

Family History Newsletter

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The Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

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1911 UK Census for England and Wales

By Annette Fulford

<http://www.1911census.co.uk/>

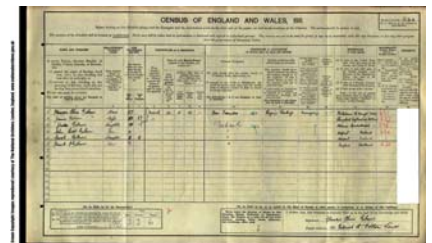
The 1911 UK census went online in January. This was exciting news because I wanted to track down my great grandparents and find out where they were living in 1911. The family moved around a lot and I was having trouble locating them in directories for the Sheffield area of Yorkshire, England.

The 1911 Census is available to you online by the pay-for-view website Find My Past, although it has its own separate website. You can search this census for free but you must purchase credits in order to view the census image or a transcription of the full household. It takes 30 credits to view the original page and 10 credits to view a transcription. It costs £6.95 for 60 credits, £24.95 for 280 credits, or £49.95 for 600 credits.

Each set of credits expires at different times. Make sure you are aware of this limit. Any credits you cannot use for the 1911 census can be used to obtain records from Find My Past, but not the other way around. If you already subscribe to the site Find My Past you cannot use those subscriptions to download census images at this time.

I searched the index for my great grandfather and found only one Francis Oliver Gibson who was living in Bolton, Lancashire, England. That was not where I expected him to be living. However, a search for additional family members indicated that I had the right family. The index includes the following headings: Household, Last names, First names, Sex, Birth Year, Age in 1911, District, and County.

I downloaded a copy of the original census page and it looks quite different from previous census records. The image is the original page that the family filled out on census night so there is only one family per page. It does not show the neighbours like previous census records do.



Some of the information contained in the census is different too. They ask for how many years married, how many children born alive, how many are still living and how many have died. The only information that is not available (although it was asked on the census form) is if a family member has an infirmity. The information in this column is covered due to privacy concerns.

1916 Census of Western Canadian Provinces — The Mysterious Case of the Disappearing Census

By Brenda L. Smith

Good news, bad news, and a little good news. The first good news came in early August 2008 when Library and Archives Canada released the following:

The 1916 Census of the Western Provinces (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) is now available at Library and Archives Canada. The self-serve microfilm reels (reels T-21925 to T-21956) are in the Microfilm Consultation room. ... Copies of the microfilm reels shelf-list have been placed in the Microfilm Consultation Room and at the reference desk in the Canadian Genealogy Centre. ... You will find more information about census records held at Library and Archives Canada on the Canadian Genealogy Centre webpages (<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911-e.html>).

The first bad news was a little slow dawning on most of us. By Christmas, copies of the films had not arrived at Cloverdale Library. The original announcement had informed us that "This census is only available on microfilm. It has not been digitized, so it is not available online on our (LAC) website.

But by late January, we realized that the films had indeed been digitized, and that FamilySearch Indexing had been beavering

away to produce an index that appeared briefly on the FamilySearch Labs pilot site with associated images. A lucky few family history researchers scooped images of this record that for the first time is available, not as enumerators' schedules, but the forms that each family filled in on census day. As this was a wartime census, it even asks questions about military service.

On behalf of colleagues and students, I asked FamilySearch Labs to tell me where the images had gone. And the reply: "The 1916 census was removed because of legal or contract reasons. I believe that the images will appear later on a Canadian site and our index will link to them."

And worse yet, a few days later, the index disappeared too. The FamilySearch Labs' reply to a similar query by the Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta gives a little more information:

The Canadian 1916 and 1901 censuses are not available on Record Search at this time due to contractual concerns. The contract specifies that the index, with links to the TGN's (The Genealogy Network, parent of Ancestry.com) images, will be made available to the general public in three years, on Dec 19 2011. The collections will be available, however, to FamilySearch members as soon as the authentication process in place. ...

The go live date will be Dec. 19, 2011. The second paragraph refers to a situation that isn't in place yet, where registered members of FamilySearch.org (including the general public) will be the only ones with access to Record Search. As that situation is not in place at this time. Anyone can access Record Search as of now and thus no one can access the 1916 census records. I know this sounds strange but it is due to the contract that was signed regarding this collection.

The contract that is cited above is between Library and Archives Canada and TGN. Some of the questions that arise from these communications include:

1. Who are FamilySearch members? Are they members of the LDS Church, or volunteers who participated in indexing this census record, or volunteers who participate generally in FamilySearch Indexing? How does one qualify?
2. What are the terms of the agreement between our national collections management institution and the commercial interests involved? A little transparency about access to our records is in order.
3. Where does the December 2011 release date come from? Following Canada's census release protocol, the 1916 records were released by LAC last summer after 92 years.
4. Can other volunteers work on indexing this census? And

post that work on some other Web site? Automated Genealogy <http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html> has served us well with earlier Canadian census indexes from 1851 of New Brunswick, 1852 of Province of Canada, 1901, 1906, and 1911.

As we continue to work for answers to these questions, you are encouraged to communicate to Library and Archives Canada what you think of this situation.

1-866-578-7777 (toll free in Canada and the US)
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/contact/index-e.html>

Library and Archives Canada
395 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4

The good news is that just two weeks ago, the 1916 census films arrived at Cloverdale Genealogy Collection of Surrey Public Library. And you can read them now.

Using Ancestry Library Edition

By Annette Fulford

Over the past month I have been making good use of the wonderful new resource on our Maple Ridge Library website – Ancestry Library Edition, which is for in library use only. Armed with family files, I set off to the library to see if I could verify information on several branches of my CLARK family who went to live in Kentucky.

I subscribe to the Ancestry email newsletter online at <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/WeeklyJournal.aspx>, so I knew that in this past year they added various Kentucky vital records to the US Collection.

Previously I had searched the Kentucky Death Index at the University of Kentucky <http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/> to see if I could learn when family members passed away. Now I wanted to verify that I had the correct death dates for these relatives and gather further clues about them from the original records.

My first search was for my great uncle's wife Mary (Dixon) CLARK. I was able to locate her death registration in 1925 quite easily. The original document confirmed that I had the correct person, but there was one surprise on the record – the informant was her daughter Mary (Clark) BUCKNER, who I thought had died before 1920. If Mary was still alive in 1925, then where was she living in the 1920 US Census?

During my previous research I found a transcription of the family in the 1920 US Census living at Henderson, Kentucky online. It told me that the Head of Household was Thomas BUCKNER, a male, and Mary CLARK, a female, was listed as his Mother. Both were listed as widows.

Initially, I thought they forgot to add "in law" to Mary CLARK's information, but I went back to view the original record with

fresh eyes. What I found was that Thomas BUCKNER was listed as a female on the original record! She should have been listed with her own first name or by Mrs. Thomas BUCKNER. I had missed this important clue.

There was no sign of the BUCKNER's daughter, who was born in 1889 and was also named Mary. I assumed by then she was married, but I didn't know her new surname. The only additional information I had on her from the family history notes was that she lived in Jackson, Mississippi.

With this new information in hand, I searched the 1930 US Census and found Mary C. BUCKNER promptly. She was living with her daughter Mary GUILBERT in Jackson, Mississippi. Another look on the 1920 US Census revealed that Mary GUILBERT and her family lived two doors down from her mother and grandmother in Henderson.

New at the Maple Ridge Public Library

Maple Ridge Public Library now has the *Coquitlam Star* newspaper, 1911 to 1915, on microfilm.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, a time to recognize and honour the legacy of Black Canadians. Check out, Library and Archives Canada (LAC):

www.blackhistoryottawa.org

New Online Resources

Census of Canada, 1891

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1891/index-e.html>

Aboriginal Resources and Services

“At Library and Archives Canada, you will find published and non-published works from private and government sources. <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/aboriginal/index-e.html>

Canadian Civil Servants Lists of Canada, 1872-1900, Now Online on Ancestry.ca

“Canadian Civil Servants Lists of Canada, 1872-1900, which features more than 78,000 records of those employed in departments of the Canadian Government during the country's early days of Confederation.”

www.ancestry.ca.

Irish Civil Registration Indexes

At Family Search Labs; they include Births 1864-1958, Marriages 1945-1958, Deaths 1864-1958

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=2;t=searchable;c=1408347>

Heritage Week 2009: February 16 – 22

A Legacy of Learning – the Heritage of Education

By Brenda L. Smith

Take a moment to visit the displays in Maple Ridge Library celebrating education heritage.

And make time to read a little about the history of education in British Columbia in *Floating School, Frozen Inkwell: The One-Room Schools of British Columbia* by Joan Adams and Becky Thomas, Harbour Publishing, 1985.



Photo: Arras School, British Columbia Peace River Country, built in 1931. Collection of Brenda L. Smith

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Dave Obee Genealogy Seminars**, Saturday, May 2, 2009: 10:15 am – 4:30 pm.

Dave will present four lectures on genealogy, including

- The Error of our Ways;
- Newspapers in Family History Research;
- Tracing Forward to Find Distant Cousins; and
- Destination Canada (Immigration).

For more information, go to the AGS website at www.abbygs.ca.

Surrey Arts Centre

Introduction to Ancestry.com;
Trace Your Roots with DNA;
Reverse Genealogy: Techniques for Finding Your Lost Loved Ones;

Cases that Made my Brain Hurt! with **Megan Smolenyak**, Saturday, March 7, 2009, first session at 9:15 am.

Fee \$50.00 includes lunch. For tickets call 604-598-7328, or email genealogy@surrey.ca.

Cloverdale Library

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Winter 2009

- **Tracing Your Australian Connections: How to Locate an Australian in Your Family** with David Berry, Saturday, March 28, 2009: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.00.

Classes fill up quickly; if the course is full, put your name on the waiting list for the next available class.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Genealogy section of the Surrey Public Library website www.spl.surrey.bc.ca or call us at 604-598-7328 for further information and updates.

Burnaby Village Museum

6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby BC V5G 3T6 24-hour Information: 604.293.6501 Program Registration: 604.293.6500 <http://www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca>

- **Researching Your Female Ancestors**, with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, March 14, 2009: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Fee: \$10.50 (Registration code 175164).