# 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

## March 2016.

Dear Members

Welcome to the March edition of the Bulletin. The last couple of months have been full of interest.

In February I attended the local CWA district meeting, where I received on behalf of EGFHG a cheque for $350.00. A welcome donation which will be put to use with the purchase of an item which can be attributed to the CWA.

On Thursday the 18th February I hosted the launch of the Heritage Network East Gippsland, Anzac Centenary project book called East Gippsland's Anzacs. A good crowd of nearly sixty people attended including luminaries such as, local Member Tim Bull, Deputy Mayor Dick Ellis, Councillors Peter Neal and Ben Buckley as well as the Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs Damien Drum and Mr John Capp.

The afternoon was a great success with many heartfelt speeches about the soldiers and the trauma of war.

The guest of honour Darren Chester sent his apologies for his non-attendance but given the choice of helping launch the HNEG publication or going to Government House to be sworn in as Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, he chose to go to Canberra. Obviously a choice most of us would make.

We have had two Bunnings Sausage sizzles and this has helped us raise more than a thousand dollars.

We are calling for volunteers to assist in the Map Room. We have recently acquired a large number of archival standard sheaths. We are looking for members who could donate a few hours to help us file and index the new maps. If you can help please contact the rooms and a day of familiarisation will be convened.

This Saturday; the 12th March; our monthly meeting will be held as usual at 2.00pm. We will be having an afternoon of fun and hilarity with a game called Five Minute Follies.

# Outline for Five Minute Follies

Those present are invited to participate in "Five Minute Follies" - it is quite simple really.

Everyone has five minutes, **and five minutes only !** to talk to the meeting.

- A member can ask for help on a particularly tough bit of your family that you are stuck on and get others opinion;
- or talk about a recent discovery in their family;
- or "show and tell" something from their family – a photo, an artefact or other item;
- or explain how they solved a problem they had;
- or describe a wonderful resource they discovered;
- or about connecting with family and how they found "distant" relatives…….

Whatever takes the member's fancy of what they would like to talk about the only rule is ------- it is for five minutes only.

At precisely five minutes --- even mid word ---- you stop and the next person starts and has their five minutes.

It is all about getting everyone present to talk and participate and be involved in some aspect of family history and/or research and getting to know the other members of the group and who they are researching.

Please come along and join the fun

Tony Meade

President EGFHG.

**Thought for the day -**

*Toothache – the pain that drives you to extraction*

## AUSTRALIA

https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/
On line Queensland searchable Historical indexes now cover
Births - 1829 - 1916
Deaths - 1829 - 1986
Marriages - 1829 - 1941
Cost of certificates is $28 or $20 for a digital copy.

There are new newspapers in Trove for you to enjoy. Find them here:
http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper?q=

NSW
The Australian Workman (Sydney, NSW : 1890 - 1897)
The Bird O' Freedom (Sydney, NSW : 1891 - 1896)
The Dead Bird (Sydney, NSW : 1889 - 1891)
Dutch Australian Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1951 - 1993)
Dutch Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1993 - 2004)
The Workers' Weekly (Sydney, NSW : 1923 - 1939)

QLD
Balonne Beacon (St. George, Qld. : 1909 - 1954)
The Beaudesert Times (Qld. : 1908 - 1954)
Brisbane Telegraph (Qld. : 1948 - 1954)
The Bundaberg Mail (Qld. : 1917 - 1925)
The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser (Qld. : 1892 - 1917)
The Daily Mail (Brisbane, Qld. : 1903 - 1926)
The Daily Northern Argus (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1875 - 1896)
The Dalby Herald (Qld. : 1910 - 1954)
Dalby Herald and Western Queensland Advertiser (Qld. : 1886 - 1879)
The Evening Advocate (Innisfail, Qld. : 1941 - 1954)
The Evening Telegraph (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1901 - 1921)
Johnstone River Advocate (Geraldton, Qld. : 1906 - 1908)
Johnstone River Advocate and Innisfail News (Qld. : 1928 - 1941)
Northern Argus (Rockhampton, Qld. : 1865 - 1874)
The St. George Standard and Balonne Advertiser (Qld. : 1878 - 1879; 1902 - 1904)
The Toowoomba Chronicle and Queensland Advertiser (Qld. : 1861 - 1875)
Toowoomba Chronicle and Darling Downs General Advertiser (Qld. : 1875 - 1902)

TAS
The Coastal News and North Western Advertiser (Ulverstone, Tas. : 1890 - 1893)
Deloraine - Westbury Advocate (Ulverstone, Tas. : 1893 - 1894)
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)
The North Western Chronicle (Latrobe, Tas. : 1887 - 1888)

SA
Australian Christian Commonwealth (SA : 1901 - 1940)
Blyth Agriculturist (SA : 1908 - 1954)
Border Chronicle (Bordertown, SA : 1908 - 1950)
Christian Colonist (SA : 1878 - 1894)
Critic (Adelaide, SA : 1897-1924)
The Express (Adelaide, SA : 1922 - 1923)
Glenelg Guardian (SA : 1914 - 1954)
The Pennant (Penola, SA : 1946 - 1954)
Port Adelaide News (SA : 1904)
Port Adelaide News (SA :1913 - 1933)
Quorn Mercury (SA : 1895 - 1954)
Sport (Adelaide, SA : 1911 - 1948)
The Terowie Enterprise (SA : 1884 - 1891)
Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser (SA : 1878 - 1922)
Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser and Miners' and Farmers' Journal (SA : 1875 - 1878)
Yorke's Peninsula Advertiser and Miners' News (SA : 1872 - 1874)

Vic
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)

WA
The Australian (Perth, WA : 1917 - 1923)
The Avon Gazette and Kellerberrin News (WA : 1914 - 1916)
The Avon Gazette and York Times (WA : 1916 - 1930)
The Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA : 1905 - 1920; 1945 - 1954)
Coolgardie Miner (WA : 1894 - 1917)
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)

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Cheltenham Cemetery grave locator
http://www.focrc.org/locategrave.htm

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**NEW ZEALAND**

**New Zealand** – FindMyPast has put online a small but important collection of New Zealand registered teachers for the year 1906. The collection is from an official government list of some 4,000 teachers and includes the teacher's name, gender, district position, school name and level of qualification. The collection can be searched by first name, last name and district or region. Access is by subscription. [New Zealand 1906 Teachers List]

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Save the whales. Collect the whole set.

A day without sunshine is like, night.

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

## NEW ZEALAND

FindMyPast has added some 3 million more birth, marriage and death index records from New Zealand. The birth and marriage indexes cover records from 120 or more years ago. The death index covers anyone who died at least 50 years ago. Please note these are indexes only and contain only basic information such as (for the birth index) name, year of birth, mother's name, father's name and registration number. Access is by subscription. [New Zealand Birth Index]

Alternatively, you can go to the official New Zealand government website to order the full official birth, marriage and death records, which can be searched by family name or registration number (which the FindMyPast index will provide). Information available includes:

• Births that occurred at least 100 years ago (50 years ago for stillborn births).
• Marriages that occurred at least 80 years ago.
• Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago (or for anyone who died and was born at least 80 years ago).

There is no cost to search the records but there is a charge to receive a copy of the official legal document. [Official Historic New Zealand Birth Marriage Death Records]

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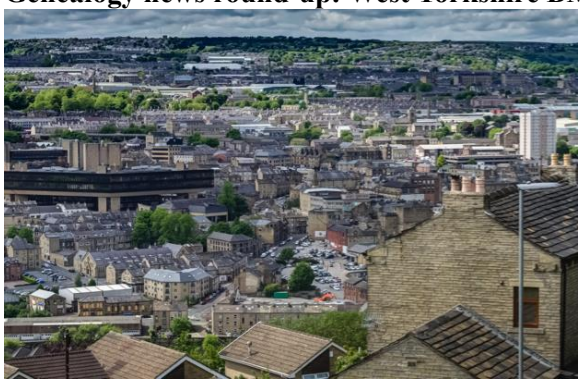
## ENGLAND

**Genealogy news round-up: West Yorkshire BMD records go** online



Thousands of historic West Yorkshire records have been made available online for the first time. Members of Calderdale Family History Society and volunteers at Calderdale Libraries have now finished compiling a free index of birth, marriage and death announcements published in the *Halifax Guardian*, dating back to the first edition of the newspaper in December 1832. In total, more than 394,000 events are listed, spread across 58 separate PDF documents. Click here to explore now.

*The new resource provides details of births, marriages and deaths in the Metropolitan Borough of Calderdale, including the town of Halifax (Photo: Getty Images)*

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### The National Archives confirms changes to fees

The National Archives has increased the price of several key services. The cost of downloading documents via the Discovery catalogue has increased from £3.30 to £3.45 per file, while the price of photocopying documents on-site at Kew has risen from 25p to 30p per sheet. Family historians who call upon staff at The National Archives for their research services will also now be required to pay £27.30 for 15 minutes' worth of work (previously £25). To view a full summary of new costs, click here.

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### FamilySearch updates Durham collection

Over 35,000 document scans in FamilySearch's collection of Durham marriage bonds and allegations have now been indexed. The records, which span 1692 to 1900, have been free to browse for a number of years but are now being made fully searchable.

FamilySearch has also recently finished adding two million images of Italian civil registration records, covering the Calabria region between 1870 and 1943. Due to licensing restrictions, the images are only available to view at an LDS Family History Centre. To find your nearest centre, click here.

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The **Kent** History and Library Centre historyandlibrarycentre@kent.gov.uk

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How do you tell when you're out of invisible ink?

### Websites add historic Merchant Navy records

Details of more than 240,000 merchant seafarers active between the First and Second World Wars have been published on Findmypast. Spanning 1918-1941, the latest records to be added to the site comprise index cards created by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen to keep track of people serving on British Merchant Navy vessels. In many cases, the cards contain a photograph and the signature of the seaman.

Rival subscription website Ancestry has also uploaded the Shipping and Seamen WW1 and WW2 Rolls of Honour to its collections. Spanning eight volumes, the digitised books list the names of merchant seamen who died during the conflicts.

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### Catholic Family History Society launches new site

The Catholic Family History Society (CFHS) has overhauled its official website. Located atcatholicfhs.co.uk, the new-look platform boasts a cleaner design, brighter colour scheme and improved navigation for users accessing the site on smart phones and tablet devices. Split into the three main sections – Services, Publications and Research Pointers – the site contains a wealth of information for users looking to trace their Catholic kin, including details of every journal published by the CFHS since 1983 and links to handy online resources.

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**UK** – FamilySearch.org has released an additional 2.5 million records from the 1861 England and Wales census. The data was provided by FindMyPast as part of the data exchange agreement between the two entities. It is not clear what percentage of the records from this census has gone online at FamilySearch.

This census covers England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. It was taken on 7 April 1861. Please note that records from this census are missing from the following regions: North Aylesford, Kent; Northfleet, Kent; and from Shoreditch, Middlesex.

Only people who were home on the night of this census are listed in the forms. So if you had a relative that was in the navy, merchant marine, army or had any job that required them to travel or work in the evening then they may not be listed in this census. These records can be searched by first name, last name, gender, place and relationship to the head of the household. Access is free. [1861 England Census]

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**England** – FindMyPast has enhanced their *1939 Register*, which was just released with much fanfare last October (see the October 2015 commentary below). Now the collection can be browsed by county, borough/district, piece number and ED letter code. This provides a complement to performing name searches for those who may have trouble finding their ancestors but know roughly where they lived. Access is by subscription. Just a reminder that the 1939 Register is now included with the 12-month subscription package at FindMyPast. [Browse 1939 Register]

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**England** – FindMyPast has released a collection they call *Devon, Plymouth and West Devon Parish Chest Records*. Apparently, this is an eclectic mix of documents from parish chests of Plymouth and West Devon. This includes such things as the levying of taxes, the selection of juries and even pew rentals within a given church. Just to be clear, these are not baptism, marriage or burial records.

At one time, Anglican churches in England performed many duties that today would be associated with the government (such as collecting taxes for the crown, maintaining local roads, etc.). The records were usually kept in a locked chest at the local parish church, thus the name *parish chest records*.

The records in this collection list the individual's name, the type of event and the date of the event. The records span the years from 1556 to 1950. There are about 434,000 records in this collection. Each record includes a transcript and an image of the original parish record. Access is by subscription. [Plymouth and West Devon Parish Chest Records]

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42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

**Wales** – FindMyPast has added 6.4 million new articles to their historic British newspaper collection. The latest addition includes 26 brand new titles, of which 19 are from Wales. If you are looking for a particular newspaper, use the By Newspaper filter to bring up all the titles. Alternatively, you can search by place and county. Access is by subscription. [Historic Welsh Newspapers]

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**England** – FindMyPast has added over 240,000 records to their British Merchant Seamen collection. These records span the years from 1918 to 1941 (basically from the end of WWI to the middle of WWII). These records are essentially index cards that the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen used between the two wars to track merchant seamen who served on British merchant vessels.
The typical record lists the name, year of birth, place of birth and rank of the seaman. Sometimes additional information is given, such as a physical description and address of next of kin. Some even contain the signature of the seaman. The records can be searched by first name, last name, year of birth and birth country. Access is by subscription. [WWII British Merchant Seamen]

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**England** – FindMyPast has added a variety of Norfolk County baptism, marriage and burial records. In total, there are 1.8 million new baptism records, some 950,000 new marriage records and 1.4 million new burial records. The records seem to go back as far as 400 years ago. Each record consists of a transcript plus an image of the original record. The records can be searched by first name, last name, date range and parish. Access is by subscription. [Norfolk Baptism Records]

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### Isle of Man records go online

Findmypast has expanded three of its Isle of Man record collections as part of a new schedule of uploads. More than 422,000 records have been added to Findmypast's 'Isle of Man, Births and Baptisms 1600-2010' collection and a further 167,000 records have been added to its 'Isle of Man Marriages 1598-1979' collection. Finally, those searching for Manx kin can delve into a further 249,000 records that have been added to Findmypast's 'Isle of Man, Deaths and Burials 1598-2011' collection.

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### York

The **York's Archbishops' Registers from 1225 to 1650** are now available online. The available records include 21,647 high quality images of 45 Archbishops' Registers. Held at the Borthwick Institute, these documents record the formal acts of the Archbishop of York. They are the earliest systematic records of the archbishops' office, and document the government of the Church, the management and staffing of parishes and the Church's oversight and regulation of the moral and spiritual conduct of the mass of the population across Yorkshire, Northern England and beyond.
The period covered by the Project spans the struggles over Magna Carta; the Anglo Scottish wars; the loss of nearly a quarter of the population to the Black Death in 1349; the Wars of the Roses; the societal earthquake of the Reformation and the first English Civil War in the seventeenth century. The registers are key sources for the study of medieval and early modern religious and political history, for art and buildings history, for studies of the historic environment, and for legal and economic history, to name but a few of the areas covered. As a result of the project, the content of the registers is now open to a much wider audience, including genealogists and local historians.
You can learn more at http://www.york.ac.uk/borthwick/projects/archbishops-registers/ while the records themselves are available free of charge by starting at https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/.
You can also browse the Registers by name at:
https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/browse/people?all=yes&letter=**x**. (Substitute the first letter of the last name in place of "x"in that address. For instance, to find the list of all names beginning with the letter "B", go to https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/browse/people?all=yes&letter=B.)

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## SCOTLAND

The last inhabitants of the remote island community of St Kilda are listed among the Scots digitally captured in the latest release of Valuation Rolls on ScotlandsPeople.
Over 2.5 million indexed names are now available and are FREE* to search as an introductory offer. Fully searchable by name and address, the new records provide a window into the lives of every owner, tenant and occupier of property in Scotland in 1930, and a glimpse into the industrial and economic landscape between the two World Wars, almost 20 years after the last published Census of 1911.
**Index for Valuation Rolls 1930 is free to search until 17 March 2016 and 1 credit per page of 25 results thereafter. Images can be viewed for 2 credits per record.*

Search the 1930 Valuation Rolls index for FREE

### The last remaining households on St Kilda

The 1930 Valuation Rolls record a snapshot of the remote island community of St Kilda before the evacuation of the island's dwindling population on 29 August 1930. St Kilda was Britain's remotest settlement, lying more than 40 miles west of the Outer Hebrides off Scotland's north-west coast. By 1930, life on the remote archipelago was becoming untenable, and only 36 islanders remained. Recorded in the 1930 Valuation Rolls are just 16 householders, many of whom petitioned for resettlement on the mainland later that year. Read more about St Kilda's last remaining inhabitants.

### Learn more about ScotlandsPeople at National Records of Scotland

http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

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Look out for some exciting new records coming to **ScotlandsPeople** in the near future.
Valuation Rolls for 1930 will be made available on 3 March 2016. Fully searchable by name or address, the new records are an interesting snapshot of the property and social landscape of Scotland 1930, and are a vital resource for capturing the location of your ancestors beyond the published census years.
Also coming soon is a refresh of the statutory indexes to include the new birth, marriage and death entries for 2015. You will soon be able to search the indexes of all birth, marriage and death events that took place in Scotland in 2015. Read the annual report released by National Records of Scotland which reveals Scotland's top baby names of 2015.
http://tracking.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

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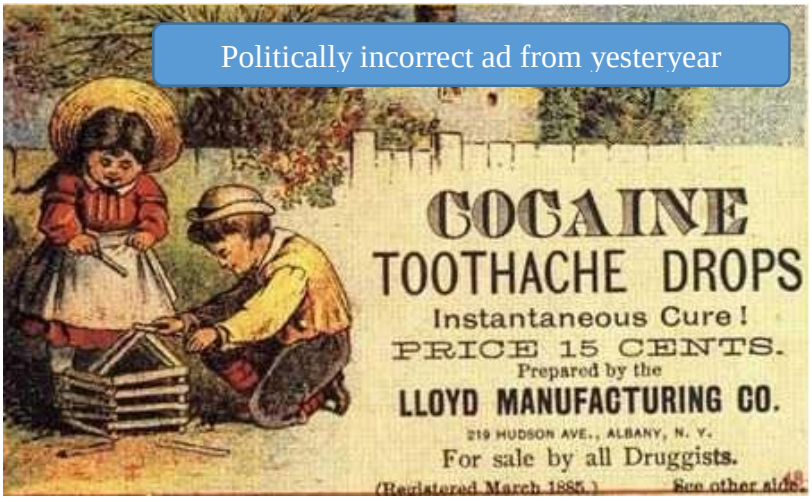
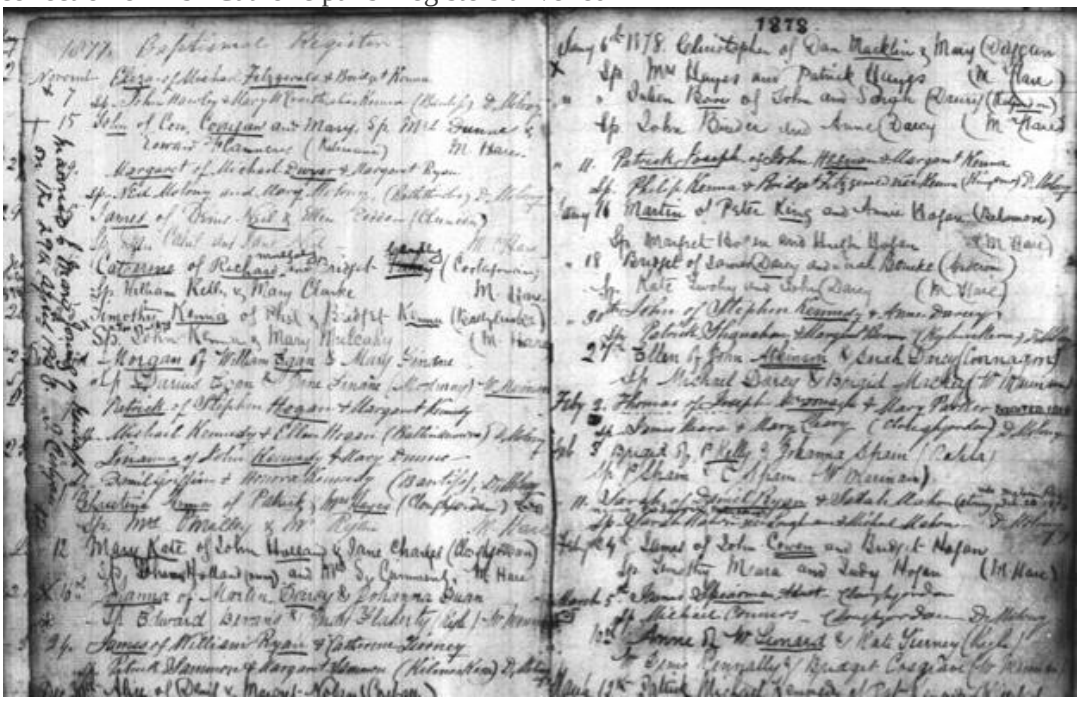
Politically incorrect ad from yesteryear



**IRELAND**

Vast collection of Irish Catholic parish registers unveiled



*Findmypast has announced the release of 10 million Irish Catholic parish registers, which includes 3,500 baptism and marriage registers (Photo: National Library Ireland)*

The records span the years from roughly the mid 1700s to 1900 and cover over 1,000 parishes. It appears that these will be primarily baptism and marriage records (with a small number of burial records) that have been transcribed from the collection held by the National Library of Ireland. The records cover both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

At the moment, FindMyPast has about 80 million Irish records and Ancestry has about 45 million Irish records so these new records in March will be a substantial addition for both firms.

The video https://youtu.be/eQZvSCZj7ro from FindMyPast provides an excellent overview of Irish records in general and highlights why land records and court records are very important to anyone with Irish ancestors.

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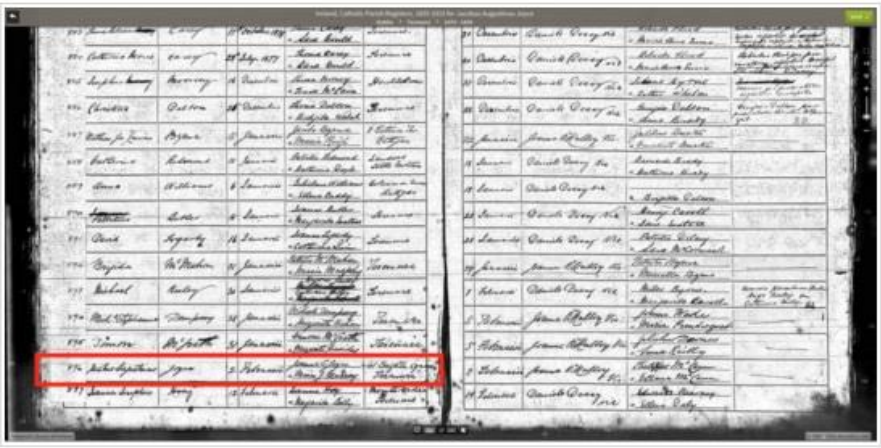
Everyone seems to be adding the Irish Catholic Parish Records to their collections. Findmypast announced the addition two days ago. Now Ancestry.com has made a similar announcement:

"We are pleased to announce 10 million historic Catholic Parish records from Ireland have been indexed and are now available online.



Baptismal record for James Joyce, source: ancstry.me/1WTBs7n, Published under the National Library of Ireland's Terms of Use of Material made available on registers.nli.ie.

"This is the largest collection of its kind available digitally, and means that Ancestry now offers access to more than 55 million Irish records – making it a significant resource for people around the world tracing their Irish roots.
"Indexed from digital images created by the National Library of Ireland (NLI), the Ireland, Catholic Parish Registers 1655-1915 collection includes baptism, marriage, burial and confirmation records from more than 1,000 parishes, and over 3,500 registers, in Ireland. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the original images linked online."
You can read the full announcement in the Ancestry.com Blog at http://goo.gl/dwn3ba.

**BMD records added to RootsIreland**

RootsIreland has added more than 51,000 birth, marriage and death records to its collections. The majority of these records relate to baptisms and marriages in Roman Catholic churches in Belfast from 1900 to 1930 that are not available online elsewhere. The website has also added more than 27,000 burial records from Milltown, the main Catholic cemetery in Belfast. These records include the name, age and address of the deceased and cover just the first volume of burial registers from 1869 when the cemetery opened, to 1895.

**Archive offers free access to Easter Rising newspapers**

A vast set of newspapers published during the Easter Rising are now available to explore for free. The Irish Newspaper Archives website is temporarily offering access to the full range of regional and daily titles in its collections from 1916, providing a snapshot of life during one of Ireland's most turbulent periods. There is no charge for viewing the pages, but access requires submission of a name and email address. Click here to search.

## EUROPE

**Germany**

The following is reprinted from a previous newsletter of the International Settlers' Group – a service group of the GSV.

### Confusion over Saxon and Prussian Wends

**With quite a few of our members with German ancestry, I thought this article of some merit.**

It is easy for Australians to confuse countries and events in Europe such as the Kingdom of Saxony with the Kingdom of Prussia. Both were completely separate countries when our ancestors left for Australia. The Saxons were proud of the country and when they arrived in Australia described themselves as Saxons and not Germans. The Prussians were just as proud of being Prussians. It has been that way for centuries.

To complete it further for us, about half the Wends lived in Prussia and the other half lived in Saxony, a completely different country, under a different king, with different laws, customs and history.

Here are two examples:

(1.) When Napoleon Bonaparte's professional armies invaded Europe, they lived off the land and often camped in one spot over winter. The countries they invaded had to decide if they would support Napoleon's troops for fight them. When they came to the Kingdom of Saxony, their King took sides with Napoleon and supplied troops for his battles. On the other hand, the King of Prussia (along with the Emporer's of Russia and Austria.) combined to fight against Napoleon.

One of the great battles was centred in the Wendish village of Wurschen in Saxony, Napoleon won the battle and the name of Wurschen is still on dislpay in large letters of the Arc de Tromphe in the centre of Paris along with Napoleon's other great victories. The children of some of the Wends who witnessed this battle went to school at Wurschen and later emigrated to Australia. (The British called it the Battle of Bautzen but the French call it the Battle of Wurschen. One can read about it on the internet.) Thus the Saxon Wends fought in battles against the Prussian Wends.

When Napoleon was defeated and his conquerors met at the Congress of Vienna in 1815 to re-arrange the borders of Europe, more than a third of Saxony was given to Prussia as punishment for supporting Napoleon. (Inagine how one would feel if a third of Australia became part of another country.) One shouldn't confuse the Wends of Saxony who came to Australia with the Wends of Prussia. The Prussians and Saxons might all have `spoken German but they belonged to different countries.

(2.) When a Prussian King tried to force the Lutheran and Reformed Churches to combine in his Kingdom, the Lutheran people who opposed him were persecuted under strict laws. A few hundred left for South Australia and were the first large group of Lutherans s to migrate to Australia. The king of Prussia died in 1840 and even though the persecutions ended,another group of Lutherans who had been given permission to leave, left for Australia several years later. In 1844 the laws were repealed.

In contrast, the Kings of Saxony never persecuted Lutherans. If your ancestors came to Australia from Saxony, you can be certain they didn't leave because of religious rersecution. Despite this, one often reads in Family Histories of Australians with Saxon ancestry that they left because of religious percecution. It is estimated that less than one percent of German speaking people who migrated to Australia in the 1800s came because of religious persecution.

**Article by Kevin Zwar, Researcher.**

**Marriages for the Province of Pose**

**The "Posnan Project" is an index to marriages in the Province of Posen from 1835-1885, including the Lutheran and Catholic marriages.**
It appears to be an ongoing project: http://bindweed.man.posnan.pl/posem/search.php

## Records from Prussian Lands now in Poland

**The European Interest Group Newsletter, June 2009 contains web pages of interest for European Research.**
The Gazetteer of the former German Territories east of the Oder-Neisse Rivers, as of 1905 contains over 80,000 names, including over 34,000 name changes. It lists the German, Polish and Russian names of villages and provides the names of parishes both Lutheran and Catholic, as well as the local civil registration office: http://www.kartenmeister.com

## German Genealogical Websites

**The International Settlers' Group is part of the Genealogical Society of Victoria and therefore has access to a vast amount of genealogical information.**
Its October 2009 Newsletter provides the following useful websites: http://tinyurl.com/yhfbvep http://www.belgard.org/Inhalt.htm http://meeklenburgkontakte.de/

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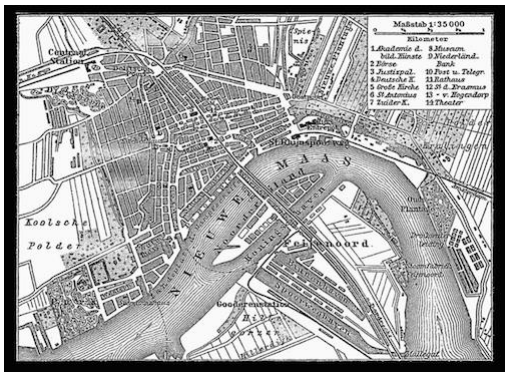
**Holland**
The following is an extract from an article in the MyHeritage Blog:




We have just added over 5 million Dutch records to MyHeritage SuperSearch™, including Birth, Marriage and Death records from the Rotterdam City Archives. Hailing from the Dutch province of South Holland, this collection represents an extremely valuable part of Rotterdam heritage from the early 19th century and on.

*Rotterdam in 1888 (Image Credit: Wikipedia)*
Search the Rotterdam City Archives now!

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Plan to be spontaneous - tomorrow.

## U.S.A.

**US** – FamilySearch.org in concert with the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAHGS) and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture have announced the project to transcribe the Freedmen's Bureau records has reached the important milestone of one million transcribed records. Nearly 16,000 volunteers have contributed to this effort. The target is to get the entire collection online by the middle of June 2016.

This is a major announcement for anyone with African American ancestors. It will allow people to extend their family histories to dates before the 1870 national census.

We have talked extensively about Freedman's Bureau records before. For those who are not familiar with this incredibly important genealogical resource, please see the video below. [Discover Freedmen] [Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society]

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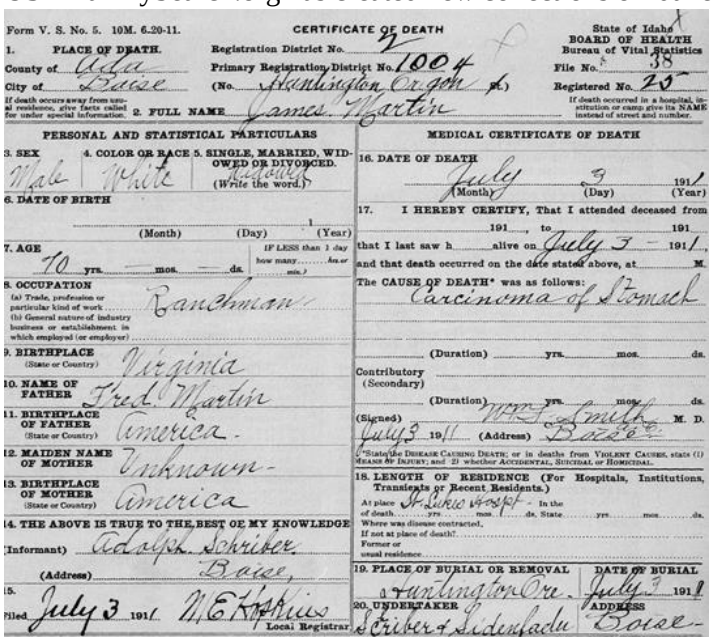
**US** – FamilySearch.org has created new collections of Idaho birth indexes (1861 to 1911) and death indexes (1938 to 1961). In total, there are some 60,000 new birth indexes and some 118,000 death indexes. These records come from the Idaho Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics. A typical birth index lists the name of the person, date and place of birth, father's name, father's birthplace, father's age, mother's name, mother's birthplace and mother's age.

The death certificate indexes however just list basic information since the full death certificates are not yet available. FamilySearch does however have a separate collection of full death certificate records for Idaho for the earlier period from 1911 to 1937, as shown in the image, left. Access is free. [Idaho Birth Index] [Idaho Death Index 1938 to 1961] [Idaho Death Records 1911 to 1937]


Form V. S. No. 5. 10M. 6-20-11.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

State of Idaho
BOARD OF HEALTH
Bureau of Vital Statistics

1. PLACE OF DEATH.
County of Ada
City of Boise
If death occurs away from usual residence, give facts called for under special information.

Registration District No. 2
Primary Registration District No. 1004
(No. Huntington Oregon St.)

File No. 38
Registered No. 25
If death occurred in a hospital, institution or camp give its NAME instead of street and number.

2. FULL NAME James Martin

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. SEX Male
4. COLOR OR RACE White
5. SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED. Widowed (Write the word.)
6. DATE OF BIRTH (Month) (Day) (Year)
7. AGE 70 yrs. mos. ds. IF LESS than 1 day how many hrs. or min.
8. OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work Ranchman (b) General nature of industry business or establishment in which employed (or employer)
9. BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Virginia
10. NAME OF FATHER Fred. Martin
11. BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or Country) America
12. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Unknown
13. BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or Country) America
14. THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE (Informant) Adolph Schriber (Address) Boise
15. Filed July 3 1911 M E Hopkins Local Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16. DATE OF DEATH July (Month) 3 (Day) 1911 (Year)
17. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from 191 , to 191 that I last saw h alive on July 3 1911, and that death occurred on the date stated above, at M.
The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows: Carcinoma of Stomach
(Duration) yrs. mos. ds.
Contributory (Secondary)
(Duration) yrs. mos. ds.
(Signed) Wm F Smith M. D.
July 3 1911 (Address) Boise
*State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH; or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS OF INJURY; and 2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL or HOMICIDAL.
18. LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients or Recent Residents.)
At place of death St. Luke's Hospt. In the State yrs. mos. ds.
Where was disease contracted, If not at place of death?
Former or usual residence
19. PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Huntington Ore.
DATE OF BURIAL July 3 1911
20. UNDERTAKER Scriber & Sidenfadu
ADDRESS Boise

Early Idaho death certificates contain a fair amount of information. This death certificate from 1911 lists the full name of the deceased, date of death, place of death, sex, race, marital status, date of birth (if known), age, occupation, cause of death, place of birth, father's name, birthplace of father, mother's maiden name, birthplace of mother, place of burial, undertaker and even the length of residence in hospitals & institutions before the person died. *Image Source: FamilySearch.org*

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**US** – Newspapers.com (an Ancestry company) has digitized and put online historic newspapers from Poughkeepsie, New York. Included in this collection are the Poughkeepsie Journal (1785 to 2016) and the Poughkeepsie Eagle-News (1861 to 1974). These two journals combined provide some 1.3 million pages of information on the Hudson Valley. Access is by subscription. [Historic Poughkeepsie Newspapers]

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**US** – FindMyPast has released 33 million historic US marriage records. The records are being released in partnership with FamilySearch. Eventually, this collection will consist of some 100 million records. According to FindMyPast, some 60% of the records in this collection have never before been published online.

The records span the years from 1650 to 2010. Each record includes a transcript plus images of the original documents. This collection can be searched by first name, last name, date range, place, state, county, spouse's name, father's name and mother's name. In other words, there are lots of different ways to search. Access is by subscription. [Historic US Marriage Records]

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**US** – FamilySearch.org has indexed an additional 3.7 million Cook County, Illinois death records. These records date from 1878 to 1994 (although the records are missing for the years 1910 to 1915). Please note this collection excludes the city of Chicago records. This collection can be searched by first name, last name, gender and race. Access is free. [Cook County Illinois Death Records]

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**US** – FamilySearch.org has indexed an additional 312,000 marriage records from various counties in Kansas. These county marriage records span the years from 1855 to 1911 and can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Kansas County Marriage Records]
As well, FamilySearch.org has created a new index of Kansas City marriage records. It contains some 185,000 names and spans the years from 1811 to 1911. Please note this is an index only. The index can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Kansas City Marriage Index]

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**US** – FindMyPast has released 33 million historic US marriage records. The records are being released in partnership with FamilySearch. Eventually, this collection will consist of some 100 million records. According to FindMyPast, some 60% of the records in this collection have never before been published online.
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## CANADA

**Canada** – The Alberta Genealogical Society continues to grow their homestead database. It now contains some 520,000 entries dating from as early as 1870 to as late as the 1950s. Most of the records in the database are essentially indexes and pointers to land records held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. The index, however, does indicate the section, township, range and meridian of the farm. This provides sufficient information to be able to narrow down the location of your ancestor's farm. In the Alberta Genealogical Society collections there are lists of people who applied for land patents (basically a land grant), lists of people involved in the homesteading process (both those who completed the process and those who abandoned the process) as well as various other lists. Land records are a valuable source for anyone tracing early ancestors in Alberta. The indexes can be searched by first name and last name. Access is free. [Historic Alberta Land Patent Records]
For those who want to understand the Alberta township survey system, try this link from the Alberta government.

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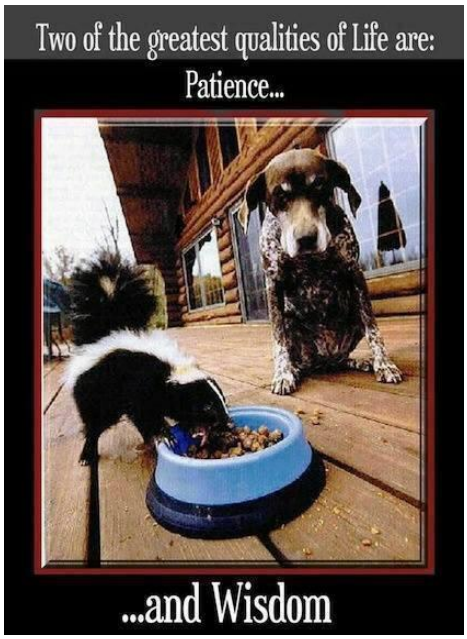
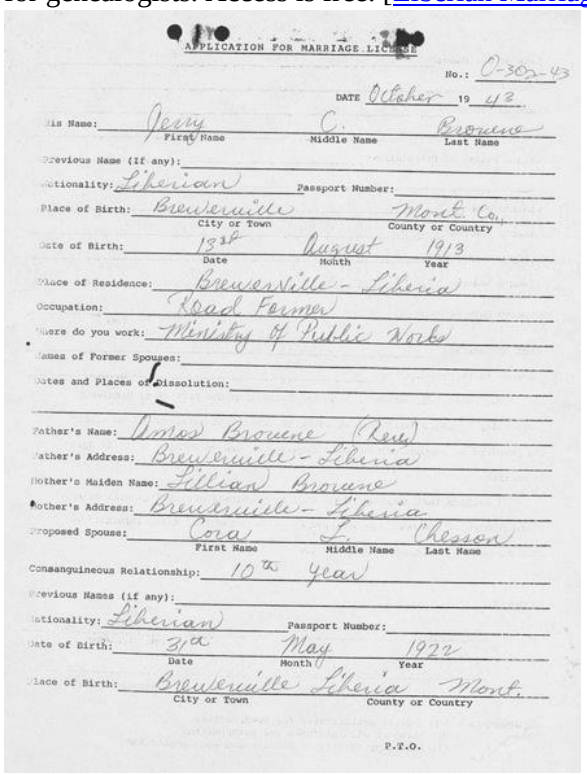


## AFRICA

**Liberia** – FamilySearch.org has created a new browsable image collection of Liberian marriage records. In total, there are some 25,000 images in this collection, which spans the years from 1941 to 1974. These records come from the National Archives in Monrovia, Liberia and consist of marriage applications, marriage licenses, marriage returns and various other types of documents that certify marriage. Below is a sample two-page marriage application, which contains lots of useful information for genealogists. Access is free. [Liberian Marriage Records]



APPLICATION FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE

No.: C-30-43

DATE October 19 43

His Name: Jerry (First Name) C. (Middle Name) Browne (Last Name)

Previous Name (if any):

Nationality: Liberian Passport Number:

Place of Birth: Brewerville (City or Town) Mont. Co. (County or Country)

Date of Birth: 13th (Date) August (Month) 1913 (Year)

Place of Residence: Brewerville - Liberia

Occupation: Road Farmer

Where do you work: Ministry of Public Works

Names of Former Spouses:

Dates and Places of Dissolution:

Father's Name: Amos Browne (Rev)

Father's Address: Brewerville - Liberia

Mother's Maiden Name: Lillian Browne

Mother's Address: Brewerville - Liberia

Proposed Spouse: Cora (First Name) L. (Middle Name) Chesson (Last Name)

Consanguineous Relationship: 10th Year

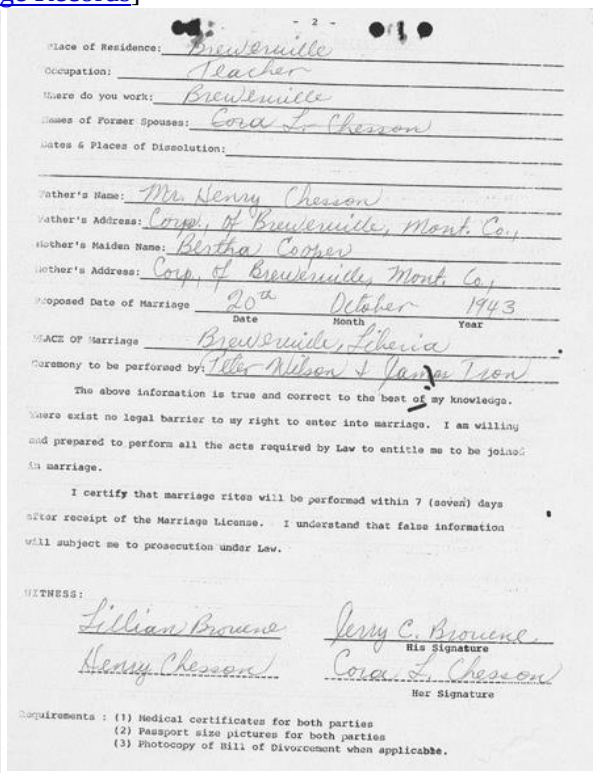
Previous Names (if any):

Nationality: Liberian Passport Number:

Date of Birth: 31st (Date) May (Month) 1922 (Year)

Place of Birth: Brewerville (City or Town) Liberia Mont. (County or Country)

P.T.O.



- 2 -

Place of Residence: Brewerville

Occupation: Teacher

Where do you work: Brewerville

Names of Former Spouses: Cora L. Chesson

Dates & Places of Dissolution:

Father's Name: Mr. Henry Chesson

Father's Address: Corp. of Brewerville, Mont. Co.

Mother's Maiden Name: Bertha Cooper

Mother's Address: Corp. of Brewerville, Mont. Co.

Proposed Date of Marriage 20th (Date) October (Month) 1943 (Year)

PLACE OF Marriage Brewerville, Liberia

Ceremony to be performed by: Peter Nelson & James Tron

The above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. There exist no legal barrier to my right to enter into marriage. I am willing and prepared to perform all the acts required by Law to entitle me to be joined in marriage.

I certify that marriage rites will be performed within 7 (seven) days after receipt of the Marriage License. I understand that false information will subject me to prosecution under Law.

WITNESS:

Lillian Browne — Jerry C. Browne (His Signature)

Henry Chesson — Cora L. Chesson (Her Signature)

Requirements : (1) Medical certificates for both parties
(2) Passport size pictures for both parties
(3) Photocopy of Bill of Divorcement when applicable.

The marriage application contains more information of interest to genealogists than the actual marriage certificate itself. One interesting thing that we noted about this particular sample is that judging by the handwriting; it appears one person wrote and signed for everyone. *Image courtesy of FamilySearch.org*

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## MISCELLANEOUS

### TreeView desktop software now on sale

S&N Genealogy Supplies has announced the launch of a brand-new desktop software package. TreeView, which has been designed for both Windows and Mac, is intended to help researchers organise and save their family tree data. Priced at £39.95, the software synchronises with TheGenealogist and can be used in conjunction with free TreeView apps for iOS and Android, enabling users to work between the offline and online versions of their family tree. Click here to find out more.

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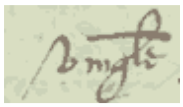
*It was that time, during the Sunday morning service, for the children's sermon.*
*All the children were invited to come forward.*
*One little girl was wearing a particularly pretty dress and, as she sat down, the minister leaned over and said, 'That is a very pretty dress. Is it your Easter Dress?'*
*The little girl replied, directly into the minister's clip-on microphone, 'Yes, and my Mum says it's a bitch to iron.'*

**Scottish Handwriting - Abbreviations**

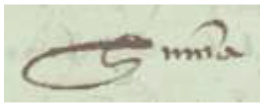
**Is the word abbreviated?**

Abbreviations such as ***Ms., Mrs., Mr., Dr. It'll*** and ***It's*** are widely used today. Before 1750, many more are found; the vestiges of a widespread medieval system of abbreviation.

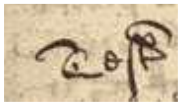
Clerks usually drew the attention of the reader to an abbreviated word by one of several ways:
1. A short line, usually straight but sometimes curled, above the words concerned. This is called a tittle, and denotes a contraction: that is, letters missing from the middle of the word, such as in the word below: *umquhile* (meaning 'deceased'). In this case the clerk has written *vmqle* with a tittle above.



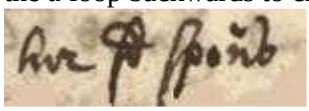
The most frequently omitted letters are *m* and *n*, or er, so try inserting each of these first to make possible sense of the word. The word below is *summa* (the Latin word meaning 'total'). The clerk has written *Suma* with a curled tittle above the m.



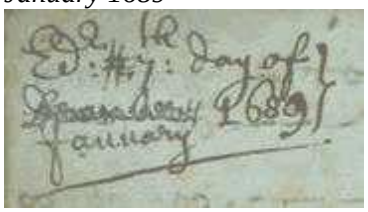
2. A flourish after a letter, usually the last letter in a word. The word below is *Testament*, but it has been abbreviated to *Test* and the clerk has made a mark of suspension after the last letter.



The phrase below is *hir* said *spous*, but the clerk has contracted the word said to just *sd*, and has made the *d* loop backwards to cross the *s*



3. A superscript letter - usually the last letter. A word was often abbreviated by writing the first few letters then the last letter (or a letter near the end of the word) superscript. For example, the word *Edinburgh* was frequently abbreviated this way to *Edr*. The example below reads *Edr. 7th day of January 1689*

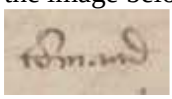


4. A special letter or symbol. The ampersand (&) is the special symbol indicating the word *and*. It was in use since medieval times and derives from the Latin word *et* meaning *and*. By the eighteenth century it is common to find it written like the modern typescript version. But this form was in use much earlier, as the example below (from the mid-seventeenth century) shows:

A simpler form, and one widely used in sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century texts consists of a curl with a small head (see example below)

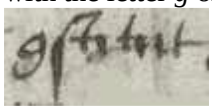
Depending how clearly this is written it can easily be confused with the letters *x*, *p*, or the secretary hand *h*. The ampersand is one of those letters or symbols which suffer from the idiosyncracies of the writer, especially an elaborate writer. The example below required at least four strokes of the pen.

Look out for abbreviations for the prefixes *con-* or *com-* in sixteenth and seventeenth century Scottish documents. There were two common ways of making such an abbreviation. Firstly, a contraction mark could be written in the form of a loop running up from the letter *o*, as in the word *co[m]mand*, in the image below.

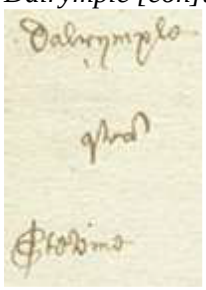


When written clearly this is not hard to detect, but if written sloppily, makes for difficult reading. In the word *co[n]vene* below, the *o* is not well formed and the contraction mark interferes with the letter *c*.

The second way of abbreviating the prefix *con-* was to use a special symbol, which is easily confused with the letter *g* or *q*. In the word *[con]stitut* below, the symbol for *con* looks very like *g*.



Use of the symbol for *con* was prevalent in legal records, especially in abbreviating Latin terms. The image below is from the margin of a burgh court book, and gives the name of the parties in the case: *Dalrymple [con]tra Stevine*



Want to know more go to - http://www.scottishhandwriting.com

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Findmypast has announced a raft of new global partnerships with leading technology providers in a bid to strengthen its presence in the United States.

Speaking at this year's RootsTech event in Salt Lake City, the company unveiled deals with RootsMagic, Legacy Family Tree and FamilySearch. Further hook-ups were also announced with Puzzilla, BillionGraves and RootsCity. Findmypast will make its vast collection of more than eight billion records available via these partners. The roll-out of these partnerships will begin this year, with exact dates to the confirmed later.

While the majority of the partnerships are US-focused, some, such as BillionGraves will also result in new UK records. Findmypast already has more than 400,000 records in its England Billion Graves Index and is looking forward to adding more. UK Findmypast users will also benefit from the partnerships with US-based firms in terms of both new software and record collections.

Ben Bennett, executive vice-president North America and International for Findmypast said: “2016 is going to see us expanding our partnerships across the United States. Our aim is to provide customers with more and more records and family history resources to aid them in their research. Regardless of where the customer is doing the research, we will bring the full benefit of more than eight billion records that Findmypast has in order to help them discover more about their family.”

In more Findmypast-related news from RootsTech, the company also announced the release of 10 million Irish Catholic parish register records in March. The collection covers 1671-1900 and will feature more than 1,000 parishes. A total of 3,500 baptism and marriage registers has been transcribed from the National Library of Ireland. In what is being hailed as a major release for those tracing their Irish roots, this is the first time that the collection has been indexed with images available online.

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**MyHeritage launches update of Family Tree Builder**

MyHeritage has announced a new version of its popular free software Family Tree Builder. Version 8.0 has a totally rewritten internal infrastructure that adds support for very large family trees of up to 500,000 individuals. The update also promises faster performance. You can download the new version of Family Tree Builder here.

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For those TMG users who also have Second Site (web site producing program for TMG), version 6 has just been released.
See http://ss.johncardinal.com/ssn069.htm for details and upgrade options.

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An Obituary printed in the London Times.....Absolutely Dead Brilliant!!

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death,
-by his parents, Truth and Trust,
-by his wife, Discretion,
-by his daughter, Responsibility,
-and by his son, Reason.
He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers;
- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim
- Pay me for Doing Nothing

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

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# BLUEY & CURLEY

The long running Australian cartoon strip, 'Bluey and Curley' was based on two residents of Elwood. Alex Gurney, creator of the strip was a long-time member of the Elwood Angling Club. The balding Alex was known in the club as 'Curley'. 'Bluey' was the nickname of his red-headed mate, Len Anderson, a council linesman. They shared a boat called 'Bluey and Curley' on innumerable fishing trips off Elwood Beach. Len 'Bluey' Anderson lived in an Edwardian villa (1927) at 9 Rothesay Avenue, Elwood from about 1937. Gurney was born in England in 1902. He migrated to Australia with his widowed mother taking up residence in Elwood at 7 Merton Avenue (now in Brighton) in about 1937. He became a prolific cartoonist for newspapers in Australia, New Zealand and Canada creating enormously popular Australian characters such as 'Bluey and Curley', 'Stiffy and Mo' (1927), 'The Daggs' (1929) and 'Ben Bowyang' (1933). Bluey and Curley were initially based on two larrikin diggers and readers followed their Aussie adventures from Britain to the army's occupation of Japan, to attempts at civvy life as wharfies, lion tamers and private detectives. Gurney also designed emblems for the South Melbourne Football Club and other clubs. He died in 1955.

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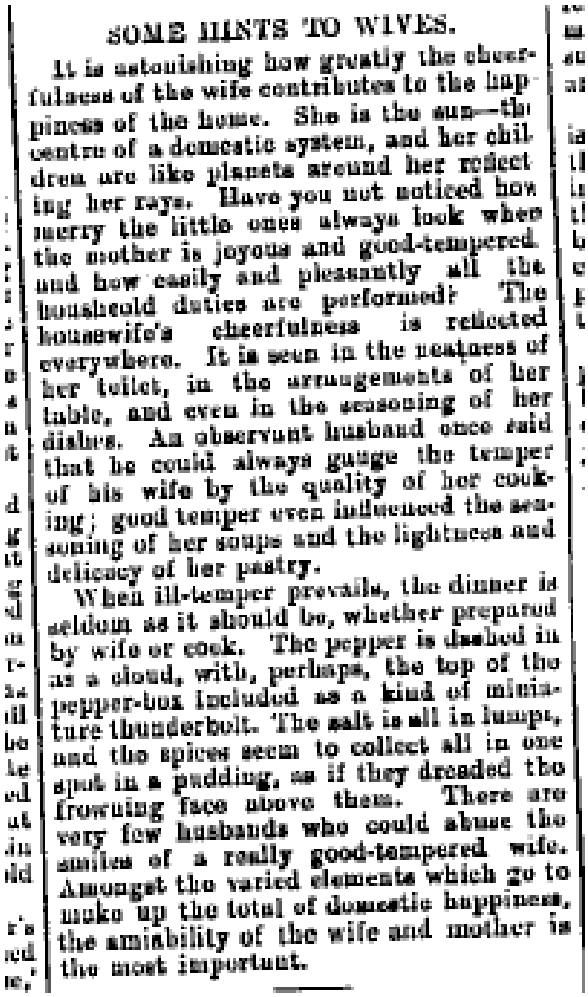
From the pages of the Bairnsdale Advertiser

Saturday, 8th February 1902,
Supplement Page 1



SOME HINTS TO WIVES.

It is astonishing how greatly the cheerfulness of the wife contributes to the happiness of the home. She is the sun—the centre of a domestic system, and her children are like planets around her reflecting her rays. Have you not noticed how merry the little ones always look when the mother is joyous and good-tempered and how easily and pleasantly all the household duties are performed? The housewife's cheerfulness is reflected everywhere. It is seen in the neatness of her toilet, in the arrangements of her table, and even in the seasoning of her dishes. An observant husband once said that he could always gauge the temper of his wife by the quality of her cooking; good temper even influenced the seasoning of her soups and the lightness and delicacy of her pastry.

When ill-temper prevails, the dinner is seldom as it should be, whether prepared by wife or cook. The pepper is dashed in as a cloud, with, perhaps, the top of the pepper-box included as a kind of miniature thunderbolt. The salt is all in lumps, and the spices seem to collect all in one spot in a pudding, as if they dreaded the frowning face above them. There are very few husbands who could abuse the smiles of a really good-tempered wife. Amongst the varied elements which go to make up the total of domestic happiness, the amiability of the wife and mother is the most important.

23rd January 1902

It is now announced that the object of the surveying party which was recently reported to be working in the Bruthen district is to make a flying survey of the route of the proposed Bruthen to Omeo railway. According to a communication received at Omeo from the Public Works department the Minister of Railways has authorised further flying surveys of the following suggested lines in East Gippsland, with the view of obtaining reliable data for estimating the cost of light, cheap railways on those routes:—Bruthen to Omeo, Orbost to Bendoc and Delegate, and Orbost to Bindi. Another party is engaged at present on the survey of the proposed Orbost to Bendoc line.

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