

**In This Bulletin**

**Announcements** – Closed Tuesday mornings in January.

**What's New** – FamilySearch (Slovakia, Luxembourg, US), Ancestry (Ontario marriages, UK Divorce records), DeceasedOnline (Overton Crematorium - Bolton added)

**The Forum** – One new questions and suggestions for last week's questions

**News From the Trenches** – The Hunt for Walter Powell

**Were You Aware** ... UK County Resources –Herefordshire

**Announcements**

We are closed all Tuesday mornings in January for staff holidays.

**What's New**

[FamilySearch](#) has added indexes to a collection of some Slovakia, Church & Synagogue Books 1592-1910. They have indexed 1,309,000 records from the US General Index to Pension Files collection 1861-1934. Over one million Luxembourg census records 1843-1900 are now available. A million records were added to the US Index to Passenger Arrivals, Atlantic and Gulf Ports, 1820-1874.

**Ancestry**: has updated some images for their Ontario marriage records - 1801-1928. They have added a set of Civil Divorce Records in England & Wales 1858-1911. There are 68,000 records in this database and some of them are quite a few pages long. [But do not hold out great hopes of finding your ancestors there – divorce was expensive and I suspect that the majority of unhappy couples just split up and moved in with someone else, as man and wife.] Ancestry now has 5.4 million records of persons crossing the border between Mexico and the US.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has completed its digitization of 415,000 burial and cremation records for the Bolton County Council. Last week it added Overton Crematorium and its 136,000 records of cremations between 11<sup>th</sup> October 1954 and 7<sup>th</sup> May 1993. More recent data will be added later. The data comprises: cremation register scans with 10 entries per scanned page, applicant details providing information on those who arrange the cremation, and the deceased's address, age, marital status, date of death, district where death was registered and whether the ashes were scattered or removed

**The Forum:**

**Questions:**

**Q1/02/2013. Malaya. Antique Car Question.**

I have always been interested in finding out the make of this car or failing that, some suggestions as to whom I should contact for help in its identification. Based on the apparent ages of my father and aunt shown here with my grandmother I would estimate this photograph to have been taken in 1917 or 1918. The location is a rubber plantation named Nibong Tebal located in Province Wellesley, Straits Settlements, Malaya where my great grandparents had done well financially as a result of the demand for rubber in the first world war. Check out the "IKEA" monkey scampering under the front wheels (left photo) and then out towards the rear of the vehicle (right photo).



## Suggestions:

### Q1/01/2013. Newfoundland.

While searching Newfoundland Church Records 1793-1945 on the FamilySearch site I have found many marriages in the 1800s where the names of the bride's and groom's parents are not given. As these would be helpful in ensuring that we had the right family, I am wondering if there is another source that would show this information.

Jill Marshall wrote from Newfoundland: "To the best of my knowledge, the "Newfoundland Church Records 1793- 1945" are scanned copies of the original parish records for several Roman Catholic parishes in NL. These are the complete original records and if the parents of the marrying parties are not given in that entry, there is no other source in church records naming the parents that corresponds to the marriage record. Most of the early church records for NL do not name the parents/fathers of the bride and groom. If a couple's marriage made it into the newspapers, the Maritime History Archives (Memorial University, St Johns NL) has a CD of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Newfoundland Newspapers 1810-1890 for sale, based on the research of Mrs Gertrude Crosbie." The researcher should also look at [Newfoundland's Grand Banks](#), a website with a lot of genealogical and historical data that now has census information, directory publications, church, parish, and cemetery records, some wills, passenger lists, and other vital statistics.

### Q2/01/2013. Photo dating.

The researcher has the photograph below and would appreciate comments on whether it can be dated from the clothing. She thinks that it might be from 1948 as it was found in a box with other photographs from 1948. Is the photo consistent with a date of 1948?

Marion Wilburn had these suggestions: "I think based on the eyeglasses of the woman and boy the photo may be dated in the 1950's. Her eyeglasses appear to have the wing tips popularized during the mid 50's - see <http://www.vintageiwear.com/history.html>. The dishes appear to be melamine but since they were popular in the 1940's, that may not be helpful. The curtains have the feel of the 1950s more than the 1940s but would need some research." Sue Reid said: "Based on the women's hair being slightly "bouffant", the shape of the frames of the eyeglasses, and the length of the older boy's hair, I would suggest that it was taken in the early 1960s, the start of the Beatles and "moptop" era. Bouffant hair came into fashion in the late 50s and early 60s, as did those pointy eyeglass frames." Ian McLeod writes: "The glasses worn by Jean and young Donald MacKay would be the key. I do recall having an oiled wool pullover similar to Donald's which was heavy and scratchy!" These suggestions appear to indicate to a date later than 1948.

## News From the Trenches

### The Hunt for Walter POWELL

Before Christmas a patron came into the Toronto Family History Centre with a puzzle. His great- great grandfather, Joseph, had a number of children, one of which was his great-grandmother and another was a **Walter POWELL**, born about 1844. The patron had found Walter in the 1861 UK census living with his family as a 17-year old. He had found another Walter Powell in the 1910 US census in California about the right age. His question: could these two Walters be the same person.

The first task was to thoroughly search the UK and US censuses using the various census records available on **Ancestry**, **FindMyPast** and **FamilySearch** for any Walter **POWELLS** who could be this one. Walter was found in 1851 in Normanton-on-Soar, Nottinghamshire living with his parents, Joseph & Elizabeth, and eight siblings. The children have only been identified by their initials. Joseph was the rector of the church in Normanton.

The patron knew that Joseph had attended Oxford and a search was made of the Oxford University Alumni on **Ancestry** for Joseph and his sons. Joseph was there: *POWELL, Joseph 1<sup>st</sup> son of John of Solihull, Warwick, gent., Pembroke College, matric. 23 April 1823, aged 17.* No sons were found to have attended Oxford and, of course, no daughters.

Walter POWELL could not be found in any other UK census.

Next the siblings and parents were tracked through the censuses, the BMD indexes and the very useful National Probate Calendar (1858-1966) on **Ancestry**. Interestingly, in 1841 Elizabeth was away from her husband: Joseph with two children in his rectory and Elizabeth with three children, apparently staying with her parents, sister and brother-in-law. It appears that her father, Thomas, died two years later (**FreeBMD**). Joseph POWELL died in 1868 and left his will with estate of less than £450 to be executed by his wife.

The siblings were fairly easy to track and most of them moved south, living around London and Portsmouth. The three sisters of Walter who married and had children added a middle name of POWELL for their children. The siblings also appeared to have remained close – appearing together in the censuses or having their estates looked after by nephews and siblings. But no Walter.

So a search was done for further Walter POWELLS living in the US (but not elsewhere like Canada or Australia). The same apparent Walter POWELL (of the 1910 census) was found living in Alameda County, California with slightly varying apparent birth dates and dates of immigration but consistently with a wife, called Anne B (sometimes with children, E.E., Mary, William A, and Marion A.) in 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930. He seems to be quite well off judging by the value of his residence and the fact that he is an accountant in a bank in 1880 and a banker in 1900. To prove that this Walter was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth in England, Walter's marriage to Anne probably needed to be found. **FamilySearch** was consulted for a marriage of Walter POWELL to Anne in the California County marriages – not found. A search was made of the US Directories on Ancestry for a Walter POWELL living in California. He appears many times in this database living in Oakland or Berkeley, Alameda County. He is always employed by the Bank of British Columbia.

At this point the other volunteers at the FHC were consulted. Have you looked for a marriage in British Columbia? Not yet, was the reply. Almost immediately James Thomson sent me an email with the marriage in BC and **SUCCESS!** A Walter was born in Normanton-upon-Soar, was the son of Joseph POWELL, was an accountant with the Bank of BC, and he married Anne Bayley Denny in St Johns, Victoria, BC in 1872. The **BC Archives** has partnered with FamilySearch and one can search and download, free of charge, births (1854-1903), marriages (1872-1936), deaths (1872-1991), colonial marriages (1859-1872) and baptisms (1836-1888), some with images ([link here](#)). The **BC Archives** also had the births of their children: Edith Elizabeth, Joseph Denny (and death), and Walter Harbourne.

At this point the floodgates for other records were opened. **FamilySearch** had County Birth and Death Index records to browse and Walter and Ann's deaths were found in 1931 and 1938 respectively. The BC directories on Ancestry could be searched for Walter working for the Bank of BC and working with the choir of St Johns in Victoria; and the children could be tracked through the censuses and vital records for more information about them. Immigration dates on Walter and Anne's various US censuses vary, perhaps indicating an arrival in Canada in 1865 and settlement in the US in 1875/7; immigration records can be researched using the dates given in the censuses.

I thought that our hunt for Walter POWELL was of interest because it used a fairly wide selection of online resources and our volunteers' expertise. It also drove home how important it was to **LOOK AT THE ENTIRE ORIGINAL RECORD, not just the transcribed portion.** This may tell you years of immigration, occupation, birth places of children, etc. Two other important suggestions - **TRACK THE SIBLINGS** and **WRITE DOWN YOUR SOURCES** (where the information came from).

The researcher would now like to find Walter's descendants. Any ideas for him?

### **Were You Aware ...**

#### **UK County Resources – Herefordshire, next week Shropshire**

This week we have a few suggestions for Herefordshire. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Herefordshire or Shropshire, please send it/them to the Bulletin.

[If you have not tracked any English or Welsh ancestors back to the start of civil registration in 1837, you should start by using the civil registration index at [FreeBMD](#) and census information for 1841 to 1911. If you need some help to do this, please come to any Family History Centre where volunteers will be happy to help.]

Quite a few parishes in Herefordshire are on FamilySearch's IGI and Hugh Wallis's Batch Numbers [website](#). These records only contain transcribed christening and marriage information. There are records. but only 84,000 of them, on the National Burial Index 3 CD, available at the Toronto FHC.

[The Forest of Dean Family History](#) has transcribed portions of many parishes in the Forest of Dean, an area located within the triangle formed by the river Severn in the east and the river Wye in the west. They have a wills index 1858-1941 and a photo gallery.

[Hereford Churches](#) has pictures of most of Herefordshire churches while [Visit Hereford Churches](#) has a short description of 89 churches of special interest, like St Michael, Garway, a 13<sup>th</sup> century church which is one of the six churches in England attributable to the Knights Templars.

Trade Directories - The [Historical Directories](#) website has a number of directories relating to Herefordshire online, including: Kelly's, Pigot, Slater, etc.

[UK Genealogy Archives - Herefordshire](#) has historical descriptions of the county and each of the parishes within Herefordshire.

**Films received in the week ending January 17, 2013 and due for return by March 14, 2013.**

<b>Film Content</b>	<b>Film No</b>
ENG Copeland Deanery Wills, admons. & inventories, H 1646-1670	0098775
ENG Copeland Deanery Wills, admons. & inventories, H 1691-1699	0098777
ENG Copeland Deanery Wills, admons. & inventories, H 1721-1742	0098779
ENG Mil Recs 1914-1920 Robinson, Stanley George to Robinson, T.	2216405
ENG Mil Recs 1914-1920 Thompson, James to Thompson, James	2178866
ENG Wills 1859 Jan. W-Z 1859 Feb. A-Z 1859 Mar. A-B	1836424
ENG Wills 1865 Oct. T-Z 1865 Nov. A-Z 1865 Dec. A-D	1850362
ENG Wills 1873 Feb. C-Z 1873 Mar. A-H	1850749
ENG Wills 1923 Mar. C-O	1912023
PRU RHE Ottweiler PRs 1684-1753	0591228
PRU RHE Ottweiler PRs 1754-1774	0591229
PRU RHE Ottweiler PRs 1775-1811	0591230

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. The ordering patron will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description but a search in the FamilySearch catalog will reveal the full content. The geographical abbreviations are Chapman codes.

Toronto Family History Centre Current Opening Hours:

**(Always phone us if you do not have a booking to ensure that we are open.)**

Monday 9:30 am to 2 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm (closed Jan 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>) and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm

Thursday 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Saturday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come.

**For a copy of a searchable listing of all films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre in pdf format, go to the Toronto FHC Website at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/> and look for it under Resources.**

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