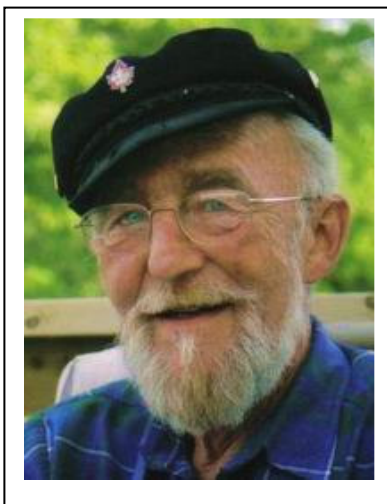


The Family Historian

Patrick Wohler

Column #29



English and Welsh BMD's

If your ancestor was born, married, or died in England or Wales and you need more information, then try <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>. Registration of these events began on 1 July 1837 and transcribers are inputting data up to 1983. They have over 70,000,000 records available so far. When you visit the site select "search", then it is a good idea to go to "a fuller explanation of how to get the most out of your search".

I did a search for Jeremiah Cronin from 1869 (the year before his birth) to 1950 in all categories (birth, marriage, death) and for all counties. There were 26 hits; 2 births, 8 marriages, and 16 deaths. Not a lot of information was provided. They give you a month and year, surname, given name, age (on the death record), District, Volume, Page, Transcriber.

Occasionally you can get really lucky and if there are only two people married in one district at the same time and one was a male and the other a female, there is a real possibility that they married each other. Otherwise there is no indication who the other spouse was.

This site is really an index to the British records and with the District, Volume, and Page of the record, you are in a position to order a copy of the record of the event. They also provide instructions and links for ordering copies of the certificates. There are consultants who will order these for you for a fee, but you can do it yourself and save a few dollars.

Genealogical Societies

Local genealogical and historical societies play a very crucial role in family history research. By bringing together people with a shared interest, they are able to help each other in their personal projects as well as to develop the energy, ability, and enthusiasm to undertake projects well beyond the scope of mere individuals. It is they we have to thank for finding and preserving documents, recording our cemeteries, indexing our censuses and church records, publishing research results and so many other projects that are a boon to the whole family history community.

If you haven't already done so, I invite you to consider joining your local group. Check out the Upper Ottawa Valley Genealogical Group at <http://uovgg.ca/index.html> or the Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society at <http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca/>.

Other Languages

Occasionally I have come across church documents written in Latin and I have some German ancestors and many of the records from Quebec are in French. I know others who have to deal with Polish and a variety of other languages.

Unless we are multi-lingual this can become a bit of a problem. Dictionaries for translating these languages into English are useful but limited by the fact that many languages change the word form for gender, tense, number, and a variety of other reasons. Furthermore many forms use abbreviations and archaic words.

The Mormons (LDS) have developed Genealogical Word Lists for most languages you could think of with English translations. To find these lists go to their website at: www.familysearch.org and select the 'Search' tab. Then click on 'Research Helps' and in the left hand menu select 'Sorted by Subject'. When the alphabet appears select 'L' and scroll down to the "Language and Languages" section. Here you will find the links to each language's word list.
