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<http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/>

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### Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed the evening of March 29<sup>th</sup> and is closed on Friday mornings until after Easter. We are also closed for Easter – April 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

**Don't forget these two OGS Toronto events:**

**Finding Your Great War Ancestors – Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/GreatWarWorkshop2012.html>.

**Toronto OGS Meeting – Monday March 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm**

***Unusual, Underused and Underappreciated Resources Online for Genealogists by Marian Press***

<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/meetings.html>

### What's New

**FamilySearch** had added nearly 1.5 million records to its England Births and Christenings 1538-1975 database of nearly 70 million records and 0.5 million records to its England Marriages database. These include many more records than the old IGI and are being indexed from their digitised films. Definitely worth checking out. Over 1.5 million records have been added to the Hungary Reformed Church Christenings 1624-1895, which now has over 5 million indexed records. FamilySearch has added over 9 million California death records 1940-1997 and 3.5 million divorce records 1966-1984, as well as a number of other state records.

**Ancestry** has a new collection of UK records – over one million Land Tax Redemption records for 1798 which list both landowners and tenants but no property information. One new US collection, Massachusetts Town Vital records, contains more than eight million records. Some smaller Irish databases have been updated or added, including bits of the Irish 1851 census.

**FindMyPast** has added two new indexed sets of Royal Artillery records - Royal Artillery Military Medals 1916-1993 (more than 16,500 military medals awarded from WWI to the Falklands War) and Royal Artillery Honours & Awards 1939-1946 (21,400 awards given for their gallantry and dedication during WWII).

### The Forum

**Questions: No questions this week.**

### Suggestions:

**Q1/10/2012. England. Royal Flying Corps.**

My grandfather, Charles Smith of Sheffield served in the RFC in WW1. My mother referred to him as a navigator based in Salisbury Plain, but I believe that he would have been an air mechanic going on some reconnaissance flights as a navigator. Several years ago, I did find some information for three Charles Smiths in the RFC and all were Air Mechanics, Second Class. Recently, I went to Ancestry but found nothing. I'm hoping that with the information that I am including below, someone might have an idea/suggestion as to how I can find "my" Charles Smith, born on March 14th, 1895 in Heeley, Sheffield, England. My ultimate goal is to acquire any further information, possibly a source/site for his attestation papers, if his documents survived WW2.

\*One Charles Smith had a regiment # of 1715, Air Mechanic Second Class and a catalogue reference #WO 372/18.

\*Another's regiment # was 30258, Air Mechanic Second Class, and the same reference # WO 372/18. (Also an image reference # 130550/21098 (??))

\* The third that I found had a regiment # 1342, Air Mechanic, Second Class and again reference # WO 352/18.

Mike Webber sent this helpful reply: "Our researcher probably found the records on the National Archive (UK) site where I also found several in a search of the WWI Medal Index. A word of warning...when searching the Index, a recipient may have been in more than one regiment or service, so don't ignore an entry because on the surface it doesn't mention the one you want. To avoid missing any, put the service in the "Corp" box, and look at each record that is returned by the search. Including the ones the researcher mentions, I found

Charles Smith RFC Regmt# 1715 Air Mechanic 2nd Class 14 Star Medal  
Charles Smith RFC Regmt# 1342 Air Mechanic 2nd Class 14 Star Medal  
Charles E Smith RFC Regmt# 33628 Private, then S. Staffs Regmt# 41536 Private Victory & British Medals  
Charles E Smith Manchester Rifles Regmt# 21/17259 Private, then RFC Regmt# 135365 (no rank shown), then probably RAF. Victory, British and 15 Star. Action in France  
Charles H Smith RFC Regmt# 30258 Air Mechanic 2nd Class Victory & British Medals  
Charles Smith Royal Fusiliers Regmt# 739 Sergeant, then RFC Regmt# 148745 (no rank shown) then probably RAF. Victory, British(?), and 15 Star Medals. Action in France

There are roll numbers and pages shown on each of these medal cards, which the researcher may be able to reference on a visit to the National Archives. There were also some cards for officers, which based on the researcher's info, I ignored. Details about these medals is shown on the National Archives site.

"The 1901 Census shows a Charles E Smith age 6 living at 81 Denmark Road in Heeley. The same family is still there in 1911, but Charles is not listed. In 1891, they were also in Heeley, but at 27 Oak Street. Charles' father was Charles E. in 1891, Charles W. in 1901, and plain Charles in 1911! I was unable to find an obvious match in 1881 when Charles' father might well have been single and still in the Shoreditch, London area where he was born. Could this be the researcher's family?"

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

##### ***Round the Coast 1895 – Pictures of Seasides in Great Britain and Ireland***

Rosemary & Stan Rodliffe have now made scans of ***Round the Coast 1895*** freely available at: <http://www.thornburypump.co.uk/Coast1895/> . They wrote on the Norfolk Rootsweb List that the commentaries are fascinating because they provide some local history and describe the burgeoning tourist industry. I found the views of Lowestoft particularly interesting as my grandmother was born there in 1899 and I remember it well from visits to her in the 1970s and 80s. The pictures of ladies walking along the front and of the bathing machines are quite funny. But please forgive me if I say that the pictures of Britons at the beach have always struck me as peculiar – huddled behind windscreens or wearing heavy clothing.

#### **Name Changes – cont'd**

Mary Lou Watson writes: "In searching my family tree, I discovered that the name Paquin (Paul Paquin, born 1788 in Portneuf, Quebec), morphed into Parker some 75 years later, at least for some of the family. Joseph Eli Paquin, grandson of Paul Paquin, was born in Deschambault, Quebec in 1815. He lived in Welland, Ontario in 1851, in Toronto in 1870. Perhaps this change happened when Joseph Paquin, then in his thirties, moved his family from Quebec to Ontario, decided to adopt an English sounding name. His twelve children used the name Parker, although Paquin may have been on their Baptismal records and other early documents. Marriage certificates of Mabel Cook and Annie Cook, granddaughters of Joseph Paquin, give their mother's maiden name as Ellen Parker." Mary Lou thinks that her mother told her of the name change. It was my mother who told me of my great-grandfather's name change; but she refrained from mentioning it, and the fact that her grandparents had never married, until a couple of years after I started looking for my family history.

#### **FamilySearch Digitization**

I was again astounded when I read a recent news release from FamilySearch. "Since 2006, FamilySearch has dramatically improved its ability to scan and convert microfilmed records into digital images. In addition, more than 185 digital camera crews are now at work throughout the world, capturing images six days a week. Between microfilm digital conversions and new field captures, FamilySearch now creates an average of **10 new digital images every second of every day** and publishes them at familysearch.org within a matter of weeks." To make those records easily accessible, volunteers are always needed to index these new digital images. Visit <https://indexing.familysearch.org> to learn more about helping with any of the enormous projects. You can choose a country and the project of interest to you.

#### **1940 US Census Community Project**

On April 2, 2012, a mere 11 days from today, NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) will provide access to the images of the 1940 United States Federal Census for the first time. Unlike previous census years, images of the 1940 U.S. Federal Census will be made available as free digital images. Upon its release, the 1940 U.S. Census

Community Project, a joint initiative **between Archives.com, FamilySearch, findmypast.com**, and other leading genealogy organizations, will coordinate efforts to provide quick access to these digital images and immediately start indexing these records to make them searchable online with free and open access. Go to <http://goo.gl/RBvrP> to view more information about the project.

### 1940 US Census – Finding Your Relatives without an Index

Madeleine Gill sent the following information to the Bulletin. It is taken from "Getting Ready for the 1940 Census" by Daniel Lilienkamp, Special Collections Department of the St. Louis County Library. "As there will be no time for any of the companies, like Ancestry and FamilySearch, to construct an index prior to the release, in order to search the census, you will need to know the enumeration district for anyone that you want to find. Although the way to find the enumeration district takes multiple steps, it does not require any special skills and it is not complex.

Step 1: First you need to find the address of where the person would have lived. You can do this by finding it in city directories or phone books. If they didn't move from the 1930 Census time, you can find the address on the 1930 Census.

Step 2: Find the address on the maps at the National Archives website. Online maps such as Google and MapQuest work very well.

Step 3: Find the 1940 address on the Census Map. This will probably be the most difficult part to do. The Census maps are old and hard to read. Census maps can be downloaded or viewed from the National Archives [www.archives.gov/research/arc/](http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/) This will open the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) search page. Search for a map using the term 1940 Census maps [insert county name][state] (DO NOT USE THE BRACKETS).

Step 4: Lay the current map from Step 2 on top of or next to the map from Step 3 and align them. Use the location of the modern map to pinpoint the location on the Census Map. Once you have found the address, then look at the outline of that area to determine the boundaries of the enumeration district. In that district will be the enumeration number."

### Irish Probate Calendars Online

Chris Paton in his British GENES blog notes that the National Archives of Ireland ([www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)) has digitised Southern Irish Will Calendars online for the years 1923-1982. Because of the difficulty in finding them at the National Archives site, he has done Irish researchers a great favour and produced short url's to take one directly to the calendars for each year. Go to <http://goo.gl/RHT8O> and <http://goo.gl/MeHUi> for the two blogs about this and to search the probate calendars.

### Films received in the fourteen days ending on March 22, 2012 and due for return on April 19, 2012.

Films Received Table	
Film Content	Film No
CHI IOM Probate Records 1787-1788	0106400
DEU BAD Bretten PRs Taufden 1844-1847	1192139
DEU BAY Enkenbach PRs 1702-1829	0489430
DEU BAY Enkenbach PRs 1741-1956	0489432
DEU BAY Enkenbach PRs Deaths 1741-1956	0489433
DEU BAY Kaiserslautern Marrs 1888-1889	0329660
DEU BAY Quirnbach PRs 1827-1878	0193113
DEU BRE Bremen Civ Reg Births 1865	1344174
DEU BRE Bremen Civ Reg Births 1867-1868	1344176
DEU HES Upper Ofleiden PRs Bapt 1832-1851	1195791
DEU MEC Thürkow BMDCs 1726-1875	0069624
ENG ESS 5 Parish PRs 1539-1936	1565811
ENG ESS 5 Parish PRs 1765-1983	1593600
ENG HAM Lichfield Orig wills, admins, inventories, F-How 1716	0095896
ENG LAN Probate Original wills "A-E", 1688	0089730
ENG LAN Probate Original wills "A-E", 1773	0088818
ENG Lichfield Original wills, admins, inventories, D-Frost 1710	0095853
ENG LIN Registered wills v. 266 1787	0199072
EUR Ancestral File of German People Pt.1 Gall-Gart	1799209
POL OL Trumiejki PRs 1718-1937	0208180

Films Received Table	
Film Content	Film No
PRT AZR Bapt 1563-1638, 1626, 1667-1669, 1638-1667, 1669-1831	1546721
PRT AZR Bapt 1790-1879	1547153
PRU WPRU Culmsee PRs Bapt 1850-1865	0812356
PRU WPRU Garnsee PRs Bapt 1826-1847	0208109
PRU WPRU Groß Krebs PRs 1744-1835	0208115
PRU WPRU Groß Tromnau PRs 1800-1920	0286034
PRU WPRU Marienwerder PRs Taufen 1825-1843 Heiraten 1819-1843	0245632
PRU WPRU Marienwerder PRs Taufen 1831-1851	0245637
PRU WPRU Neudörfchen PRs 1711-1936 (gaps)	0245685
USA NY Northbush Parish PRs 1845-1891	1292803
USA NY Swormville St Mary's 1853-1917 (with gaps)	1292855

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 Family History Library 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 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. to noon; 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

**Closures:** If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed the evening of March 29<sup>th</sup>.

**For a copy of a searchable listing of all the 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.** Should you decide that you no longer wish to receive this bulletin, reply to this email with the word "Delete" in the subject line.

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