

## December 2019 Newsletter

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The family history site at [www.jamescobban.net](http://www.jamescobban.net) is currently getting over half a million “hits” per month!

It has been over three years since I last wrote to you and there has been a lot of change in the implementation of the site.

One obvious change is that the appearance has changed to bring the site into agreement with modern concepts of presentation. One motivator of those changes is the increasing use of mobile devices such as tablets and cell-phones to access on-line services. These devices have smaller displays and cannot afford to waste “real-estate” on infrequently used functions. These capabilities are consolidated in a main menu button, also called a “hamburger” button because its three horizontal bars are suggestive of a hamburger bun and patty. This button, at the top left of every page, consolidates a range of functions that used to be spread all over the page:

- The hierarchy of pages within which the current page is located.
- The ability to sign on to the site or access your account.
- The ability to switch to a different preferred language of communication.
- A link to the help page for the current page.
- A link to a page describing the site as a whole.
- A link to send a secure message to the owner(s) of the current page.

For example:



This consolidation leaves room for advertising and links to social media at the top, and removes the old page footer. The design leaves this header displayed at the top of the page, while if necessary the body of the page scrolls, so that the main page menu is always available.

The entire site is now multi-lingual. In particular the main page describing a family is available in English, French, Spanish, and German. The following is an example of such a page displayed to someone who requests the use of German:

## Eliza Hodgins (um 1834—9 Mai 1918)

Eliza Hodgins war die Tochter von [Edward Hodgins](#). Sie wurde geboren um 1834 in Ireland. [1](#)[2](#)[3](#) Sie hat im 1901 in Centralia, Stephen, Huron, ON, CA gelebt. [4](#) Sie starb auf 9 Mai 1918 in N ½ lot 12 con 11, McGillivray, Middlesex, ON, CA. [5](#) Die Todesursache war Paralysis, 3 weeks, Paralysis & Heart Failure, 7 hour . Sie wurde begraben in St Marys Anglican Cemetery, Brinsley, McGillivray, Middlesex, ON, CA. [5](#)

Sie verheiratet [Joseph Wasnidge](#) auf 21 Februar 1856 in London, ON, CA.

Joseph Wasnidge war der Sohn von [Michael Wasnidge](#) und [Ann Wifeofmichaelwasnidge](#). Er wurde geboren um 1827 in Sheffield, Yorkshire, England. Er arbeitete als Farmer im 1861 in lot 12 con 11, McGillivray, Middlesex, ON, CA. Er starb im Oktober 1861 . Er wurde begraben in Toronto Necropolis Cemetery, Toronto, ON, CA.

### Kinder von Eliza Hodgins und Joseph Wasnidge:

- [1 William Wasnidge \(22 Januar 1857—25 Marz 1921\)](#)
- [2 Elizabeth Wasnidge \(um 1859—\)](#)
- [3 Henry Wasnidge \(um 1859—\)](#)
- [4 Joseph Wasnidge \(13 Mai 1862—16 Dezember 1943\)](#)

Sie verheiratet [John Hodgins](#) auf 28 Februar 1870 in Ailsa Craig, Middlesex, ON, CA. [6](#)

The objective of the site, in contrast with most commercial sites, is to maintain a single family tree without duplication of individuals so that everything that anyone knows about an individual is available in one place. However it is recognized that there may be multiple independent research projects operating simultaneously. Therefore the site now supports multiple views, each of which sees by default only a subset of the tree. At the moment in addition to the main view, which is called “South-Western Ontario”, there is another view “Royals” which as an example demonstrates a family tree of the Royal Family of Scotland. A single ancestor may be a member of multiple views and may have different names in those distinct views.

## Security on the Web

Since most people spend a considerable part of their lives using on-line services it is critical to protect the information that you contribute to social media sites, including this one. In the early days users tried to think up passwords that they could memorize. The most common choice is “password”. Sites started demanding the use of mixtures of characters, but that just led to passwords such as “P@\$\$w %rd” which are still too easy to break. Web-sites do not record your password. What they do record is the result of applying a mathematical expression with your password as one of its inputs.

Unfortunately hackers use easy passwords like that to identify exactly which algorithm each site uses. Once they identify the algorithm used to hash the password the hackers can then identify the passwords used by other clients.

So the rules of the New Internet are:

- NEVER use the same password on more than one site, because as soon as your account has been broken on one site the hackers will immediately try to use that same password together with your e-mail address on every other site.

- On each site use a password generated by a random algorithm because that password will not contain internal information about you that hackers could pick up from your social media profile.
- Since such passwords cannot be practically memorized, use a password management system to memorize them for you. Your browser will remember the passwords which you use for each site if you let it. If you use the same browser, for example Chrome or Firefox, on all of your devices, your passwords will be available on all of your devices. The only weakness of depending upon your browser is that the passwords may be exposed if your computer is infected by a virus. So the best password management systems depend upon a master password which you must remember because then even if your computer is infected your passwords remain secure.

See [Why You Shouldn't Use Your Web Browser's Password Manager](#) for a more thorough analysis of the current state of Web security.

My genealogy site is not as secure as it could be, so if it were attacked by a hacker it could probably be broken, which would reveal all of the passwords on the site. I would therefore like to change the hash algorithm in the near future but since my site does not know what your password is you will be prompted to choose a new password in the near future which will be stored in a more secure manner.

## **Portability:**

The implementation of the site comprises both functionality which is specific to the family history application and services which are of a more general application. To make it easier for web-site implementers to exploit the code it has been divided along that line and moved into separate namespaces. The purpose of a namespace is to avoid problems that would occur if an existing site was already using functions or classes with the same name as functions or classes in this code set.

The functionality which implements support for generating web-pages from templates is moved to a namespace `Templating`. This comprises the classes `Template`, which represents a document, and `TemplateTag` which represents a single HTML or XML tag within the document.

The functionality which represents the family history application is moved to a namespace `Genealogy`. This currently comprises 70 classes most of which are encapsulations of access to database tables.

## **New Classes:**

The functionality of the site has been extended by adding the following classes:

`Advertiser` encapsulates information about a business which advertises on the site. This includes contact information about the Advertiser and statistics about the promotion of the advertiser.

`BirthSet` encapsulates information about a collection of transcriptions of birth certificates or registrations.

`CensusLineSet` encapsulates information about a collection of transcriptions from a Census.

`CensusSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Census` enumerations.

`CitationSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Citation` records.

`CountryName` encapsulates information about the name of a `Country` as expressed in other languages.

`CountyMarriageReportSet` encapsulates information about a collection of information about marriage reports collected during the period prior to Confederation when vital statistics were managed at the County or District level in Ontario.

`CountyMarriageSet` encapsulates information about a collection of marriage transcriptions collected during the period prior to Confederation when vital statistics were managed at the County or District level in Ontario.

`CountySet` encapsulates information about a collection of `County` records.

`DeathSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Death` record transcriptions.

`DomainSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Domain` records.

`DontMergeEntrySet` encapsulates information about a collection of `DontMergeEntry` records.

`FamilyTree` is the top level object in a Family Tree. It implements factory methods for more efficient access to the entities which make up a Family Tree including instances of `Person` and `Family`.

`FtTemplate` splits off the template functionality that is specific to the Family Tree application from `\Templating\Template`. This includes internationalization support.

`GraveStone` encapsulates information about a cemetery transcription.

`Language` encapsulates information about a supported language.

`MarriageSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Marriage` transcriptions.

`MethodistBaptismSet` encapsulates information about a collection of transcriptions of Wesleyan **Methodist Baptisms**.

`Nickname` encapsulates information about a spelling of a given name so as to support natural searches.

`Ocfa` encapsulates information about a record in the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid.

`OcfaSet` encapsulates information about a set of `Ocfa` records.

`PageSet` encapsulates information about a set of `Page` records describing individual pages in a `Census`.

`PersonSet` encapsulates information about a set of `Person` records in the family tree.

`SubDistrictSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `SubDistrict` records in the description of a `Census`.

`TownshipSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `Township` records as part of the administration of vital statistics.

`UserSet` encapsulates information about a collection of `User` records.

## **Status:**

The complete description of the web-site and how it is implemented is available on the web at my Genealogy Wiki at <https://github.com/jcobban/Genealogy/wiki>. “A *wiki* is a knowledge base website on which users collaboratively modify and structure content directly from the web browser.” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki> That means that contributors to this genealogy site are not only invited to enter information about their families but even to contribute to the documentation of the site. Since the source code of the site is also maintained on-line volunteers may even contribute new functionality or fixes to the implementation itself.

Also check out [List of Recently Added Individuals](#) for information on the recent growth of the Family Tree which currently contains: 128,527 individuals, 35,106 families, 146,823 events, and 393,599 citations. The census transcriptions include over 750,000 individuals. There are 57,000 birth registrations, 24,000 marriage registrations, and over 30,000 death registrations transcribed on the site.

Thank you for your participation,

***James Cobban***