 13,000) of Warwickshire baptisms. On November 30, they added a fully name indexed marriage index for marriages in England and Wales from 1837 to 2005. Their new MarriageMatch™ claims to be the fastest and easiest marriage index. I tried it out and it found what I was expecting very quickly. When you view the match found, it gives you the full index entries for both the bride and groom and the option to see the index entry page. Before September 1911, the search will show each person with a matching index entry. For example, Robert Johnson married one of three people in 1862: William Roberts (not likely), Catherine Callaghan or Mary Webb. You may be able to figure out whether he married Catherine or Mary by finding out who he is living with in the 1871 census and confirm it by finding out who William Roberts is living with. One search will span the entire period. It is worth giving this new search a try. FindMyPast is available without charge at Family History Centres through the FHL Portal.

## The Forum

### Questions:

#### Q1/48/2010. Roman Catholic Marriages – UK.

I have now for the first time been actively involved in research on a Roman Catholic family. Their Yorkshire family Church records only contain birth and death details. I had assumed that this was a result of the Hardwick Act of 1753 which I understand amongst other things restricted marriages to the Establish Church except for Quakers and Jews. However I find that some R C Churches in the London area have records of marriages covering the period 1732 -1856. After the Civil Marriage Act 1836 was it common for Catholics to have a civil Marriage?  
Could someone clarify the situation for me?

#### Q/2/48/2010. Manitoba Births.

I have recently been asked by a friend about researching her birth mother. She was given a copy of her original birth registration and adoption details from the agency which handled her adoption in 1948. The birth mother was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1927(+/-) and the child was born in Toronto in 1948. A general search on Ancestry.ca finds nothing and I assume that there are no public records available for this time. Before I tell her that no records are to be found could you please tell me if I could search in another direction? I have a copy of the birth registration.

## **News From the Trenches**

### **A continuation of Rodger Archer's article**

#### **"Identifying Photographs from the Bible**

The task was then to identify the people in the Bible pictures. While this appeared to be hopeless, the likelihood of success gradually improved with every small piece of data uncovered. The research avenues included:

- Census records were searched in Canada and England
- Immigration records were explored with no success
- UK BMD index data was investigated and registration records ordered from the National Archives
- Parish records and microfilms were examined including IGI transcriptions and FHL films
- Other researchers were contacted
- Local OGS branches and county museums and record offices were contacted
- Searches were made at the Ontario Archives

This basic research eventually allowed me to create the family tree. The Stephenson family came from Northumberland, England, to Canada about 1864 and eventually settled in Brant County. Parents, siblings and other family members in England, the US, and Canada were identified as well. The goal was to learn who was alive and where they lived, around the time and places the photographs were taken.

Further research was undertaken to date the photographs themselves. For me, this was a key learning situation and proved very fruitful. Dating the photographs coupled with estimates of the ages of the individuals in the pictures, along with studio locations, and then relating this to then-living family members and locations, yielded possible and probable identifications.

To learn more about dating old photographs, there are some very good resources available on the internet. Helpful are websites associated with Roger Vaughan:

<http://www.rogerco.freeseve.co.uk/type/type.htm>

<http://www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm>

Other sources include:

<http://www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/dates.php>

<http://www.familychronicle.com/Dating19thCenturyPhotos.html>

<http://www.playle.com/realphoto/>

In the bible there were sixteen pictures embedded and one loose picture. Research activities included:

- Determination of the type of photo
- Clarifying the probable date based on physical characteristics of the photo and image content
- Searching for information on the studios associated with the photos
- Searching census records in England and Canada to locate the photographers, confirm locations and match to probable photo date ranges
- Searching for similar photos accurately dated of the same type, studio, studio backdrop, or photographer
- Examining visual characteristics of individuals seeking family traits and types.
- Through positive identification of one person in a photo, isolating probable identifications of others in the same photo and searching for collaborating information
- Identifying the same individual in multiple photos but at different ages

The results of all of the above research provided excellent results. All of the photos were of the Carte-de-Visit (CDV) format except for one that was a Tin Type. Most were in excellent condition. CDV photos were introduced in the late 1850s and became very popular. They were relatively inexpensive small pictures measuring about 2 and a half by 4 inches in size and were composed of a thin photo paper print mounted on a card. The CDV was one of the first photo types where a negative was imaged onto paper and reproduced in multiple quantities. It was common for several copies to be made and distributed among the family including distant relatives. The Tin Type was a one-of-a-kind image created directly on metal plates of varying sizes. It became popular in the 1850s and 1860s but was eventually superseded by the CDV and other formats. The one embedded in the bible appears to have been made at, and/or

trimmed to, a CDV size. The image on the Tin Type is a reverse image and this could be scanned and corrected digitally to display the person accurately and facilitate a valid comparison to other photos.

The photographs in the bible were created from the mid-1850s to the mid-1860s and in some cases were photographs of earlier photographs that were originally made in the late 1840s. To date, individuals in twelve of the sixteen pictures have been identified with probable or absolute certainty. The one loose photograph was eventually identified as my wife's grandmother, Barbara Wilson, taken as an infant about 1882, much later than when the bible was rebound.

The earliest ancestors positively identified include Elizabeth Chirside born 1786, Matthew Spratt circa 1788, Peter Spratt circa 1791, John Stephenson circa 1803, and Jane Grant circa 1805. All were born in Northumberland, close to the border of Scotland. Other descendants do exist for these people around the world, and other researchers could benefit from access to these images."

To be continued next week

### Were You Aware...

#### Toronto OGS

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is very active, holding monthly meetings and hosting workshops regularly. Membership is on a calendar year basis. The OGS application form for 2011 is available at <http://www.ogs.on.ca/membership/join.php>. People must join the provincial organization, the Ontario Genealogical Society (\$60), in order to join Toronto Branch (an additional \$12) but this is done on one form.

The Toronto Branch program for the first part of 2011 is at: <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/meetings.html>.

Toronto Branch of OGS and Toronto Public Library will be co-hosting a Scottish Family History Workshop on June 18. The principal speaker will be Chris Paton from Scotland. A detailed description of his three lectures is at: <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/Scottish2011.html>. Members will get a discounted price when registering. Members also get discounts for any Toronto OGS courses, like the ones in today's announcements.

FHC volunteer, Linda Reid, has written an article about her family's battlefields tour for the November/December issue of the Toronto Tree. Occasional articles from the Toronto Tree are published on the Toronto OGS website and there is a link to Linda's story at: <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/torontotree.html>.

### Films received in the 7 days ending 02 December 2010 and due for return on 27 January 2011.

Film Content
us 1766
BTs Various Parishes 1731-1880
Alresford, Ampport, Andover PRs
Various BTs
Liverpool St Peters BMBs 1829-183
Ivanka pri Nitre Church records
Y Police Census A.D. 21 E.D. 11-24

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 18<sup>th</sup> to January 2 inclusive. Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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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