

In this Bulletin

Announcements – Film Ordering System Updates

What's New – More London burial Records, 1911 UK Census summary sheets, and Northern Ireland wills

Additions to Our Permanent Collection – New fiche

The Forum – Suggestions for last week's questions

News From the Trenches – PRONI Wills and a continuation of Rodger Archer's article

Were You Aware... - A FreeBMD Improvement

Announcements

FamilySearch has sent out the following news release (and please do not shoot the messenger!):

Online Film Ordering Release – System Update

“During the month of December the FamilySearch online microfilm ordering website <https://film.familysearch.org> will be updated. These changes will affect the way that users log on to the system.

1. For patrons who are not members of the LDS Church:

After the upgrade has occurred, when trying to sign in, the community patron will be advised that his or her credentials are not valid. When this occurs, the patron should return to the home page and click on the “Create an Account” link located at the top of the page and then select:

FamilySearch Account (For the general public)

The patron should then follow the registration process. Please note that in order to retain the ordering history, the patron should use the same email address in the **new** registration process that he or she used when initially registering for online film ordering.

2. For patrons who are members of the LDS Church:

After the upgrade has occurred, when trying to sign in with his or her original film ordering credentials, the LDS patron will be advised that the credentials are not valid.

When this occurs the LDS patron should log on using his or her LDS Account credentials. If the patron does not have an LDS Account, he or she should return to the home page and click on the “Create an Account” link at the top of the page and then select:

LDS FamilySearch Account (LDS Account for members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints)

The patrons should then follow the registration process. Please note that in order to retain the ordering history, the patron should use the same e-mail address on the registration process that he or she used when initially registering for online film ordering.”

What's New

DeceasedOnline (<http://www.deceasedonline.com/>) has added nearly 600,000 burial and cremation records dating from 1854 for the boroughs of Islington and Camden in central north London. The two conjoined cemeteries, St Pancras and Islington, form the largest single cemetery in London with about 800,000 burial records. The remainder will be uploaded within the next 3 to 4 months. The current records comprise nearly 362,000 for the Islington section between 1854 and 1945; 213,000 for the St Pancras section for 1854 to 1898, and 1905 to 1911; and 46,500 records from Islington Crematorium starting in 1937. The DeceasedOnline database for London now contains more than 1.1 million records including the Borough areas of Islington, Camden, Havering and Merton. If you are searching for cemetery records in London, don't forget the free Abney Park Cemetery data base at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~abneypark/abneyy.html> . It contains an on-line index of the 194,815 burials that took place in this cemetery from 1840 to 1978.

Ancestry has added the summary books for the 1911 census in England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. The summary books list each address in an enumerator's district, the name of the head of the household (usually just Mr. ...) and the total number of males and females in the household. Is this just a teaser? Will we be tempted to think that the whole 1911 census will be released on Ancestry?

PRONI (The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland) has put abstracts from about 93,000 wills from the district probate registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry online. The period covered is 1858 to 1919 and 1922 to 1943. Access is free and the database is nearly complete at http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars.htm . See Linda Reid's success story in *News from the Trenches*. Go to http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives.htm to see other Northern Ireland data like the Ulster Covenant and Freeholders' Records.

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

One new fiche this week:

6343400 ENG HAM Colmer/Colmore PR Baptisms 1813-1933

The Forum

Answers:

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?

Mary Parry writes: "While I can't answer this specific question, you might find www.archive.org of interest. There are two extensive publications by the Catholic Record Society (Great Britain) in multiple volumes, called "Publications of the Catholic Record Society" and "Miscellanea" respectively, which include genealogical information about Catholic families, including some marriages. I found the records of nuns particularly interesting, as in many cases it details their family and connections - possibly a treasure for anyone with English Catholic relatives. My recommendation on using these sources is to first enter "Catholic Record Society" as the search term, then display the individual volume and use search again for a mention of the family or parish. Good Luck!"

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.

Vital statistics for Manitoba are restricted by *The Vital Statistics Act* of 2003 to births (more than 100 years ago), marriages (more than 80 years ago), and deaths (more than 70 years ago). So a birth certificate for the birth mother will be a long time coming. The Toronto Public Library has a number of directories for Winnipeg and these may give the researcher a place to start looking. If the surname is unusual, a search in the 1916 Manitoba census may also be helpful in tracing the father of the birth mother.

News From the Trenches

PRONI Wills

Linda Reid writes: "The digitized wills on the website of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) have led to a few hours of fun searching for distant Waddell connections. A relative married a James Waddell in July 1905. He was described as Captain RAMC and the son of Hugh Waddell, Clergyman. She was a widow in the 1911 census. On the PRONI site I found James' will and discovered that he died in Middleburg, South Africa in November 1905. One of his executors was his brother, Martin Magill Waddell of Ballymena.

A search for Martin in the 1911 census (on the National Archives of Ireland website) revealed that he was born in JAPAN. Then the Googling began. The Rev. Hugh Waddell was one of the first Christian missionaries into Japan. There he had 10 children. As well as James and Martin, they included Helen Waddell (1889-1965), an Irish poet, translator and playwright and Samuel John Waddell (1878-1967), an Irish actor and playwright under the name

"Rutherford Mayne". It is interesting that two people born and raised in Japan would be prominent in Irish culture. I also discovered that the Rev. Hugh's brother was the Rev. Rutherford Waddell who was a prominent Presbyterian minister in Dunedin, New Zealand for many years.

The census search page on the National Archives of Ireland site has a drop down menu for "county/country of origin". Unfortunately "Japan" isn't one of the choices so I still haven't identified all of the Rev. Hugh's ten children."

A continuation of Rodger Archer's article - How a bible inspired a book and a website

"The Website

There are several aspects to sharing family information with others. Earlier this year there was some discussion around this topic in the Family History Centre bulletins. Each researcher will have their own objectives and interests as well as differing access methods and resources to share data. One might also want to place degrees of restriction to information to keep it more private than public. In gathering the genealogical information around the Stephenson family bible and the photographs, I amassed a significant volume of detail that also included information not easily found by others. Specifically, I had information from Canada that could link up family to and within the UK. A researcher in England would likely never locate this data, sourced from primary records. How do I make information available?

My considerations about sharing information included the following:

- Not everyone will have subscriptions to internet services such as Ancestry or Genes Reunited, so posting to such services would reach a limited, although focused audience. Such services usually provide a good degree of control and flexibility, but might not be the best to support larger volumes of data
- Publishing information in a book form has the advantage of being low tech and universal for readers, but people must be able to find and acquire a book easily. Although technology facilitates searching electronic data, people still love books for readability and offline usage, especially for reference material that might be examined recursively. Books can also be distributed as digital books for e-readers.
- Creating a website to make family data available would make it highly accessible through search engines such as Google or Yahoo, but this would require significant effort. Furthermore, as soon as you publish to the internet, the information is instantly everywhere and can be copied and reused indefinitely, without recourse if misused.
- Any media method should support opportunities for easy communication with people regarding additional data or questions.
- Privacy and managed control is important. Making data public is acceptable if that is desired, but you might want some information restricted to a limited audience. Specifically, I preferred that family photo images should be constrained to actual family members and descendants, and not simply made available to the entire planet. Ancestors provided photos to family members for personal use. They lived at a time when technology didn't support global public distribution. Consistency to this process was something I wanted to respect and maintain.
- Copyright considerations must be supported regardless of how data is distributed. Making information available for private use in a controlled manner may be construed as acceptable rather than making it available widely to the public, particularly when a financial transaction is involved such as selling a book.
- Other family descendants and researchers would be situated worldwide. Getting information to them couldn't be limited to the use of media channels constrained only to Canada, the US, or the UK.

After consideration, I decided to follow a combination of creating a website and publishing a book to make information available. A note of caution: a degree of computer literacy is advisable to undertake this. If you feel this might be too difficult, then seek guidance from someone with sufficient skills to help you. Furthermore, you need to invest a lot of time as well as some dollars.

Creating a website requires a web hosting service, software to develop the website, and content for the website. The content would come from the research, the photos and narrative creation. There are many web hosting providers available that support personal as well as business websites, using various technology platforms. I wanted a basic offering that provided sufficient development tools and online support capability to help me. I reviewed several alternatives and finally chose a Canadian offering from Cirrus – see <http://www.cirrushosting.com/toronto-web-hosting-canada.html>. At this point, I have been pleased with the results. I selected a personal, shared web hosting, Linux plan that cost about \$70 a year. Included is a basic development tool set as well as a domain name registration. They also provide you with email capability for your web domain name and some excellent tools to track usage and statistics. It took a while to learn the process of creating and publishing my website. To see my end result, go to www.gen4plus.com and you will view the style of a website that can be created using the tools and templates provided. Bear in mind you don't typically create a website once and leave it. You should generally plan to build it and republish new information periodically. Also be cautioned that the website created through this means is not easily portable should you decide to move to a different web hosting service provider. If you change providers, you might need to recreate your site.

Simply publishing a website doesn't mean people will find it easily. Search engines crawl through the internet continuously, ex Yahoo, Bing, Google, etc. They eventually find your site, copy and index it for public search. Some web crawlers copy all images as well. There are various methods to make your site easier to find by search engines using key words and following appropriate guidelines. Go to this very informative Google page to get some help: <http://www.google.com/support/webmasters/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=34397> . You can also make areas of your site restricted to selected users. You should be cautious about copyright material as well. My website is oriented to genealogy, and generally people who find it will understand the structure and meaning. I wanted to make it relatively simple, while supporting feedback from people by using an email contact method. Never put any information on a website that you are uncomfortable with having dispersed world wide in nanoseconds, including a discrete email address, name, or other personal information. I have had my website in place now for about 8 months and I currently get 30 to 50 visitors a month, some repeat visitors I assume, and about half the people bookmark the site for future reference. I know that it is reaching people who have made specific searches and found useful information. The statistics available indicate the search phrases and words used to find my website and also show that a number of people accessing my website directly now use bookmarks and are repeat visitors. I have had minimal contact from website visitors, but that might be an indication they get enough information to help them continue research further on their own. I have also directed people through Genes Reunited and Ancestry to the site and have received much positive feedback regarding the help they have gleaned from it. For several people, I sent additional data in the form of genealogical reports derived from my family tree software. I decided not to publish family photos on the website, but to make them available selectively to people who are descendants and ask in turn that they not make them publicly available. No one has had any problem with this request and they have been thrilled to get a picture of an ancestor they would have never obtained otherwise. The website has been very successful and I have a number of enhancements planned when I find time to add to it."

To be concluded next week

Were You Aware...

Joe Mounsey writes: "Have you noticed that on FreeBMD, now if you enter "mounsey" and spouse first name "rachel", for example, it now returns results including years prior to 1911. This is very useful if you've found a couple in the census."

Films received in the 7 days ending 09 December 2010 and due for return on 27 January 2011.

Film Content	Film No
AUT GAI Various Church and Archive Records	2407301
AUT GAI Various Greek Catholic CR's	2390034
AUT GAI Various Greek Catholic CR's 1863-1930	2436946
ENG CUL Methodist Church Records	1702345
ENG GLS Stapleton BTs 1675-1850	1595526
ENG HAM Andover PRs 1588-1904	1041197
ENG HAM BTs Rockbourne, Romsey	1596320
ENG SAL Various PRs	1526897
FRA MOS Boucheporn Boulange PRs 1692-1882	1960758
FRA MOS L'Hopital PRs 1731-1882	0625658
RUS KIEV Various Orthodox CR's	2256534
USA MASS Vital records index 1711-1900 JAHAW To MILLS, Gemima	1041198

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.

Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3C 3V4 Phone: 416 422 5480 Ext. 111.

Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet dot ca