



## Genealogy Newsletter – March 2019

### Some important news this month...

The National Archive in association with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has awarded leading British & Irish family history website **Findmypast** the contract to digitise and publish the 1921 Census online, this census, which was the first to be conducted following the introduction of the Census Act of 1920, will be published online in January 2022.

The project will see **Findmypast** capture digital images and transcribe the records in a way that will enable family historians across the globe to conduct meaningful searches of these important records when they are opened for the very first time, taken on 19th June 1921, the census consists of original household returns containing detailed information on close to 38 million individuals.

It provides greater detail than any previous census as, in addition to the questions asked in 1911, the 1921 returns also asked householders to reveal their place of employment, the industry they worked in and the materials they worked with as well as their employer's name. Those aged 15 and older were required to provide information about their marital status, including if divorced, while for those under 15 the census recorded whether both parents were alive or if either or both had died and included detailed questions on education, and was the first in which individual householders could submit separate confidential returns?

**Tamsin Todd, CEO of Findmypast, says:** *“This announcement is important for all family historians tracing their ancestors living in Britain in the early twentieth century. It provides a fascinating snapshot of how people lived and worked in the years following World War 1, and it's all the more important because there's no surviving census for the next two decades until 1951”*

Also, **Findmypast** announced the acquisition of **RootsFinder, Inc.** and their critically acclaimed (<https://www.rootsfinder.com>) free online family tree product, which includes new features to help customers to import and analyse their autosomal DNA matches from Ancestry, 23andMe, MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA, along the same lines as **GEDmatch.com** reviewed in last month newsletter.

## **MyHeritage, announced that it is extending its DNA Quest initiative to reunite adoptees with their birth families through at-home DNA testing...**

The first phase of DNA Quest was launched in March 2018 and offered 15,000 free DNA kits to adoptees and those seeking to reunite with family members who were placed for adoption, and resulted in many successful reunions however, due to the large number of applicants, a waiting list of several thousand people was established after registration closed in May 2018.

Now, an additional 5,000 free DNA kits will be offered to eligible applicants from all countries with preference given to those who are unable to afford genetic testing. Applications are now open on (<https://www.dnaquest.org/>) and will close on the 30th of April 2019.

**MyHeritage**, one of the leading global services for genetic genealogy, also offers its latest innovation – **The Theory of Family Relativity™** – this technology offers users, for the first time ever, theories that utilize nearly 10 billion historical records and family tree profiles to explain DNA connections. Until now, family history enthusiasts used two distinct domains for making discoveries: the paper-trail world of records and trees, and the biological world of DNA connections. Now, MyHeritage has combined these two domains and integrated them seamlessly, and together with their new **AutoClusters** feature that automatically clusters and visualizes shared DNA matches, helping to shed light on the relationship paths, by grouping together a person's list of DNA matches into clusters of people who are likely to have the same common ancestor. Clusters are colour-coded for convenience and are presented in a powerful visual chart, as well as in list format (<https://www.myheritageDNA.com>)

**Ancestry** also announced new and improved DNA matches and with **ThruLines™** makes it easier than ever to make new discoveries – whether it's finding out which ancestors connect you to your DNA Matches or analysing how well you're DNA Match relationships line up with what you know about your family's history.

([www.ancestry.com/product/new-release](http://www.ancestry.com/product/new-release))

## Recently added new records online...

### Findmypast.co.uk

- Liverpool Roman Catholic Parish Records, over 1.4 million records have been released online for the first time in association with the Archdiocese of Liverpool. Between 1830 and 1930 about forty million people left Europe in search of a better life and roughly nine million of them sailed from Liverpool, then the largest emigration port in the world. These people were mostly travelling to North America, Australia and New Zealand – the ‘New World’ – and the millions of Irish, English, Scottish, Italians, Germans, Polish and many others who settled in or passed through the city are captured in city’s records.
- Liverpool Church of England Parish Records, over 2.2 million records have been added to their collection of Lancashire Church of England records
- England & Wales Non-Conformist Records, over 50,000 additional records added covering Methodist churches in the port city of Liverpool.
- Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Hearth Tax 1691
- Scotland, People of Banffshire 1334 – 1851
- National School Admission Registers & Log-Books 1870 - 1914

### FamilySearch.org

- England & Wales, National Index of Wills and Administrations, 1858 – 1957      1,788,466 indexed records added

### thegenealogist.co.uk

- Second World War Casualty Lists, with the release of more than one million entries for people sourced from collection WO 417 held at The National Archives, these documents contain records from the war years of 1939 to 1945 and list casualties sustained by the British Army during the Second World War.

**The Federation of Family History Societies** is changing its name and is rebranding as the ‘Family History Federation’ and will officially be launch at Family Tree Live, at Alexandra Palace on 26th April 2019 along with a new-look website...

Finally, we have had 8 new genealogy/family history start-up groups, so far this year, compared to just 13 for all of 2018.

