

INTERNET GENEALOGY LOOKS AT WEBSITES AND RELATED NEWS THAT ARE SURE TO BE OF INTEREST

Net Notes

CANADIAN NATURALIZATION RECORDS /UPPER CANADA LAND PETITIONS

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/upper-canada-land/index-e.html

THE LIBRARY and Archives Canada (LAC) continues to make wonderful online databases and image collections available to researchers. A couple of recent additions include:

- Canadian Naturalization 1915-51 — now includes digitized images of the lists of names of people who applied for and obtained status as naturalized Canadians between 1932 and 1951; these lists were originally published in the *Canada Gazette*. The reference numbers indicated in the database can be used to request copies of the original naturalization records, which are held by Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

- Upper Canada Land Petitions: Following the Constitutional Act of 1791, the colony of Quebec was divided to create Upper Canada (today Ontario) and Lower Canada (today Quebec). Many early settlers, both military and civilian, submitted petitions to the Governor to obtain Crown land. Sons and daughters of Loyalists were also entitled to free lands. The Upper Canada Land Petitions contain petitions for grants or leases of land and other administrative records and provides access to more than 77,000 references to individuals who lived in present-day Ontario between 1783 and 1865.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY'S DIGITAL BOOKS TO INTERNET ARCHIVE

www.archive.org

THUS FAR, 250,000 of the University of Toronto Library's books have been digitized, with a goal of preserving 250,000 more in the archive. Via the Internet Archive, everyone with an Internet connection can access the University of Toronto's digitized material, as well as material from (among others) the libraries of Penn State, University of California, the British Library and the Boston Library Consortium.

To see what the University has transferred, visit www.archive.org/details/university_of_toronto, where

you can browse by title, author or specific library. If you have not visited this, one of my favorite online archives, before, it's time to remedy that — the ability to access fully digitized books, often with a range of format options (e.g., read online, PDF, B/W PDF, Epub, Kindle, Daisy, Full Text and DjVu) is invaluable and with the addition of the texts from the University of Toronto, you now have over two million texts that are free for you to use in your research.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

PHILADELPHIA CITY ARCHIVE

<http://phillyhistory.org>

THE PHILADELPHIA City Archive is one of the country's largest municipal archives, with an estimated two million photographs, dating from the late 1800s; over 92,000 of these photos and maps are now available through PhillyHistory.org. The archive management side of the site is also used by the Philadelphia City Archive staff to manage the collections, add more assets online, and receive feedback from public users.

This online geographically-enabled database of historic photographs and maps, has just added three collections from the Library Company of Philadelphia and over 1,100 photos from the Philadelphia Office of the City Representative. These images capture over 125 years of Philadelphia history. From these collections are photographs depicting Civil War recruiting camps outside Independence Hall, the ruins of the northeast corner of 6th and Market Streets after an 1856 fire, and the Western

Exchange Hotel at 15th and Market, which was then the western end of many omnibus lines.

All assets may be searched by keyword, date and combinations of other traditional search criteria. Assets that have been assigned a geographic location are also searchable by proximity to an Address, Intersection, Place Name, or Neighborhood. This latter capability means that you can use a location-aware iPhone application, <http://phillyhistory.org/i/>, to compare historic images to their present location. Being able to juxtapose historic images with the current reality tells us so much about how things have changed and yet often remained the same.

Whether you live in the city, have ancestors from Philadelphia, have visited the city before or just have a love for high quality images, do check out this website!

— DIANE L. RICHARD

GENEALOGY BLOG FINDER

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com>

WITH THE PLETHORA OF BLOGS, which at the time this article was going to press, include the 1,691 genealogy blogs included on the Genealogy Blog Finder site — a service of The Genealogue, www.genealogue.com — we could all use some help figuring out which ones exist!

If you haven't yet visited this site, you will want to. Whether you are looking for a familiar blog or just want to "see" what blogs might exist for a particular topic, this is the place to go.

At the very top of the page, you will find "quick links" that will take you to Recently Updated, What's New and Who's Blogging Where. These are for those of us who keep up with the various blogs and just need a refresher or want to learn about any new blogs.

The rest of the main page is devoted to a linked list of blog categories for you to choose from. There are too many categories (29) to all be listed here and some of the expected ones include: Genealogy News, Locality Specific, Cemeteries, Conferences, Documentary (digitized and transcribed documents), blogs for different ethnic groups, Genetic Genealogy, Libraries, Podcasts, Obituaries, etc. And, most blogs are listed in more than one category. This means you don't have to worry that you overlook something based on how it's categorized.

Given that I personally gravitate to News and Documentary blogs, I checked these two categories out to see if I was "missing out". When you click on any category, you are taken to a dedicated page. The default listing is alphabetical by title, though you can click on "Sorted by Date Updated" to see which sites have most recently been updated. The danger is that once you start checking out the blogs — you may find it hard to stop.

As far as the "News" category, I seem to get most of those blog entries forwarded to my e-mail. It's interesting that in looking at the most-recently updated Documentary blogs, I ended up being introduced to *Past Voices: Letters Home* which I talk about in the next paragraph. I also discovered *Civil War Days &*

Those Surnames, *ParishMouse*, *St. Vincent Memories* (Minnesota) and others.

Don't want to browse? There is also a search feature right at the top of every page. You can search on the blog directory or search the posts of the blogs. What a nice centralized way to see if any genealogy blogs have been discussing a topic of interest to you, an ancestral locale or maybe even a family member!

I put in one of my typical test phrases "Wake



Looking for a specific blog? Chances are, the Genealogy Blog Finder website can find it for you, and perhaps even help you find some you didn't even know existed!

County" and found pages and pages of entries. If you were searching on Wilie Daniel Clifton, you would learn that he was born in Wake County, NC and died in Itawamba County, MS — maybe not the first place you would have looked. Or, what about the fascinating letter transcribed at *Past Voices: Letters Home* written by John Tallen, William Eamle, Joseph Hannes in 1803, Justices of the Peace of Wake County, about Sam Johns, "entitled to freedom ... [planning] to travel to the Western Country."

Have a favorite blog and you don't find it listed? Just go to this page, http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/suggest_blog.asp, and fill out the requested information.

This simple-to-use website makes it easy to quickly learn about any number of genealogy blogs which are topically of interest to you or which may contain information relevant to your research.

— DIANE L. RICHARD

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