

JUNE 2016

Dear members welcome to our June edition of the Bulletin, once again it is jam packed with interesting tit-bits that Peter has found on the "net".

Now that we are well into the winter months why don't you spend an afternoon or morning with us brushing up on your research. We have added a number of resources over the last twelve months and Martin Hopkins with the aid of his accomplice Paul Wiseman have been adding additional CD and DVDs to the computer network so that they may be directly accessed without the need for finding, inserting and starting the programs from their original source. After the early chill wears off our heated research room is a great place to spend a winters day.

Our computer network over time has evolved into one that most larger metro based organisations would be proud to have, while we as a group have grown to rival all but the biggest of metropolitan groups. We must thank a small band of volunteers for this work, those already named above as well as a few helpers from the group and the expert assistance of Wolf Ciemcioch from Communications and Business Services in Bairnsdale who provides all of the top level technical assistance we require from time to time at an unbelievably low cost to us. His "community service" he tells us!

The AGM will be held on 13th of August and with this bulletin we have included the meeting notice, membership renewal forms and committee nomination forms. Make sure that if you chose the electronic payment method that you include your membership number so that we are able to identify that you have renewed your membership. Also consider filling in a nomination form for the committee. This year we will be looking for a new Secretary as Kerry Hopkins has indicated that she will not be continuing in this role. I would like to thank Kerry for her contribution to the group as our Secretary over the past three years, it is the toughest job to hold in the group and sometimes not an easy role to play. However, that being said the position does give the opportunity to have a real and direct influence on the direction of the group. So anyone with ideas and drive will be welcome to put in a nomination for Secretary or any other positon on the committee to be part of our leadership group.

Discussion has recently been held over security arrangements in the rooms, with particular consideration to our video security system. Currently the cameras are operating continuously but they do not record vision onto the hard drive during normal operating hours. It has been suggested that for the security of our members we should record 24 hours per day. These recordings are only kept for a limited time of three to five days before being overwritten due to the small memory space on the system. If an incident occurred that required this information to be available, it could then be saved on a permanent basis as necessary.

Please let a committee member know if you have any particular thoughts on this proposal, as when it was discussed at committee we decided that members should be canvassed before any changes were decided on.

At our last committee meeting we discussed the perils of introducing viruses and malicious software inadvertently onto our computers. To prevent this occurrence all members are requested not to install any software or hardware onto the computers without first consulting our IT people, either Martin, Tony or Wolf.

Tony Meade President EGFHG Great men die and are forgotten, Wise men speak; their words of wisdom Perish in the ears that hear them, Do not reach the generations That, as yet unborn, are waiting.

The Song of Hiawatha Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Quote - Genealogical Research is a Marathon, Not a Sprint

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AUSTRALIA

DNA

Australians have been called upon to donate their DNA and help establish the country's first historical DNA database, providing researchers with a crucial tool for solving wartime mysteries – some which date back 100 years. To be managed by the <u>Centre for Ancient DNA</u> at Adelaide University, the database will provide scientists and historians with a snapshot of the genetic makeup of the Australian population in the early 1900s.

The DNA database would prove a vital tool for any number of projects, including identifying unrecovered war dead and even solving decades-old missing person cases. I suspect the database would also be valuable for genealogy purposes although privacy laws may prevent its use for that purpose.

You can read more about this new effort in an article by Bridie Smith in the *Sydney Morning Herald* at <u>http://goo.gl/FJz19i</u>.

Those who wish to donate their DNA to the database can contact Jeremy Austin by email jeremy.austin@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8313 4557.

Newspapers

MyHeritage has recently added 11.4 million pages of **Australian newspaper records** to the company's online collections. The records are now available for free at MyHeritage SuperSearch. Including over 700 Australian newspapers, this phenomenal collection, digitized by Trove (The National Library of Australia), covers newspapers from 1803 to the mid-20th century. Each Australian state and territory is represented, although the bulk of the collection consists of newspapers from New South Wales and Victoria.

You can read more in the MyHeritage Blog at: <u>http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/05/new-11-million-australian-newspaper-pages-online</u>.

Queensland deaths 1829-1964

Queensland deaths 1829-1964 consists of more than 871,000 death records from Australia's second largest state. Each record consists of a transcript of the original source material that will list your ancestor's full name, death date and the names of both parents including mother's maiden name. Transcripts will also reveal the registration year and registration number. This information can be used to order a death certificate or an image of the original register from the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Western Australia

The State Library of WA has put some images from its catalogue online in Pinterest <u>https://au.pinterest.com/statelibrarywa/</u>

I like the folder of images from the Goldfields in the 1890s https://au.pinterest.com/statelibrarywa/goldfields-in-western-australia/

There are also some books from their rare book collection that are out of copyright and have been put on line as ebooks -

https://au.pinterest.com/statelibrarywa/western-australian-books-from-the-archives/ where you can click on the thumbnail and then click on "Visit" on the lower right side of the page to be go to the SLWA page where you can read or download the PDF.

You may have to create a log in first before you can get in to Pinterest.

Hand-made noodles

I tried this but couldn't get it to work. I suspect trick photography <u>http://www.youtube.com/embed/F6uT6gwyY1k?rel=0&autoplay=1</u>

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand – FamilySearch.org has indexed the burial records from Waikumete Cemetery in Auckland. This is New Zealand's largest cemetery and since 1908 it has served as the main cemetery for the Auckland region. The records in this collection span the years from 1886 (when the cemetery was first established) to 1948. There are roughly 27,000 records in this collection.

A typical burial record (see image below) lists the name of the deceased, age, date and place of death and burial, occupation, cause of death, place of birth, religion and years in the province. Please note that if you happen to be looking through historic documents that the original spelling of the cemetery was Waikomiti. These records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Waikumete Cemetery Records]

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This is a page from the 1892 burial register at Waikumete Cemetery in Auckland. The column that lists the years in the province is a particularly useful clue for anyone having difficulty determining when their ancestors arrived in New Zealand. *Image Courtesy of FamilySearch.org*

New Zealand – The popular New Zealand website *Papers Past* is testing a new beta version of the website. The objective is to improve the search tools and provide more kinds of content. For those who are not familiar with Papers Past, it is the definitive source for researching historic New Zealand newspapers. It has over four million pages of digitized content.

The website now also has historic magazines and journals, letters and diaries and parliamentary papers. It is run by the National Library of New Zealand. The website can be searched by keyword (like name), date range and title. Did we mention that it is free? [Papers Past]



The new beta version of the *Papers Past* website is easier to navigate and easier to use. It also contains a more diverse set of content. Don't forget to take the tour and provide feedback during the beta testing phase.

ENGLAND

1907 Post Office National Directory

Although researchers have already been able to access the 1899-1900 UK Telephone Directory via The Genealogist, the 1907 record set is larger, having been published at a time when the technology was becoming more accessible to Britons.

Only the previous year, the Post Office had even installed its first-ever coin-operated call box at London's Ludgate Circus, while Trunk (long-distance) telephone charges were reduced by half-price for calls made after 7pm and before 7am.

To find out more, click here.

British Newspaper Update

A massive 13.5 million new articles have been added including 13 brand new titles and updates to a further 23 existing newspapers. New titles from across the UK have joined the collection including publications from Cheshire, Essex, Kent, Lancashire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire and several new additions from Scotland.

Shakespeare

The last will and testament of William Shakespeare will be returning to his hometown for the first time in four centuries.

Shakespeare's Birthplace will be displaying the historic document in Stratford-upon-Avon,

Warwickshire, from Saturday 16 July to Thursday 4 August as part of a major exhibition marking 400 years of the playwright's legacy.

Currently held by The National Archives, the will is signed in three different places and reveals that Shakespeare left the bulk of his estate to his eldest daughter, Susannah Hall.

U.K. National Maritime Museum and the Crew List Index Project

Dick Eastman

The National Archives of the United Kingdom has a new crowdsourcing project beginning in June:



"Building on the success of the Merchant 1915 Crew List Index project, we have once again joined forces with the National Maritime Museum (NMM) and the Crew List Index Project team (CLIP) to create a new free-to-search database resource relating to all the Royal Navy officers and ratings that served in the First World War – *Royal Navy First World War Lives at Sea* – based principally on service records held by The National Archives.

"With the help of a team of e-volunteers from all over the world, the project will create the most significant online data resource for the study of the Royal Navy during the First World War." The project is looking for volunteers who will transcribe service records. Details may be found at: <u>http://goo.gl/p7tFuM</u>.

Battle of Jutland records



More than 38,000 records of Royal Marine and Royal Navy servicemen who fought at the Battle of Jutland have been made available to search on Findmypast. The publication marks the centenary of the largest naval engagement of the First World War and has been put together in

(Photo: Findmypast)

conjunction with The National Archives and Naval and Military Press. **British Royal Navy & Royal Marines, Battle Of Jutland 1916 Servicemen** gathers together the names of those who served with the British Grand Fleet between 31 May and 1 June 1916.

The records contain the names, ranks, service numbers, enrolment dates, dates of birth and birth places of Royal Marines and Royal Navy personnel. Scanned images of original documents also reveal if they were promoted, the names of the ships on which they served and their dates of service. Many will also include a home address, occupation prior to joining the service and a full physical description. Each record consists of a transcript and a scanned image of the original document.

WW2 diary project smashes fundraising target

Plans to digitise thousands of unique wartime diaries will now go ahead thanks to donations from the public.

In May, the Royal Voluntary Service (RVS) launched a campaign on 'crowdfunding' website Kickstarter which sought to raise £25,000 in order to digitise the first 28,000 pages of diaries written by its volunteers during the Second World War. At the close of the campaign on Tuesday 7 June, the charity had received £27,724 from 705 backers.

"We're so grateful for the support and donations from the public," said Royal Voluntary Service Archivist, Matthew McMurray. "Having smashed our target we are now going to be able to digitise over 2,000 more pages of these diaries than we had hoped, bringing more stories to light for the first time."

Lancashire

The website *Lancashire BMD* continues to add new Lancashire genealogy records at a steady pace. Some of the latest additions include 6,000 birth records from Radcliffe (1934 to 1943) 5,000 burial records from Elton (1888 to 1909) and 4,000 birth records for Trafford. In total, the website has 9.8 million birth records, 4.5 million marriage records and 5.8 million death records. Access is free. [Lancashire BMD]

Lancashire researcher seeks newspaper photos

A local historian in Lancashire is searching for photographs taken by a regional newspaper during the 20th century.

Janet Rigby, who is writing a history of Goosnargh and Whittingham, would like to hear from anyone who may possess photographs of the villages that were published in the *Preston Guardian*.

Although copies of the newspaper still survive on microfilm, many of the original photographs were lost when the now-defunct publication moved offices.

To get in touch with Janet, send her an email.

On the first day at the new Seniors Complex, the manager addressed all the new seniors pointing out some of the rules:

"The female sleeping quarters will be out-of-bounds to all males, and the male dormitory to all females. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$20 the first time."

He continued,

"Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$60. Being caught a third time will cost you a fine of \$180.

Now are there any questions?"

At this point, an older gentleman stood up in the crowd and asked, "how much for a seasons pass?"

Lancashire - FamilySearch.org has put online the cemetery registers from Oldham, Lancashire. Oldham is now part of greater Manchester and this collection covers the following cemeteries:



Hollinwood, Failsworth, Royton, Crompton, Chadderton, Lees and Greenacres.

In total, there are some 480,000 records in this collection, which spans the years from 1797 to 2004. A typical record lists the name of the deceased, age, date and place where death occurred, date and place of burial and the grave number. The records can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Oldham Burial Records] This is the entrance to Hollinwood cemetery in Oldham. Oldham

Council also maintains a website of cemetery and crematorium

records, which can be accessed here.

Yorkshire

Findmypast is pleased to announce the release of more than 5.4 million records released in partnership with the Yorkshire Digitisation Consortium. The publication marks the final phase of our Yorkshire Collection, a rich archive of more than 10.5 million records spanning the years 1538 to 1990. The Yorkshire Digitisation project was first launched in October 2014 and has resulted in the creation of the largest online repository of Yorkshire family history records anywhere in the world. The final phase, released today, includes parish baptisms, banns, marriages, burials, school records, university records and a variety of other documents held by the East Riding Archives and Local Studies Service, the Borthwick Institute for Archives (University of York), the North Yorkshire County Record Office, Teesside Archives, Sheffield Archives and Local Studies, and Doncaster Archives and Local Studies. As the provenances of the records are defined by historical, rather than modern boundaries, areas now outside of today's Yorkshire such as County Durham, are also covered.

Yorkshire Baptisms

Over 2.2 million new records have recently been added to our collection of Yorkshire Baptisms. Yorkshire baptisms, 1538-1990, now contains over 4.4 million records from parish churches right across the three historic Yorkshire counties; North Riding, West Riding and East Riding.

Yorkshire Banns

Search 203,000 new additions to our collection of Yorkshire Banns to see if your ancestors declared their intention to marry in the county of Yorkshire. Yorkshire banns, 1653-1930, now contains over 541,000 records.

Yorkshire Marriages

Over 1.4 million new records have been added to our collection of Yorkshire parish marriages. Yorkshire Marriages 1538 – 1942 now contains over 2.2 million records spanning almost 400 years. The records list the details couples married in Anglican parishes across the three historic Yorkshire counties.

Yorkshire Burials

Uncover the location of your ancestor's grave with over 1.5 million brand new Yorkshire burials. The Yorkshire Burials now contain over 3.2 million records spanning more than four centuries that list the details of men and women buried in Anglican parishes across the three historic Yorkshire counties. Britain, School and University Register Books 1264-1930

Over 1,000 Yorkshire records containing biographical details about your ancestor after their school years have been added to our collection of school and university register books. Britain, School and University Register Books 1264-1930 contains over 18,000 records that list biographical details about your ancestor's life after school, such as employment information and marriage and death dates. You can also discover if your ancestor taught at these schools, as all the registers include staff names.

Yorkshire Registers & Records

Delve through more than 34,000 assorted Yorkshire records, ranging from parish magazines to school registers, Kelly's directories and more. There are over 200 publications included in our collection of Yorkshire registers & records. The collection comprises various publications including, parish magazines, school registers, almanacs, abstracts of wills, and local histories, to name a few.

Devon

FindMyPast has released an interesting collection of prison records from Plymouth, Devon. These are records of both prisoners and prison officers. The records originate from the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office. The 13,000 records in this collection span the years from 1832 to 1919. The records come from a variety of sources including prisoner registers, calendars of prisoners and registers of prison officers. For prisoners, the records usually list the name of the prisoner, details on their offense, their sentence and a physical description of the prisoner. For prison officers, it usually lists the name of the officer, rank, where they worked and their salary. Access to this collection is by subscription. [Historic Plymouth Prison Records]

London

Findmypast has released more than 1.4 million historic records held by the City of Westminster Archives Centre. The release forms the final phase of Findmypast's Westminster Collection, rich archive of more than 15 million records including bastardy papers, workhouse records, militia records, wills and probate records, constables' records, census fragments and more. Consisting of parish baptisms, banns, marriages and burials, today's release includes fully searchable transcripts and beautifully scanned images of original handwritten registers from more than 50 historic Westminster churches including St Martin-in-the-Fields and St Paul's Covent Garden. Spanning more than four centuries of the city's history from 1538 to 1945, the records full of fascinating details of London life through the ages and will provide researchers from all over the world with the opportunity to uncover the stories of inhabitants from all walks of life. Also available to search this week are new additions to our collection Kent, Wills and Probate records, over 13.5 million historic British newspaper archives and a Browse function for our Irish Electoral Registers. We have released over 15 million new records and newspaper articles including:

Westminster Baptisms

Over 1,000 new records have just been released in the third phase of our collection of Westminster Baptisms. The records will reveal your ancestor's birth date, baptism date and parents' names. Westminster Banns

Over 272,000 new records have just been added to our collection of Westminster Banns. The records will reveal where and when your Westminster ancestors announced their intention to marry, when they were married and where they lived.

Westminster Marriages

Over 409,000 new marriages covering more than 40 Westminster parishes are now available to search. The records will reveal when your ancestor was born, where they lived, where they were married and to whom.

Westminster Burials

Discover if your English ancestor was buried in Westminster with over 517,000 new records that reveal when they were born, when they died and where they were laid to rest.





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London

Over one million historic London records have been added to Findmypast. Spanning 1680 to 1817, the London Lives, Culture & Society collection provides access to documents from six different archives, including criminal registers, apprenticeship records, coroner inquests and clerks' papers. The material was originally digitised as part of an educational initiative funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, and is also viewable online via this link. However, the addition of the collection to the Findmypast database means users can now link the records to family trees saved on the site.

Greater London Burial Index

Over 79,000 new records have been added to the Greater London Burials Index. The Index comprises over one million names from more than 226 parishes in the Greater London area and includes records from both Anglican and non-conformist parishes. It also includes the City of London Burials, Middlesex Memorial Inscriptions, Middlesex & City of London Burials Index and the South London Burials Index.

The London Gazette, supplements August 1914 - January 1920

The London Gazette, supplements August 1914 -January 1920 contains more than 40,000 announcements of armed forces promotions, appointments of official public offices, Royal proclamations and much more. The supplements also allow you to read through full reports and despatches from key battles of the First World War.

The London Gazette was the official journal of the British government. It published statutory notes, royal proclamations and notices of insolvency or bankruptcy. It also reported official appointments in public offices such as the board of trade, board of agriculture, customers and trade, postmaster, factory department and much more. Additionally, the gazette was used to report military appointments, attachments, promotions, and awards. One was 'gazetted' when one was mentioned in The London Gazette for promotion.

The records are presented in Portable Document Format (PDF). The information revealed about your ancestor will vary depending on the nature of the gazette entry.

Surrey - Ancestry has uploaded more than 130,000 taxation records to its online collections. Spanning 1868 to 1911, the new additions name people in the **London Borough of Sutton** – then part of Surrey – who were required to pay the local water rate. The money was spent on sick and poor members of the community, as well as other parish expenses. Search here (requires subscription).

Kent Wills & Probate Indexes

Over 1,600 will abstracts that reveal your ancestor's occupation, probate date and any other names included in the documents have been added to our Kent Wills & Probate Indexes. The collection consists of four indexes created from probate cases in the English county of Kent from 1328 to 1890. The original probate documents are held at the Kent History & Library Centre.

Sussex Burials

Search over 6,000 new additions to our collection of Sussex burials to reveal your ancestor's burial date, where they are buried and, in some cases, additional notes that will tell you about your ancestor's marital status, occupation, residence or other relatives' names. The new additions cover Halisham Cemetery in the Wealden district of East Sussex and consist of transcripts created by the Sussex Family History Group. The entire collection now contains the records of 499,907 burials from the registers of 237 parishes across the county and dates back as far as 1530.

IRELAND

Ireland Surnames & Family Histories

Ireland Surnames & Family Histories is a rich and varied collection consisting of nine historic family and local history publications. The collection contains over 7,000 pdf images of assorted documents that will help you discover more about your Irish family name and history.

The records are displayed in PDF format and can be searched by title, publication year, and keyword (including names).

Tracking Parochial Families in County Galway

Dick Eastman Local and family historians with an interest in **County Galway** will benefit from transcription and indexing work of surviving registers for the parishes of Killinane and Kilconickny, near Loughrea, together with other detailed information of local interest, released online in June's Archive of the Month. The work has been compiled by local historian Gerry Kearney, who has recently selfpublished *The Church of Ireland Unions of Killinane and Kilconickny, Loughrea, County Galway – A History* (2015). Colourfully illustrated with images, the presentation demonstrates what can be gleaned from combining the written evidence in registers and other parish record sources with local history fieldwork.

While researching the history of his wife's ancestors – the Taylors of Athenry, Ardrahan and Kilchreest – he transcribed all the surviving records of both parishes, now located alongside many other collections, in the RCB Library, Dublin, where they have been held in safe custody since 2007. Biographical notes of the families of these small communities were compiled from the transcribed church records, gravestone inscriptions from Killinane and Bookeen graveyards, and other related research material.

Killinane, sometimes recorded as Killinan, was a vicarage in the Diocese of Kilmacduagh. By order of the Privy Council dated 11th March 1726, Killinane was consolidated with the vicarages of Isertkelly, Kilchreest, Kilogollin (Killogilleen), Killora and Kilthomas to form what became known as the Killinane union. The Irish form of the name is Cill Fhionáin, meaning St Finan's church, and surviving records of the clergy of the parishes of Killinane union date from c.1402. The church and graveyard of Killinane are situated south-west of Kilchreest, on the road from Loughrea to Gort, in the townland of Castleboy, between the former big houses of the Persse families of Roxborough and Castleboy. Construction of the church was completed in c.1809 but the surviving gravestones indicate burials in the graveyard from at least 1786, suggesting an older building.

Unfortunately, the early registers for the parish of Killinane were in the Public Records Office of Ireland in 1922, and were destroyed during the Civil War. Registers lost included baptisms 1823-1881, marriages 1823-1844, and burials 1829-1881. Subsequent registers comprising baptisms 1882-1928, marriages 1845-1915 and burials 1883-1929, together with related parish records including the vestry minutes, are now kept safe in the RCB Library, and it is these sources up to 1900 that are covered in the online transcripts.

Gravestones at Killinane graveyard have helped to supplement the surviving burial records, and fill in gaps in the early burial evidence, and a consolidated index of family names from burials and gravestones will benefit genealogical research for others. In addition to the local landowning Persse family, other families such as the Cannons, Dillons, Glosters and Taylors who made up the rich tapestry of the 18th Century local community have been recovered. Since 2007 a local ecumenical group of volunteers from the Kilchreest and Castledaly Heritage Group has been caring for the burial ground, and it continues to carry out annual maintenance work.

Kilconickny union was formed in 1735. The Irish form of the name is Cill C'nuicne, or Conicne's church, and surviving records of the clergy of the parishes of Kilconickny union date from c.1398. The total population of the union in 1834 was 8,806, of whom only 130 (1.5%) were Church of Ireland. According to *Nicholas Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (1810) there was no church or glebe house in Kilconickny, but there was a glebe of five acres in the parish of Lickerrig and a glebe of two and a half acres in the parish of Kilconiran. Carlisle commented that 'in the absence of a church, Divine Service was performed in Mr Daly's House at Dunsandel', and that a church was to be built 'as soon as Mr Daly and other Gentlemen are willing to contribute and have agreed upon the most convenient site'. With the assistance of a grant of £600 from the Board of First

Fruits, a church was completed in 1815 at Bookeen, in the parish of Lickerrig – today a short distance south of exit 16 on the M6 Dublin to Galway motorway. With a declining population, Bookeen was forced to close in 1933. However, in 2006 it was acquired by private owners who set about a sympathetic renovation of the building and the grounds, managing to salvage many of the original features in replicating the original design. Today, it is a beautiful private residence known as Bookeen Hall and images are included with the permission of the owners in the online presentation.

The only surviving church record for Kilconickny is a single marriage register covering the period 1845-1907. This volume is safely lodged in the RCB Library. Like Killinane, Kilconickny was united with Loughrea in 1945, and all are now part of the Aughrim union in the Diocese of Clonfert. Dr Susan Hood, Assistant Librarian at the RCB Library, comments: "We commend the work of Gerry Kearney who has faithfully reproduced the contents of surviving parish registers for Killinane and Kilconickny, and for his willingness to contribute to ongoing efforts to index and make available parish registers for research."

Gerry Kearney says: "It was a privilege and pleasure working with the team at the RCB Library and giving these unique records prominence."

To view the register transcripts and indexes see: www.ireland.anglican.org/library/archive

Ireland – FindMyPast has added an additional 500,000 pages this month to their Irish newspaper collection. Four new titles were recently added, including the *Belfast Weekly News* (1897-1898 and 1904-1914). In addition, seven other titles saw significant new additions. Most notable was the *Northern Whig* (almost 200,000 additional pages) and the *Derry Journal*.

With these new additions, FindMyPast's Irish newspaper collection consists of 119 different national, regional and local newspapers. The collection can be searched by first name, last name, place, country, newspaper and approximate date range. Access is by subscription. [Historic Irish Newspapers]

Tipperary.

Launched on Saturday 21 May, the new Tipperary Studies website provides online access to a wealth of historic records held by the library, including rate books for the Poor Law Unions of Cashel, Nenagh and Thurles (1840s-70s) and Irish Tourist Association Reports (1942-45) for the county's parishes.

Digitisation of the material, which is set to continue, has been funded by donations the library received throughout 2014 and 2015.

Irish organisation celebrates 30th anniversary

Ireland's only accrediting body for professional genealogists has celebrated its 30th anniversary. Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI), which includes members from Northern Ireland, marked the milestone with a reception in Dublin on Friday 13 May. The event also saw the announcement of a partnership with the Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA), details of which can be found online at accreditedgenealogists.ie.

Ireland, electoral registers 1885-1886 Browse

You can now browse through 26 volumes of British Library Electoral registers to discover your ancestors in an exact location between the census years.

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) Prisoners Books Are Now Online

Dick Eastman

The Dublin (Ireland) Metropolitan Police (DMP) Prisoners Books for 1905-1908 and 1911-1918 are amongst the most valuable new documents to come to light on the revolutionary decade. They include important information on social and political life in the capital during the last years of the Union, from the period of widespread anticipation of Home Rule, to the advent of the 1913 Lockout, the outbreak

of the First World War, the Easter Rising and its aftermath, including the conscription crisis of 1918. They will also be invaluable to those interested in criminology, genealogy, and family history.

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You can learn more and also access digital images of the books at http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:43945.

SCOTLAND

ScotlandsPeople, the official Scottish genealogy resource, publishes a regular newsletter and the latest edition can be found at <u>news@scotlandspeople.gov.uk</u>





CANADA

Canada – FamilySearch.org has created a new browsable image collection of Saint John, New Brunswick burial permits dating from 1889 to 1919. There are roughly 14,000 images in this new collection and each image typically lists four permits. Thus, this collection covers roughly 50,000 burials. The images are organized by date.

A typical burial record in this collection (see image below) lists the name of the deceased, date of death, gender, marital status, spouse's name (if married), color, age, residence, occupation, place of death, place of birth, name of father, birthplace of father, place of internment and cause of death. Access is free. [Saint John Burial Records]

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The burial permits from New Brunswick contain a wealth of information, including some things not normally found on such documents, such as the father's name and birthplace. *Source: FamilySearch.org*

Canada – The website BritishColonist.ca has increased their online collection of historic newspapers from Victoria, British Columbia. The collection now spans the years from 1858 to 1950 (the original release only went to 1910) and includes the British Colonist, the Daily British Colonist and the Daily Colonist. These are all essentially the same newspaper that has changed names over the years. It is still published today in Victoria as the Times Colonist.

The most recent addition to the online archive (1941 to 1950) covered some 67,000 pages. Dave Obee, a well-known Canadian genealogist, is the current editor-in-chief of the Times Colonist. The Times Colonist is the oldest newspaper in Western Canada. It is a wealth of information for anyone researching Victoria, Vancouver Island and the surrounding areas. The database can be searched by keyword. Access is free. [Historic Victoria Newspapers]

U.S.A. US The website *American Ancestors* (run by the New England Historic Genealogical Society) is offering full access to all 23 databases devoted to **New York State** genealogy records. Access is free for the entire month of June. All that is required is to register as a guest user.

The video below provides a good overview of the various New York State genealogy resources held by the website. [American Ancestors New York State Genealogy Records]

Nearly 17 million **Indiana genealogy r**ecords have been digitized through a partnership between state officials and Ancestry.com. The records scanned mostly from microfilm rolls cover birth and death certificates dating back to the early 1900s and marriage records from 1958 through 2005. Details may be found in an Associated Press article at <u>http://goo.gl/Oi4lQO</u>.

US Virgin Islands Transfer-Era Documents Have Now Been Digitized

Dick Eastman

In May 2015, the Caribbean Genealogy Library (CGL) digitized 45 gigabytes of document data from the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C., and Maryland. CGL now offers samples of these documents on its Web site. Those documents can be found at <u>http://cgl.vi/pages/indexNARA.html</u>. The effort was organized by a crowdfunding effort led by the Caribbean Genealogy Library. Volunteers from CGL traveled to the U.S. National Archives in College Park, Maryland during May 2015 to digitize the documents. The documents held at the U.S. National Archives include official correspondence, minutes, petitions, proclamations, registers, indexes, photographs, and maps. These

documents are invaluable resources in preparation for 2017 Transfer Centennial events, ceremonies, and production of educational materials.

You can read more about this project at the Caribbean Genealogy Library's project page on Kickstarter at <u>https://goo.gl/BxMdkW</u> as well as at <u>http://cgl.vi/pages/indexNARA.html</u>.

US -Child's Mant. Maud. Isabel Africa Batt of Bath, April 8, 1907 FamilySearch.org has indexed 106,000 New Hampshire birth Photosishin. Manchester, N. H. certificates spanning the years from 1901 to 1915. These records SI, Female Color. White come from the New Hampshire Division of Vital Records. See the Living or Sullborn. Living sample image of a New Hampshire birth record below. The records No. of Children, 1st. 24, 34. 4th can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Historic Father's Name, Walter G. Africa New Hampshire Birth Certificates] " Huntington, Pa. " Color, White Age, 44 This is a New Hampshire birth certificate from 1907. One interesting " Besidence, Manchester, N. H. thing that we have never seen before on a birth certificate (and which " Docupation. Agent of Gas Works is incredibly valuable to a genealogist) is that it lists the number of Man's Make Maud E. Cunningham previously born children in the family. This birth certificate for Maud " BillyaceHuntington, Pa, Isabel Africa lists her as the fourth child in the family. Image " Calor. White Age. 42 Courtesy of FamilySearch.org ·· Occupation. Name and Address of Physician (or other person) reporting said Birth. George M. Davis, M. D. THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. I hereby certify that the above birth record is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief Edward le Printo clerk of Manchester, N. H.

The *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee* (JDC) maintains an archive for genealogists, personal historians and scholars that contain records of people who have received aid from JDC over the years. The core holdings contain records of displaced persons from World War II, although the database spans the years from 1914 to 1973.

The archive continues to grow and JDC continues to add more material to their online collection (their physical archive consists of over 3 miles of text documents, over 100,000 photographs and a research library containing 6,000 books). So far 500,000 names, 2.6 million digitized pages and 67,000 photographs have been put online. Access is free. [JDC Archive]

US – FindMyPast has released another tranche of US marriage records. This tranche contains some 10 million marriage records primarily from Indiana, Illinois, New York, Maine and Pennsylvania. These records are released as part of their partnership with FamilySearch. The records can be searched by first name, last name, year, place, spouse's name, mother's name and father's name. Access is by subscription. [Historic US Marriage Records]

FamilySearch.org releases new Civil War records for Memorial Day

Dick Eastman



As millions of Americans pay respects to their ancestors on Memorial Day weekend, FamilySearch.org is making it easier to find information on Civil War veterans, including those who "gave the last full measure of devotion." FamilySearch added to the millions of records it provides free in its major Civil War collection, from Civil War service records of Union and Confederate soldiers kept by each state to census records that can help families track their war veteran ancestors beyond 1865.

The additions, and a new landing page for the collection, <u>familysearch.org/civil-war</u>, make it easier to find Civil War-era relatives than ever before. That makes it a major clearinghouse for information about American ancestors from 1861-65 and beyond, because the Civil War included 3 million soldiers in a country with a population of about 31 million. You can read more at <u>https://goo.gl/0iaJAq</u>

US – FamilySearch.org has indexed some 172,000 Arkansas ex-Confederate pension records. These records date from 1891 to 1939 and come from the Arkansas State Auditor (who was responsible for managing and disbursing the pension payments). Although these records don't provide much detail (see image below), they are a fascinating record set. This collection can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Arkansas ex-Confederate Pension Records]

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Arkansas ex-Confederate pension records provide basically just a name, amount of pension and when the pension was paid. Nevertheless, it is definitely worth checking out. *Source: FamilySearch.org*

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is Still Available!

Dick Eastman



The Social Security Death Index (often called the SSDI) is a valuable tool for genealogists. It lists deceased people within the United States. When first created, the SSDI only listed those people who were receiving Social Security benefit payments at the time of death. However, as the years went by, the database was expanded to include **ALMOST ALL DEATHS**, whether receiving benefits or not.

The Social Security Administration (SSA) Death Master File (DMF) contains more than 80 million records of file includes the following information on

each deceased person, as applicable: name, date of birth, deaths that have been reported to SSA. This date of death, state or country of residence (prior to Mar 1988), and ZIP code of last residence. Due to false concerns over identity theft, the Social Security Administration stopped releasing updates to the SSDI a few years ago. A few web sites that previously had made the SSDI available online have since deleted the records from their web sites. Now many genealogists believe the SSDI is no longer available.

Not true! The SSDI hasn't been "lost." It is still available in several places today, and you can search it online.

In fact, the Social Security Administration has stopped issuing **UPDATES** to the Death Master File. However, the original database, current through January 2011, remains in the public domain and is still available online from a number of web sites. Some web sites have updated their records from 2011 through 2012. Death records for the past three years are not available.

NOTE #1: Genealogists have always referred to this database of deceased persons as the "SSDI." However, employees of the Social Security Administration and many others call it the Death Master File, or DMF. The reason for the discrepancy in names appears to be confusion with another service of the Social Security Administration.

If you mention "the SSDI" to an employee of the Social Security Administration, he or she will probably think you are referring to Social Security Disability Insurance, something that is unrelated to the Death Master File except that both are available from the Social Security Administration. When talking with non-genealogists, you probably should always refer to this database as the "Death Master File."

NOTE #2: In most cases, only the first ten letters of each individual's first name are shown in the SSDI. For instance, the name "Christopher" is abbreviated as "Christophe". Also, middle initials are shown, but complete middle names are not recorded in the database. The search rules will vary from one web site to another. I find it best to only enter the first ten letters of longer names. That seems to always work. Entering all the letters of first names with more than ten letters sometimes results in a "not found" error on some web sites although not on others. When in doubt, use only ten letters. **NOTE #3:** Not all the online databases will display all the available information about the person listed in the SSDI. You may have to try several online services in order to find what you seek. **NOTE #4:** Information about geographic allocation of Social Security numbers can be found at <u>http://www.ssa.gov/employer/stateweb.htm</u>. Keep in mind that Social Security Numbers used to be assigned by the location where the Number was **ISSUED**, not by the place of birth of the individual. I suggest you access the Social Security Death Index (Death Master File) at any of the following: **MyHeritage:** <u>https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-10002/us-social-security-death-index-ssdi</u>

FamilySearch: https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535

Ancestry: <u>http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3693</u> (Ancestry allows anyone to view a short version of the record, but viewing all the details requires a subscription to Ancestry.com.) American Ancestors operated by the New England Historic Genealogical Society:

http://www.americanancestors.org/databases/social-security-death-index/about/ (That page states, "Access to the SSDI is FREE to all who visit AmericanAncestors.org." However, you must either register for a FREE guest account or pay for a subscription to view your SSDI search results. WorldVitalRecords.com: <u>http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/indexinfo.aspx?ix=ssdiall&affpid=102</u> 2 (Requires an account with WorldVitalReords.com. However, a FREE 7-day trial account is available.) **NOTE #5:** Also included in the WorldVitalRecords.com version of the SSDI is *See Neighbors* which is a list of those persons who died during the same year and in the same zip code as the deceased who is being searched. Finally, when a residence at death is included in a listing, a geo-coded Google Map is included with the place where the person died and their nearest cemeteries.

... and probably some other places as well.

You also can download the entire SSDI record set yourself at <u>http://ssdmf.info/download.html</u> although that is the 30 November 2011 edition. No later records are available.

EUROPE

Ancestry has published more than 2.9 million new records **German civil registrations**, which include birth, marriage and death records for the three cities of Frankenberg, Karlsruhe

and Mönchengladbach. Births, marriages, and deaths were first kept by religious denominations, but a civil registry modelled on the French system was implemented on 1 October 1874 in Prussian provinces, and throughout the German Empire on 1 January 1876.

http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/06/03/civil-registrations-search-nearly-3-million-brand-new-german-records/

German WW2 code machine on eBay

An historic machine used during the Second World War to send top secret messages between Hitler and his generals has been found in an Essex shed.

Volunteers from Bletchley Park's National Museum of Computing tracked the machine down after spotting a listing for it on auction website eBay.

For more details on the story, click here.

Ancestry adds millions of Dutch records

Over 100 million genealogical records from the Netherlands have been made available to explore on Ancestry for the first time.

Released in partnership with the Netherlands Centre for Family History (CBG), the material includes indexes to civil registration records, church registers and family announcements held by archive organisations across the country.

It was previously only possible to access the collection in its entirety via WieWasWie, a free Dutch genealogy website operated by CBG.

France – FamilySearch.org has created a new collection of military conscription records from Saôneet-Loire, France. The 245,000 indexed records in this collection span the years from 1867 to 1940 (which covers World War I and the beginning of World War II).

Basically this collection is a register of all men in the region who were 20 years old or older and who were eligible for military conscription. The registers come from the Saône-et-Loire Departmental Archive.

A typical record lists the first name, last name, age, occupation, nationality and position in the household. The records can be searched by first name and last name. Note that for legal/privacy reasons, only people born more than 120 years ago will be found in the listings. Access is free. [Saône-et-Loire Military Conscription Records]

SOUTH AMERICA

South America – Vanderbilt University has established a website devoted to digitizing and preserving documents related to enslaved Africans and Afro-descended peoples in the Americas. The website is called *Ecclesiastical & Secular Sources for Slave Societies*. Most of the documents on the website relate to Brazil and Columbia, with some additions covering Cuba and Spanish Florida. The database currently contains nearly 400,000 documents from an incredibly diverse range of sources. Many are from various ecclesiastical sources and contain such things as baptism records. At the moment, the documents do not appear to have not been transcribed. The images are organized by country and then by type of document. Access is free. [Ecclesiastical & Secular Sources for Slave Societies]

Paraguay – FamilySearch.org continues to expand their collection of family records from South America. The latest addition is from Paraguay. These are Catholic Church records from 1754 to 2015. The records can be searched by first name and last name. Included are the usual baptism, confirmation, marriage and death records. Also included are some parish census records and premarriage investigation records. Access is free. [Paraguay Parish Records]

ISRAEL

Israel – The *Israel Genealogy Research Association* (IGRA) continues to add some very interesting new genealogy record sets to their ever expanding collection. The latest additions include miscellaneous lists dealing with immigration from Europe to Palestine during 1942-43 (the middle of World War II).

Included in the latest update are such things as lists of women and children in 1942 authorized to enter Palestine from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Latvia, Hungary, Holland, Lithuania and Poland; lists of immigrants from Hungary to Palestine in 1947 and lists of donors who sent care parcels to Jews in Poland (through the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) immediately after WWII. The IGRA website is available in both Hebrew and English. In total, there are now some 745,000 records on the website across more than 271 databases. All the names in the databases have been transliterated into English so that you can do full searches in English. The link takes you to the page that describes how the whole process works. Access is free after registration. [Israel Genealogy Research Association]



INTESTATE & HEIR ESTATE BENEFICIARY TRACING

The Heir Hunters Association, helps trace heirs to unclaimed estates worldwide and in doing so reunites families, unlocking mysteries, and sometimes a sum of money as an extra bonus. A free monthly newsletter is packed with useful tips and information, as well as low-cost subscription options for serious researchers.

http://www.hha-uk.com/

Digitizing Genealogical Records: Not as Easy as it Looks

Dick Eastman

Daniel Klein is a history/genealogy librarian at the Jersey City Free Public Library's New Jersey Room and is a founding member of the Hudson County Genealogical and Historical Society. He has published an article in *The Jersey Journal* that describes some of the difficulties with digitizing a library's holdings. He writes:

"Digitizing photos or documents serves two purposes: preservation and access. By making a digital copy, people no longer have to handle and wear out the original. And by placing a digital copy online, more people will have access to the information contained within that document.

"But digitizing material takes a great deal of time and effort. There are a great many logistical problems that need to be addressed in digitizing records. The physical acts of scanning, cropping and color correction all take time. Working with fragile materials that need delicate handling takes time as well."

You can read the rest of Daniel Klein's excellent article at http://goo.gl/xlHepg.

Reasons Why a Genealogist Might Want to Buy a Chromebook

Dick Eastman



I have written a number of times (see <u>https://goo.gl/TsSWQ5</u> to find my earlier articles) about **Chromebooks**, the low-cost laptop computers that boot up quickly, are simple to use, never get viruses, and perform the computer tasks that many computer owners want.

Chromebooks also have a long-life battery life. A Chromebook does not slow down over time and there are

no long boot times — just flip it open and get busy doing anything other than waiting. Because Chromebooks safely and securely store almost all data in the cloud, nothing is lost if you break or lose a Chromebook. It's all in the cloud, no matter what. As a result, a thief can steal your Chromebook but will not gain access to any of your personal information or documents. And because the technical requirements for running Chrome apps are so low, you still get reasonable performance, even from a sub-\$200 laptop.

One of the weaknesses of Chromebooks has been the lack of good genealogy apps. That is now changing.

To be sure, Chromebooks are low-powered computers. At these price levels, you cannot expect highpowered workstations. If you are an artist, designer, scientist, engineer, or a video-game player, you probably will find that the Chromebook is insufficient for your needs. Most everyone else will find that a Chromebook works well for them.

Chromebooks are already outselling Macintosh laptops according to analyst firm IDC (see http://goo.gl/Q9PHnD for details).

Although low-priced and easy to use, these laptop computers are already likely far more capable than you think, but their utility is about to increase exponentially. Beginning this fall, Google's Chrome platform will add support for Android apps, instantly giving Chromebook users access to millions of new applications found in the Google Play store. Once Android apps are added to the thousands of Chrome apps already available, the Chromebooks will become more attractive than ever.

Once Android apps become available later this year on a Chromebook, dozens of genealogy apps from MyHeritage, FamilySearch, RootsMagic, Heredis, GedStar Pro, Find-A-Grave, Ancestry.com, and many other vendors should work well on a Chromebook. We won't know if **ALL** of these apps will work on a Chromebook until after the capability is added. However, Google's recent announcement does state that **MOST Android apps** will work properly on the future release of the Chrome operating system.

Apparently the earlier, lower-powered Chromebooks will not have enough processing power to handle Android apps. A list of every single Chromebook that will support Android apps this fall may be found at <u>http://bgr.com/2016/05/27/chromebook-android-app-support-model-list/</u>.

I found my very old Samsung Chromebook will not be able to run Android apps but my newer Asus Flip Chromebook should work well. If you already own a Chromebook, you might want to check the list at <u>http://bgr.com/2016/05/27/chromebook-android-app-support-model-list/</u> to see if your device can support Android apps.



Adelaide, South Australia, 25 May 2016 – History and genealogy company, Unlock the Past, invites all history, heritage and genealogy enthusiasts to attend its 8th history & genealogy expo. It will be held in Adelaide over two days, Friday and Saturday 7–8 Oct 2016, at Immanuel College, Novar Gardens SA.

The 2016 expo is the first ever **national expo** in Australia. It will appeal to anyone interested in family, local and social history and heritage in South Australia

especially, but to all Australians.

It is a unique opportunity to see many societies, libraries and commercial product and service suppliers in one place and to learn from the presentations offered. The exhibition will feature about 70 exhibitors from several states covering a wide range of history, heritage and genealogy interests. Hear 30 expert presenters from five states and New Zealand. The expo is also an opportunity to mingle and network with other like- minded attendees and people who have been working in the industry for many years.

We are fortunate to have two eminent historians to head our extensive program of presentations. **Professor Philip Payton** is a leading international authority on Cornish history, the Cornish in Australia, Cornish emigration and Australia and the First World War. **Dr Tom Lewis**, OAM, is an Australian author, military historian, editor, and former naval officer. A further 30 others, many recognised nationally and internationally, will add to the program which will feature

- 12 main theatre feature presentations
- 25 classroom presentations
- 50 short FREE mini-theatre product demos, tutorials, etc.

Other features include one-on-one consultations with experts, special offers from some exhibitors and over \$2000 in prizes from expo exhibitors and sponsors.

Pre-booking will be encouraged with extra benefits, but expo entry and talk bookings (if not booked out) will be available on the day as well.

"We have organised seven previous expos and over 90 other events in all eight Australian states and territories and some overseas. This expo will be our largest event. With a large number and variety of exhibitors and a wide ranging program of presentations by some of the leading presenters in the history, genealogy and heritage fields in Australia and New Zealand, it should be something special for all Australians with history, genealogy and heritage interests" – *Alan Phillips, Unlock the Past* "Attending family history expos is an excellent way to hear fantastic speakers in the one venue plus visit and talk with a range of vendors, purchase books and other genealogy resources as well as meet other family history enthusiasts or catch up with old friends. A two-day event makes it just like a conference and worth any travel and accommodation if you don't live in Adelaide. Who can resist a one stop genealogy experience? – *Shauna Hicks, historian, genealogist, speaker and author – and impetus for the launch of Unlock the Past in 2009*

For more information, including speakers, exhibitors, program and online bookings visit the expo website: <u>http://www.unlockthepast.com.au/AustralianExpo2016</u>

About Unlock the Past

Our parent company *Gould Genealogy* commenced 40 years ago Contact: Alan Phillips, Unlock the Past, (08) 8263 2055 or 1300 526 069 (cost of a local call) email: <u>alan@unlockthepast.com.au</u> web: <u>www.unlockthepast.com.au</u>



Sometimes I drink a glass of water..

jast to surprise my liver.