

EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

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BULLETIN

Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Saturday in the month

December 2015

From the President

Tony Meade

Hello and Merry Christmas to all of our members.

As usual we have been busy over the last month and will be even more so for the next month. Our Bunning BBQ allocations have arrived and we find that we have three BBQ's over the Christmas period. The first is the 12 of December, which unfortunately conflicts with our Christmas Lunch. The Second is the 27th December, this is the day that gave us record net takings (\$1000,00) from last year. Then we have another date on the 29th December.

We are looking for keen sausage sizzlers to help out on the 29th. Anybody?

Our keen attitude towards accepting opportunities has put us into the situation where we have another three dates. We acknowledge that this puts a strain on our volunteers but do beg you to understand that all this work will make the group stronger and able to provide better services to our members.

If any new faces can participate and relieve the old faithfuls (old?) we would all be very grateful.

The dates for early next year are January 3rd, February 14th and March 13th. We run two hour shifts so that volunteers are able to arrange their days around a little helping out!

For those of you who visit the rooms regularly you will know the technical experts, Martin and Wolf have been working on our server to give access to many of our databases without the need to insert the data CD's. If you have not already done so come in and try it out, but be quick as we will be closing over the Christmas period from close of business on Saturday the 19th of December until Tuesday the 12th of January.

Thought: SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TheGenealogist adds Australian passenger lists

Details of passengers who sailed to New South Wales during the 19th century have been made available to search on [TheGenealogist](#). Comprising more than 190,000 records, the website's latest release includes transcripts of British and Irish passenger lists, each showing the names of people who arrived in New South Wales between 1828 and 1896. Click [here](#) for the full story.

Trove is pleased to announce that the following newspapers, have been recently added. Many of these are currently being added and further issues will become available shortly.

Check out the Trove Forum for links:

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/forum/showthread.php?2193-Trove-s-latest-newspapers&p=5901#post5901>

New South Wales

The Australian Workman (Sydney, NSW : 1890 - 1897)
The Bird O' Freedom (Sydney, NSW : 1891 - 1896)
The Dead Bird (Sydney, NSW : 1889 - 1891)
The Workers' Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1923 - 1939)

Queensland

Brisbane Telegraph (Qld. : 1948 - 1954)
The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903 - 1926)
The Evening Advocate (Innisfail, Qld. : 1941 - 1954)
The Evening Telegraph (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1901 - 1921)
Johnstone River Advocate and Innisfail News (Qld. : 1928 - 1941)
The Toowoomba Chronicle and Queensland Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1875)

South Australia

Border Chronicle (Bordertown, SA : 1908 - 1950)
Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924)
The Express (Adelaide, SA : 1922 - 1923)
The Pennant (Penola, SA : 1946 - 1954)
The Terowie Enterprise (SA : 1884 - 1891)

Tasmania

The Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer (Hobart, Tas. : 1810 - 1812)
King Island News (Currie, King Island : 1912 - 1954)
The North Coast Standard (Latrobe, Tas. : 1890 - 1894)

Victoria

The Colonial Mining Journal, Railway and Share Gazette (Vic. : 1858 - 1859)
The Colonial Mining Journal, Railway and Share Gazette and Illustrated Record (Melbourne, Vic. : 1859 - 1861)

Western Australia

The Avon Gazette and Kellerberrin News (WA : 1914 - 1916)
The Australian (Perth, WA : 1917 - 1923)
The Avon Gazette and York Times (WA : 1916 - 1930)
The Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA : 1905 - 1920; 1945 - 1954)
The Leonora Miner (WA : 1910 - 1928)
Narrogin Observer (WA : 1952 - 1954)
The Northam Advertiser (WA : 1895 - 1918; 1948 - 1954)
The Pingelly Leader (WA : 1906 - 1925)
Pingelly-Brookton Leader (WA : 1925 - 1926)
The Southern Districts Advocate (Katanning, WA : 1913 - 1936)
The Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919)
The W.A. Record (Perth, WA : 1888 - 1922)
Yilgarn Merredin Times (Southern Cross, WA : 1921 - 1923)

Tighearnan Kelly | Support Officer | Trove | National Library of Australia

Great news for anyone researching family in Victoria - the Vic BDM Indexes are now FREE to search online! New search software - purchased from NSW Registry of BDMs, and even better, you can search ALL events at once.

<http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/search+your+family+history/>

The Help Guide and Search Tips etc. are at

[http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/help+guide/#Search tips](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/home/family+history/help+guide/#Search+tips)

Queensland

From the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages, 110 George Street, Brisbane, Australia 4000 - Over the last couple of years we have been busy digitising our historical records and enhancing our family history research services to be able to offer you the opportunity to buy historical register images online and then download them immediately. The feedback we have received since the introduction of this service has been overwhelmingly positive. Combined with the reduction in cost to access historical records and the instant access to information, the online service has proven to greatly assist family historians and genealogists to speed up their research.

The original registers were created using information from source documents. Source documents are the actual document recording the details of the event and feature the original signatures of all parties. For example, if you were searching for a record of George and Marsha Smith, married in 1927 in Rockhampton, you would find an image of the register entry that you could buy and download immediately. The register entry would have been transcribed by the Registrar of the day using information from the source document/s. These source documents have been previously unavailable.

We have a large range of source documents for some of our birth, marriage and World War One and Two death records. We have been asked on a number of occasions “when are you going to make the source documents available?”. The major barrier to this has been resources and time.

With our digitisation project being completed on time and within budget, we have been able to commence imaging our birth, marriage and WW1 and WW2 death records source documents. We will also update our historical search engine to enable you to identify if a source document exists for the record you have searched, and then functionality for you to buy and download the image online.

We have shipped our first consignment of 40,000 marriage source documents for Brisbane marriages between 1936 and 1940 and Country marriages between 1937 and 1940 for digitisation. We expect these to be imaged and returned to BDM by the end of 2015, and plan to have all existing source documents available for you to purchase during 2016.

Source documents vary in their composition and condition. Some records have as many as 5 pages including various statements by different parties, letters from parents, baptismal certificates or miscellaneous documents. Some records have only one source document. An example of an extensive source document for one record can be seen below, featuring 5 statements relating to a marriage, a Statement of Marriage and the Marriage certificate. Please note, the images below do not reflect how the final source documents will appear when scanned.

Registrar General

Findmypast has released **Victoria, World War One Soldier Settlers**

Victoria, World War One Soldier Settlers contains the details of veterans of the First World War who applied for a land lease under the State of Victoria's Battle to Farm settlement scheme. The scheme allowed discharged soldiers to lease land to settle in an effort to provide work for the large number men returning home after years of fighting. Large rural plots were subdivided into smaller units for farming and were then leased to soldier settlers.

All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. As of now, it appears the police have nothing to go on.

Some snippets from the Bairnsdale Advertiser of 1902

(more in future editions of the Bulletin! ☺)

All of these can be accessed via the National Library's "TROVE" website or the database in our rooms

Electric blankets – a modern invention?

Saturday, 8th February 1902, Page 2

An Electrically-Heated Quilt

The inventor calls his novelty "The Thermogen," and it consists of a quilt containing a coil of wire bent in the fashion of a gridiron, enclosed in insulating and non-conducting material, and embedded in cottonwool or other soft substance, with a silk or woollen covering. The resistance offered by the coil to the flow of an electric current through the wire produces heat in the same way that heat and eventually light are produced in the filament of the glow lamp. A uniform temperature of about 150° Fahr. is thus maintained; but, in the event of the temperature rising beyond that point from increase of pressure in the electric mains, a fuse instantly melts and automatically shuts off the current. The quilt may be readily attached to the ordinary incandescent lamp terminals.

Of course the question arises of what use is such an invention? The *Lancet* gives an answer. The most important medical use of such an invention would be on the operating table, where, in lengthened operations, or in those attended with hemorrhage, where artificial aids to maintain the patients' temperature are required, blankets and hot water are a decided nuisance. In such cases the electric quilt would be of great use as a soft, dry, warm, and convenient covering. Again, in cases of chronic rheumatism, lumbago, or senile slowness of circulation, such an appliance would be useful. It would be interesting to know what the results of the trial of the thermogen at several hospitals has been.

Saturday, 8th February 1902, Page 2

Federal Coach-Factory.

MEDLING AND HACKETT,
MAIN STREET, BAIRNSDALE.

WE tender thanks to our numerous friends for their past custom, and hope to merit their continued patronage. Thorough Workmen being only employed by us, we have a reputation for
Good and Honestly Built Buggies, Carts, &c.

We have secured first prizes for our Buggies at the Bairnsdale and Omeo Agricultural Shows.

MEDLING & HACKETT
Repair, Re-paint, Re-trim and Renovate Vehicles, &c.

In a thorough manner and on the shortest notice at Reasonable Prices.

We beg to intimate that we have added to our business

Harnessmaking and Repairing.

Having obtained a First-class Tradesmen to both make and repair harness, we can guarantee satisfaction to our customers, as we only use the best materials.

In order to meet the requirements of our customers we have also added

All Accommodation Stables.
We can supply Comfortable Stabling, with Food, at Current Rates.

MEDLING AND HACKETT,
Advance Carriage Builders,
BAIRNSDALE.

KODAK, Melbourne prices, Brownie, &c; photographic material; orders solicited. J. Tipping, Chemist, Main street

NEW ZEALAND

WWI Records

A recent query on the Rootsworld mailing list for Sth Oz -

I wondered if anyone can tell me if NEW ZEALAND has WW1 records online like Australia does?

Two replies -

A. <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

A. NZ servicemen's records are held by Archives New Zealand. I don't know how many of them are digitised, but my NZ grandfather's and my great-uncles' (on both sides of the family) are. Try searching here: <http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz>

ENGLAND

Certificate consultation process set to begin

Genealogists are being asked to have their say on plans to make English and Welsh civil registration certificates available online. As *LostCousins* founder Peter Calver reports, the General Register Office (GRO) has invited a number of researchers to two public consultations, which will be held in Southport (18 December) and London (21 December). The developments come 10 months after the *House of Lords* passed an amendment to the *Deregulation Bill*, enabling the GRO to provide birth, marriage and death information in alternative formats to hard copy certificates, which currently cost £9.25 each.

London Gazette marks 350th birthday

The UK's oldest continuously published newspaper has just celebrated its 350th birthday. The *London Gazette*, which has acted as the nation's official public record since 1665, reached the milestone on Saturday 7 November. To mark the occasion, the publication has produced a [video](#) and [timeline of events](#) it has covered over the centuries, including the Great Fire of London to the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The *London Gazette* website also offers a [free search facility](#), enabling family historians to track down articles regarding ancestors' bankruptcies, military awards and wills.

Ancestry uploads Freemasonry collection

Records of over two million practising Freemasons dating back to the 18th century have been uploaded to Ancestry.co.uk. Launched on Monday (23 November), [the latest two collections](#) to join the site feature records digitised from membership registers held at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London and the Grand Lodge of Freemasons in Dublin. Read the full story [here](#).

England and Wales – We have some more information to share on the recent release of the *1939 National Identity Register* by FindMyPast. Here are some important facts to know about this collection:

- The collection includes records on 41 million people. At launch, some 28 million records will be available online.
 - There were 1.2 million pages that needed to be scanned, converted and tagged by hand to build this record set.
 - At the time of the survey in England and Wales, the average age was 33 for men and 35 for women, with 53% of the population being female.
 - The UK government had already begun evacuating London in September 1939. Women, children and the disabled were moved out of the city. At the time of the survey, only 2% of the population in London was aged 0 to ten. Therefore, if you are looking for a young ancestor from London at the beginning of the war in this collection, chances are they had already been moved out of the city. Please note that this collection can be searched for free but access to the underlying record is by pay per view. This collection is not covered by a normal FindMyPast subscription. [[1939 National Identity Register](#)]
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A cartoonist was found dead in his home..... Details are sketchy.

FamilySearch.org has indexed some 160,000 records of the **Women's Army Auxiliary Corps** (WAAC) records from 1917 to 1920. These are detailed service records on the some 7,000 women who joined WAAC. Each file contains name, date and place of birth, residence, marital status, number of children, occupation, age and date of enlistment. These records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [[WWI Women's Army Auxiliary Corp Records](#)]

Family historians hoping to discover the origins of an **adopted forebear** could make new breakthroughs in their research thanks to a change in the law. [Following several years of campaigning](#), certain persons of a 'prescribed relationship' to an adopted adult – including descendants – are now allowed to access details of biological family members through specialised adoption agencies. Previously, only the adopted person themselves or immediate family members, such as a spouse, could apply for the information. For the full story, click [here](#).

Merchant shipping resource

Details of merchant ships compiled during the early years of Queen Victoria's reign have been made available to explore on [Findmypast](#). Created using the 1843 edition of *Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping*, the website's latest collection provides the name of the ship's master along with the name of the vessel and port at which it was registered. Search [here](#) (requires subscription).

Cornwall memories

A free archive of materials relating to the history of Cornwall has been made available online. Made possible thanks to a £225,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the new [Cornish Memory website](#) provides digital access to a wealth of photographs, films and audio recordings from the county dating back to the mid-19th century. More than 31,000 items are currently available to explore, but the project curators hope to expand the collection over the coming months. Click [here](#) to search the site now.

Thames Watermen

Records of thousands of Thames Watermen and Lightermen have been made available to search on [Findmypast](#). Launched last week as part of the website's ongoing 'Findmypast Friday' campaign, the records are split into five separate datasets, together offering details of men who worked on the river between 1628 and 1921. Although the level of information will vary depending on the year and collection, the records can provide an individual's age, place of birth and the date on which they began their employment. Find out more [here](#).

Lincolnshire burials added to Deceased Online



Credit: Getty Images

Records of more than 170,000 burials and cremations in north-east Lincolnshire can be explored on the web for the first time. Following a major digitisation project, genealogy website Deceased Online has now finished uploading registers from Cleethorpes Cemetery, Scartho Road Cemetery (Grimsby) and Grimsby Crematorium to its database. Dating back to 1877, the entries provide the name and date of each interment, as well as cemetery maps showing where graves are located. Click [here](#) to explore (searching free; credits/subscription needed for scans).

Manchester construction workers unearth cemetery

A large cemetery dating back to the 18th century has been unearthed in Manchester. Although historians initially estimated that around 130 skeletons would be found, workers on the city's Metrolink expansion project unexpectedly discovered the remains of at least 270 people while digging at Cross Street. The remains will be reinterred at Southern Cemetery in Chorlton-cum-Hardy next year, following additional archaeological research. Read the full story [here](#).

Herts museum project

A project to create a new museum and gallery in St Albans has been awarded a £2.5 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. St Albans District Council will put the cash towards converting the local Grade II-listed Town Hall into a state-of-the-art visitor attraction, bringing together thousands of historic local artefacts. The money will also help preserve some of the Georgian building's original features, including its prison cells and courtroom. Find out more [here](#).

Surrey, military tribunals 1915-1918

Surrey, military tribunals 1915-1918 contains the details of over 10,000 men. Comprised of registers and letter books, the records cover four military tribunals held at Woking, Dorking, Haslemere and Guildford in the English county of Surrey. Military service tribunals were bodies set up by local councils for men who wanted to appeal for an exemption from conscription. A person had the right to appeal conscription on a number of grounds. One such example would be if he were employed in a position of national interest, such as farming or industry. Other reasons for appeal included ill health, infirmity, exceptional financial or business obligations, or conscientious objections. Conscientious objectors were not always given an exemption, but they could be assigned to non-combatant positions. Each record includes a transcript and image of the original document.

Surrey regimental records

Thousands of historic military records from south-east England have been published on [Ancestry](#) for the first time. Released in partnership with Surrey History Centre in Woking, the [Surrey Regimental Rolls collection](#) provides details of soldiers that enlisted in the Queen's Royal West Surrey and East Surrey regiments between 1914 and 1947. To explore, click [here](#) (requires subscription).

Lloyds of London Memorial Roll 1914-1918

The Lloyds of London Memorial Roll 1914-1918 contains the records and photographs of men company employees who died during the First World War. Over 2,000 men from the historic insurance firm served in the military during the conflict, many of whom joined London regiments such as the London rifle Brigade or the London Scottish.

The Roll is a tribute to those who lost their lives during the conflict and contains the records of 216 men. Each name has two records, an entry in the memorial role and a photographic portrait, and will display both an image and a transcript that may include details of their rank, regiment and any awards they received.

London Stock Exchange Memorial Roll 1914-1918

The Stock Exchange Memorial Roll 1914-1918 is a record of employees of the London Stock Exchange who gave their lives for King and Country during the Great War. The Roll contains both men and women. Each entry contains a biography and, in some cases, touching testimonies from fellow soldiers and commanding officers.

When war was first declared, the subsequent fear surrounding borrowed money being called in led to the Stock Exchange closing at the end of July 1914. As a result of the closure, the Stock Exchange (10th) Battalion of Fusiliers was formed for the 1,600 men who volunteered service. Many of the men listed in the Roll served with this regiment.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

SCOTLAND

Scotland

Scotlandspeople are delighted to announce the release of the Military Service Appeals Tribunal records.

Now available to search are 7,977 index entries relating to the Appeal cases of 5,820 men seeking exemption from military service between 1916 and 1918. Fully searchable by name, address, grounds, and occupation, the index is FREE* to search, offering access to a little-known series of records which are of importance to family and military historians alike. Each record is a full colour facsimile of the Appeal case documents, and for an introductory period, are only 10 credits (2.33GBP) to view. Find out more about the Military Service Appeals Tribunal Records.

*Index for Military Service Appeals Tribunal Records is free to search. Images are chargeable.

http://tracking.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/t/ccgbaUSMxQAYRvGSJeB-TaaITB5aaaaa?o=YJ8uA280&k=g0frggh_sorflUscrckm.vf0m.iis&f=HxD&r=&x=bzmv://q2q.yWunrUtXyjkivfk.aup.0e?0ns@muoxWk=mv&ozg@iitnkhz=0By73D&ozg@iUsjgcmh=yoxpks&0ns@gkXoos=YsUof

Scottish WW1 hospital records

A unique collection of Scottish hospital records are to be formally catalogued. Glasgow University Archive Services has begun sorting through artefacts and documents relating to the history of Erskine Hospital, which were recently discovered inside a locked room at the institution. Originally known as the Princess Louise Scottish Hospital for Limbless Sailors and Soldiers, the hospital helped pioneer the use of prosthetics for wounded troops during the First World War. Read more about the project online [here](#).

IRELAND

Irish website undergoes major revamp

A top Irish genealogy website has undergone a revamp. As well as boasting a sleek new design, the parish register transcriptions on [RootsIreland](#) now also connect with the corresponding scans on the National Library of Ireland's [parish register website](#), which launched earlier this year. Click [here](#) for the full story, written by Claire Santry of *Irish Genealogy News*.

CANADA

Railway restoration project seeks stories

A project to bring an historic steam locomotive back to its former glory is appealing to the public for help. Built in 1941, the Merchant Navy class train *Canadian Pacific* carried evacuees, soldiers, emigrants and holidaymakers before ending its working life in 1965. Once restoration work is complete, the engine and its two wooden carriages will run on the 'Watercress Line' between Alresford and Alton – a distance of 10 miles. However, the Mid Hants Railway is looking to hear from people who may have memories or photographs of the *Canadian Pacific*, whether former passengers or trainspotters. Find out more [here](#).

Library and Archives **Canada** is pleased to announce the release of a new version of the online database **Naturalization Records**, 1915-1951. The nominal index has been extended with the addition of more than 68,000 names and now covers the years from 1915 to 1944, inclusively. Work is ongoing to extend the nominal index to 1951, and volunteers are welcome to help. Those interested should write to Cdn-Nat-Coord@jgs-montreal.org.

This database is one of the few Canadian genealogical resources specifically designed to benefit researchers having roots other than British. The reference numbers indicated in the database can be used to request copies of the original naturalization records, which are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

Library and Archives Canada would like to thank the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and its volunteers, without whom this project would not have happened.

The Naturalization Records, 1915-1951 database is available at <http://goo.gl/a6Ra35>.

Ancestry Launches Historic WWII Canadian Records Collection

Digitized records detail the brave service of more than 29,000 Canadian soldiers killed in action in WWII

Detailed new collection includes attestation forms, medical history forms and correspondence to family members back in Canada

Records of Canadian Military heroes John Robert Osborn, Samuel Moses Hurwitz and David Hornell help shed light on these brave soldiers during WWII

Ancestry is offering free online access to its entire collection of global military records from November 6 to November 11



TORONTO, Nov. 5, 2015 – As Canada prepares to pay tribute to the men and women who have fought and died for our country this Remembrance weekend, [Ancestry](#), the world’s largest online family history resource, has launched a key collection of detailed records pertaining to fallen soldiers from the Second World War.

The **WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947** collection contains over **29,000 records** of Canadian military personnel killed in action during the conflict. The collection, consisting of more than **two million images**, includes a variety of different documents for each soldier. From attestation papers, to medical history forms and even correspondence to family members back in Canada, this collection can help tell a more in-depth story of what these war heroes were like during their time in conflict.

Each service file contains an average of 52 pages of personal information.

The records, digitized and archived by Ancestry, were originally compiled by Library and Archives Canada as part of the Canadian school curriculum, and will be available to search for free online from November 6 to November 11, along with Ancestry’s entire collection of military records – which includes more than 4.4 million records pertaining to Canada alone.

“The most incredible part about this new collection is the sheer amount of detail revealed about these individuals. Records of promotions or tributes written by comrades help bring to light the true heroism of these soldiers during an incredibly terrifying time, and will undoubtedly instill pride among living relatives of these brave souls today,” says **Kevin James, PhD**, Professor, Department of History at **University of Guelph**. *“The other benefit of this collection is that it can help shed light on what life in Canada was like during the war. From hand-written letters, to telegraphs informing Canadians at home that a family member was missing in action, these records provide fascinating insight into the life and times of the WWII era.”*

The incredibly detailed collection helps to paint a clearer picture of some of Canada’s most heroic soldiers who served and tragically perished in the Second World War, including:

- **John Robert Osborn** (1899 – 1941). Aged 42, Osborn was one of Canada’s older soldiers, He was the first Canadian awarded a Victoria Cross in the Second World War, after bravely sacrificing himself by throwing himself on a grenade to save his comrades during the Battle of Hong Kong. Osborn’s **Certificate of Medical Examination** on Ancestry, reveals that Osborn wore coloured glasses overseas for pink eye (referred to as conjunctivitis) contracted from gas, frequently used during the First World War.

- **Samuel Moses (“Moe”) Hurwitz** (1910 – 1944). Born and raised in Montreal, Hurwitz was the most highly decorated non-commissioned member of the Canadian Grenadier Guards, earning the Military Medal in August of 1944, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal just six weeks later. In October 1944, following an attack in the Netherlands, Hurwitz was captured by the Germans, and died of his wounds as a prisoner of war – a notification his family received in the form of a telegraph, according to Ancestry records. Other records available on Ancestry for Hurwitz include a six-page tribute to Hurwitz in **“The ’52 Natural”, Canadian Grenadier Guards Official Publication Overseas**, entitled “Some Never Die”. According to the tribute, stories of Hurwitz, *“all display a strain of courage and steadfastness ... that put to shame the tinsel heroes of the silver screen, and renew in us our wavering belief in the future of the human race that can number such men in its ranks.”*
- **David Ernest Hornell** (1910 – 1944). Originally born on Toronto Islands, Hornell enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) in January 1941, and was the first member of the RCAF to be awarded the Victoria Cross for his last, and final mission in June of 1944, when he successfully sunk a German U-boat under extreme fire. As part of his Victoria Cross citation, Hornell was commended for “pressing home a skillful and successful attack against fierce opposition”, which is no surprise, according to his **Certificate of Death**, found in the new Ancestry collection. The record reveals Hornell scored 76 per cent above average in a General Reconnaissance Course, completed during his first year in the war. His **Recommendation for Promotion** record reveals Hornell was *“a very mature and well balanced type of individual”*, and was *“keen, conscientious, reliable and hard-working [who] does excellent work on any job he is given.”*

*“Ancestry hosts millions of military records online, but what’s unique about this collection is that it provides intimate details about ancestors in very recent history. This means the likelihood of younger Canadians with a direct connection to the Second World War is much greater than any military collection we’ve released before,” says **Lesley Anderson**, family historian and content specialist for **Ancestry**. “I hope this inspires a new generation to research their grandparents, great uncles or aunts who fought and died to make Canada what it is today.”*

U.S.A

US – Readex has put online a collection of some 320 religious denominational newspapers from around the country. Most of the major religions are included in this collection, including Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Church of Christ, Congregationalist, Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and Reform Church. The newspapers span the years from 1799 to 1900. Some major titles in the collection include the Pacific (San Francisco), Methodist Advocate (Atlanta), Sandwich Island Gazette (Honolulu), New Covenant (Chicago), Catholic Standard (New Orleans), Christian Mirror (Portland, ME), Catholic Herald (Philadelphia), Christian Witness and Church Advocate (Boston), Christian Messenger (Dallas) and the Deseret News (Salt Lake City).

In addition to containing many names, this religious newspaper collection provides rare denominational insight into the news and opinions of the day on matters of local, regional and national interest to congregants. It could provide some unique information and insight to genealogists. As we have mentioned before, Readex is available only through public libraries. They do not provide individual subscriptions. Check with your local public library.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

Troy, New York. An index to 6,198 death notices that were published in five different Troy, New York newspapers from 1797 to 1860 was created by staff at the Troy Public Library in 1938. The Troy Irish Genealogy Society was allowed by the Troy Library to scan the Death Records book so these important records could be made available on-line for genealogy researchers.

To see these records go to the TIGS website – www.troyirish.com – click on PROJECTS and then under DEATH RECORDS click on DEATH NOTICES APPEARING IN TROY NEWSPAPERS.

The five different Troy newspapers mentioned in the introduction to the index were:

Troy Budget

Troy Gazette

Troy Sentinel

Troy Times (See Note)

Troy Whig

Note: There were no records for the Troy Times in the index but there were some records for the Troy Post.

Under “RESOURCES” on the TIGS website, www.troyirish.com you will also find an informative article, “Newspapering in Rensselaer County”, which identifies which of the above newspapers are available, on microfilm or hard copy, at the Troy Library.

These historical records are extremely important to genealogy researchers as all of these records predate New York’s 1880 law that required reporting of deaths. Outside of church death and burial records and newspaper accounts, you will not find these records anywhere else.

In addition to the name of the deceased, other entries show the age, date of death, names of newspapers that reported the death along with the newspaper date, page and column number where you will find the death notice in the appropriate newspaper.

If a former military veteran, the rank held may be shown. Separate files of these veterans identify Revolutionary War Veterans and Other Veterans. These military names are also shown under the MILITARY RECORDS section of the PROJECTS.

It is important to note that the residence for the deceased is not just Troy, but may cover all areas of New York State, other States and even foreign countries.

Hopefully you will find some of your ancestors in this new data base or in the various other data series of over 300,000 Irish **AND Non-Irish names** on the Troy Irish Genealogy website.

Findmypast has released **Veterans Administration Pension payment cards, 1907-1933**

Veterans Administration Pension payment cards, 1907-1933, contains over 1.3 million records. Since the American Revolution, congress has been involved in offering pensions for disabled soldiers and in the 1800s the government expanded them to cover veterans’ widows and dependents.

The collection is compiled of records detailing payments from the US Veteran’s Administration (VA) to those receiving veterans’ pensions. It includes both transcripts and images of the original pension records for payments made between 1907 and 1933. This means that some of the veterans listed actually died prior to 1907. Details can include how much money was paid out, when it was paid out and two whom, allowing you to discover your ancestor’s next of kin as well as their date of death and details of their military service.

How Do Court Reporters Keep Straight Faces?

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.

EUROPE & REST OF THE WORLD

Italy – FamilySearch.org has created a new collection of images of civil registration records from Forli. These are birth, marriage and death records from the State Archives of Forli. The records span the years from 1800 to 1815 and 1866 to 1930. In total, there are some two million images in this collection. Access is free. [Historic Forli Birth Records](#)

New FamilySearch Collections Update: November 9, 2015

[Ecuador Catholic Church Records 1565-2011](#), [United Kingdom World War I Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Records 1917- 1920](#), [Spain Province of Barcelona Municipal Records 1387-1986](#), [Italy Forli-Cesena Forli Civil Registration \(State Archive\) 1800-1815 1866-1930](#), and [Philippines Manila Civil Registration 1899-1984](#)

Nearly half a million more free records have been added to the [Billions Graves Index](#). [Russia Tatarstan Church Books 1721-1939](#), [Minnesota Duluth and Wisconsin Superior Crew Lists 1922-1958](#), [Poland Evangelical Church Books 1700-2005](#), and the [US Freedmen's Bureau Hospital and Marriage Records](#) also have significant additions. For these and more, follow the links below.

COLLECTION	INDEXED RECORDS	DIGITAL RECORDS	COMMENTS
BillionGraves Index	471,375	471,375	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection
California Immigration Registers of Japanese Filipinos and Hawaiians at San Francisco 1928-1942	9,385	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Guam Passenger and Crew Lists 1947-1952	8,127	663	New indexed records and images collection
Maine Bath Seamen's Proofs of Citizenship 1833-1868	3,555	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Michigan Crew Lists for various ports 1929-1966	163,256	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Minnesota Duluth and Wisconsin Superior Crew Lists 1922-1958	208,667	0	Added indexed records to an existing collection
Poland Evangelical Church Books 1700-2005	0	168,622	New browsable image collection.
Russia Tatarstan Church Books 1721-1939	0	897,183	Added images to an existing collection
United States Freedmen's Bureau Hospital and Medical Records 1865-1872	132,483	41,496	Added indexed records and images to an existing collection



INTERESTING ARTICLE

The maternal line – From Graham Jaunay’s newsletter No. 116 – October 2015

Family historians often come across a seemingly insurmountable barrier where there is no record of a woman’s maiden name when researching female lines. This is a particular problem in pre-civil registration British records and owes its origins to both old customs and the laws of the time. As a result, female ancestors are often neglected in family histories and genealogies—they are often listed with only a first name and approximate dates for birth and death because researchers find it difficult to find more details. They are our invisible ancestors.

Since half of all of our ancestors were women, each newly discovered female in our family tree provides us with a new surname to research and an entire branch of new ancestors to discover.

Prior to the twentieth century people (well men at least) generally believed that there was a definite difference in character between the sexes. Men were supposed to be active, dominant, assertive and materialistic, while women were religious, modest, passive, submissive and domestic.

As a result society espoused four basic attributes of female character: piety, purity, submissiveness, and domesticity.

Firstly, piety, was the core of woman’s virtue and thus the source of her strength. It was thought that women naturally possessed virtues of faith, simplicity, goodness, self-sacrifice, tenderness, affection, sentimentality and modesty.

Purity was an essential characteristic for a woman to maintain her virtue against the more aggressive male.

Submissiveness required women to accept their positions in life willingly and obediently, thereby affirming God had appointed them to that special position. Much of this reasoning was founded upon Ephesians 5:22-23, which commanded that;

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the family, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Finally, domesticity, or the cheerful performance of social, household, and family duties, was highly prized. Women were expected to comfort and cheer, to nurse and support, to manage and oversee. Housework was to be viewed as a morally uplifting mental and physical exercise.

We also have to understand the rights of women in the eyes of the laws of the day. The legal status of women, in spite of their moral and religious significance, was poor because they lived in a society that was predominantly designed for men. Legally, women were strictly dependent on the men in their family and unequal. Politically women did not exist! Under laws codified in 1765 in *Commentaries on the Laws of England* by the English barrister, Sir William Blackstone, it was asserted and accepted that *by marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law; that is, the very being and legal existence of the woman is suspended during marriage*. Essentially, the wife *belonged* to her husband. He had a right to the person and property of his wife; he could use *gentle restraint upon her liberty to prevent improper conduct*; he could beat her without fear of prosecution. Prior to marriage this role was maintained by the woman’s father. Only widowed women had rights in law!

The above prevailing conditions also were reflected in the education of women. Anti-intellectualism was implicit in legal and societal attitudes and women were not expected to use logic or reason. Their only role was to exhibit morality and domesticity. Consequently, in the few early girls schools that did exist, dame and parish schools, female education was purely designed to develop domestic skills. The destiny of all women was to become a spouse and mother of a family.

The best way to demonstrate the problem is to give a specific example...

[William Baker Ashton](#), the rotund governor of the first [gaol](#) in Adelaide and former London policeman, was baptised according to records held in Adelaide on 6 August 1800 and subsequently married Charlotte MILLS on 8 April 1828 St Bride Fleet Street London.

A search at [Familysearch](#) confirms that William Baker Ashton was baptised at St Michaelchurch Somerset, the son of John Ashton and Sarah.

The screenshot shows a FamilySearch record for William Baker Ashton. The record is titled "William Baker Ashton" and is from the "England Births and Christenings" database. The record details include: Name: William Baker Ashton; Gender: Male; Christening Date: 24 Aug 1800; Christening Place: SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH, SOMERSET, ENGLAND; Birth Date: 06 Aug 1800; Father's Name: John Ashton; Mother's Name: Sarah. The record is indexed under "ENGLAND BIRTHS AND CHRISTENINGS, 1538-1975" with an indexing project batch number of P00262-1. The system origin is England-ODM and the GS film number is 599897. A citation is provided at the bottom: "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:NPTQ-24H; accessed 10 September 2015), William Baker Ashton, 24 Aug 1800; citing , reference ; FHL microfilm 599,897.

Name	William Baker Ashton
Gender	Male
Christening Date	24 Aug 1800
Christening Place	SAINT MICHAEL CHURCH, SOMERSET, ENGLAND
Birth Date	06 Aug 1800
Father's Name	John Ashton
Mother's Name	Sarah

We can feel quite comfortable about this entry as the batch number starts with the letter P which indicates it is a filmed parish register extraction. However, a thorough researcher will call up this film and check the entry. The question arises—what was Sarah's surname?

When one tries to resolve this matter by searching the same web site for John Ashton/Sarah matches the result produces numerous possible couples in the brief period 1780 to 1790 and we know that there could be more given that [Familysearch](#) has far less than 100% coverage. Although none are in the expected parish or surrounding parishes, even if the matter was pursued further, the researcher may never be certain they located the right couple!

Some strategies worth pursuing that may reveal an answer to this conundrum include:

1. Focus on the woman herself.
2. Check out the people around the woman.
3. Check the associates of her husband.
4. Find out how women of the time lived.
5. Undertake a deductive search of records.

The operative word above is *may*. It could prove that regardless of your efforts, the paper trail back to the woman's parents, and thus her surname may have been lost or never created. Remember that we advocate pursuing the paper trail is just one line of research. The other, and often more fruitful, way of pursuing ancestry is by seeking out your remote living relatives as they may just happen to hold information unknown to you.

The five strategies listed above were addressed fully in Newsletter 42. You can download this issue at: www.jaunay.com/newsletter/newsletter42.html

23rd January 1902


THE UNPREPARED WIFE.

The normal girl naturally looks forward to the time when she will have the care of home, husband, and the other responsibilities of married life. Yet, and to say, she is often wholly unprepared to assume the responsibilities when they come to her. To presume to make a home and care for a family without preparation is parallel to a physician attempting the practice of medicine without study, and with the expectation of gaining knowledge from experiments on his patients. We would be horrified at the temerity of such a physician, and yet we complacently leave our girls without instruction in reference to the highest, holiest duty of womanhood. In these circumstances can we wonder that many homes are absolute failures?

One of the first things a girl should be taught is that wealth and social position count for nothing unless united with purity of thought and life and honesty of purpose. Until such standards are required by young women in choosing their husbands the marriage relation cannot be what God intended it to be—the highest type of earthly happiness.

23rd January 1902

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