

In This Bulletin

Announcements – March closures, OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting

What's New – Ancestry (London Poor Law Records), FindMyPast (Criminal records), FamilySearch (Ukraine Kyiv, US Veteran Pension Cards)

The Forum – Suggestions for last week's question

Were You Aware ... Too Much Information?, English Parish Maps on the FamilySearch Wiki, Alaska State Archives, UK County Resources – Lincolnshire & Nottinghamshire

Announcements

We have various closures around the March Break holiday: Thursday evening March 7th, Friday morning March 8th, Monday morning March 11th, Tuesday evening March 12th, and Friday morning March 15th. We will also be closed for Easter – March 29th to April 1st inclusive.

OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting – Monday February 25th at 7:30pm, North York Memorial Hall

TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SAILOR: Mining the Internet for Occupational Photographs

Bonnie Bell will examine and review a range of websites from well known data bases to small specialized sites to determine how difficult or easy, it is to find relevant photographs of our ancestors at work. Specific occupations such as coalminers, innkeepers, coachmen and others will be used to illustrate the search. In the mini-presentation, Stephen Low will speak on *Tracing my Great-Grandmother*. See the Toronto OGS [website](#) for more information.

What's New

Ancestry has added new images to its London Poor Law and Board of Guardian records. This collection currently has 3.8 million images which can be browsed by borough, parish and record type. Ancestry suggests "you should identify which documents your family members are most likely to appear in, then use our browse options to look for their details". While it sounds easy, I do not think that it is - I have not found any of my impecunious London ancestors yet.

FindMyPast.com and **FindMyPast.co.uk** have added a large collection of "Bad Boys" - about 500,000 criminal records from 1817 to 1931 in England and Wales. This database will be updated to contain more than 2.5 million records and will cover the period 1770-1934. The information in the records comes from a variety of Government departments including the Home Office, Prison Commission, Metropolitan Police, Central Criminal Court and the Admiralty. These records show the evolution of the criminal justice system in the nineteenth century as the country dealt with the impact of industrialization, urbanization and population growth. They record "the intimate details of hundreds of thousands of people (both criminals and victims), beginning with judges' recommendations for or against pardons, to petitions through which criminals and their families could offer mitigating circumstances and grounds for mercy, and later, licensees containing everything from previous convictions to the state of a prisoner's health". FindMyPast.com is offering 20 free credits to search this collection – the promotional code is "**criminal**".

FamilySearch added new images with indexes to its collection: Ukraine, Kyiv Orthodox Consistory Church Book Duplicates, 1840-1845. The indexes now contain more than 500,000 records. They have added an index to the collection of US Veterans Administration Pension Payment Cards, 1907-1933. This collection is about 50% complete.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2013/06. Probate Records – Canada, UK

I have found an index record in the National Probate Calendar for England and Wales in 1959 for Reginald Ovenell, who died in Toronto in 1956. The record is for an administration of his estate in England and the executor is his son, who was also living in Canada. I would like to get a copy of the will and would like to know where to send for it.

The Principal Probate Registry was established on 12 January 1858, and keeps a copy of every will proved, as well as copies of letters of administration. As this index record indicates that there was no will, just an administration, the researcher cannot get a copy of the will. She may wish to get a copy of the letter of administration but that will probably not give her much more information than is in the index record. You can request copies of wills or letters of administration from the [Probate Service](#). Wills between 1858 and 1925 have been filmed and the appropriate film can be requested from the FHL Catalog. If you need help deciphering which film to order, check with a FHC volunteer. Wills and letters of

administration can be ordered from the Probate Registry for £6. You will have to complete the form PA1S and mail it to : Postal Searches and Copies Department, Leeds District Probate Registry, York House, York Place, Leeds, LS1 2BA.

This particular researcher may get more information by looking at probate records for Reginald Ovenell in Ontario. These are available at the Ontario Archives, covering the 1793 to 1963. The Archives has an online guide on how to find probate records and it is available [here](#). As explained to me by a patron who has searched for a lot of wills, finding a probate record is a two stage process. One first has to examine the index microfilm to find the estate number and the year of the court action. If the estate file is before 1931, you will be able to find a microfilm containing the estate record you are seeking. If the estate record is between 1931 and 1963, these records have not yet been microfilmed and you will have to make a request to have them copied as a pdf document – this will take 24-48 hours. The cost will be \$0.50 per page. Please read the [online pathfinder](#) for the detailed instructions.

Were You Aware ... Too Much Information?

Paul Jones disagreed with the suggestions in last week's TMI article: "I'm not sure I agree completely with the advice about how much information to use in a search. I think the most efficient strategy is as follows:

- enter as much information as necessary to uniquely identify the individual, i.e., not everything you know, focusing if possible on rare or unusual items likely to be found in the record
- if you don't immediately find who you're looking for in the first 30 seconds (or on the first page of results), then pursue the strategy you have recommended

"I'd estimate about half my searches are successful in less than a minute with this approach, which is a real time-saver. But I don't belabour it. If success is not immediate, the strategy you've recommended is far more reliable in turning up your target, although it may take some time."

Another reader wrote: "I agree with you about 'less is sometimes more'. In my own case, the only way I found my great-great-grandmother's death record was to search for "Emma", with no last name, who died in Toronto in the particular year. A horrible mistranscription of her surname was the cause, but this was how I finally found her. And I had the same experience searching for her in the 1851 UK census. I finally resorted to using only three criteria, her first name, her approximate age, and her birthplace ("exact"). In that case, she was living with people whose surname differed, and they had used a variant of her surname."

English Parish Maps on the FamilySearch Wiki

FamilySearch has this very useful interactive [map site](#) to help identify English parishes, the neighbouring parishes, the probate court and poor law union, and information about when the parish was formed and when records start. One can look at the various boundaries; for example, for Poor Law Union or Hundred. One can choose a background map showing the current road system, a satellite picture, an old ordnance survey map or the 1851 jurisdictions. One can list adjoining parishes or parishes within a certain radius between ¼ mile and 20 miles using the "Radius Place Search" option. This can be very helpful when looking for nearby parishes from which ancestors may have come.

A couple of weeks ago a patron was looking for an ancestor who was living in Hadleigh, Essex at the time of the 1851 census. She listed her place of birth as "Daw's Heath" but that was not a parish. When the parishes within 5 miles (easy walking distance) were listed, there were over 30! But narrowing it down to only three miles gave a more manageable number of eight parishes. It seems that most of this family's births, marriages and deaths occurred within these parishes. Daw's Heath was found in the parish of Thundersley, a parish next to Hadleigh. The FamilySearch Maps for England are organized on Church of England parish boundaries but the website will also tell you if there was a non-conformist church in the parish. If you cannot find a BMB in the parish church, you may wish to check the registers of the non-conformist churches in the area.

Alaska State Archives

This week's eNews (The Weekly Genealogist) from the New England Historic Genealogical Society had an article on information that could be found in the [Alaska State Archives](#). Of interest to researchers may be the following: the Probate Index with 17,000 probate cases from 1884 to 1960 (includes estates, guardianship of minors, adoptions, search and rescue, and sanity hearings); Naturalization Records index with 6,045 records for the district courts of Juneau, Petersburg, Skagway, Wrangell, Nome, and Cordova; and Military Service Records from April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918.

UK County Resources – Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, next week Derbyshire

This week we have a few suggestions for Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Nottinghamshire or Derbyshire, 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.]

The Toronto FHC has several helpful probate indexes for Lincolnshire, which were not mentioned last week. The CD (BR098) has indexes for Lincolnshire Consistory Court Wills and Admons 1800-1858, Stow Wills and Admons 1700-1834, and Lincolnshire Wills 1858-1910. We have some fiche which contain Lincolnshire Wills Beneficiary Indexes. The third item is a film which has an index to admons for the Diocese of Lincoln (Admons index vol. 1-4, 1600-1810). We also have several fiche with indexes for Lincoln City marriages 1700-1837, Lincoln City apprentice registers 1765-1867 and Lincoln City burial 1813-1870.

Nottinghamshire is quite a small county by population, having only 150,000 people in 1801, 270,000 in 1841 and 600,000 in 1901. But there are quite a few transcriptions of parish records to help with your ancestor searches. [FreeREG](#) has many records for Nottinghamshire transcribed and indexed although the City of Nottingham is not well covered. The Toronto FHC has a CD (BR150) which is a compilation of transcribed parish registers from Nottinghamshire with more than 850,000 baptisms, 345,000 marriages and 520,000 burials. Boyd's Marriage index is on FindMyPast and is a transcription of marriage in 172 of the 220 ancient Nottinghamshire parishes.

The Internet Archive has many many digitized books. It has 19 volumes of Phillimore's Parish Register Transcriptions with very good coverage of Nottinghamshire available [here](#). These volumes can be downloaded as pdf's and then searched for names of interest. While Phillimore covered many Nottinghamshire parishes, our CD (BR104) has unpublished marriage indexes for 27 Notts parishes. The National Burial Index #3 has only 280,000 burials indexed for Nottinghamshire.

Our probate collection has three Nottinghamshire films which have probate indexes for the Nottinghamshire Peculiar courts from 1506-1857.

For Nottinghamshire churches, descriptions can be found [here](#) and photographs [here](#) (Ignore the ads on the page that appears and click on the parish name on the left side of the screen.)

The History and Genealogy of Ashfield [website](#) aims is to provide information and links for anyone with an interest in the local history of the area now known as Ashfield. The Ashfield area is found in the middle of the western edge of Nottinghamshire, and borders onto Derbyshire at Teversal, Sutton, Kirkby and Selston parishes. It also includes the parish of Skegby.

Films received in the week ending February 20th, 2013 and due for return April 11th, 2013.

| Film Content | Film No |
|---|---------|
| DEU BAD Ettlingen BMB index & BMBs 1699-1717 | 1047546 |
| DEU BAD Ettlingen Cath. Church BMBs 1717-1800 | 1047547 |
| DEU BAD Sasbach Cath. Church BMBs 1657-1783, Bap 1787-1816 | 0906281 |
| DEU BAY Gries BMD 1799, Marrs 1818-1848 | 0415824 |
| DEU BAY Obermiesau Birth 1840-1868, Marr 1840-67, Death 1840-68 | 0193095 |
| DEU MEC Ankershagen, Rumpshagen PRs 1803-1895 | 0068943 |
| ENG SSX Chichester Consistory Court Wills - 1511-1554 | 0194560 |
| ENG SSX Chichester Consistory Court Wills - 1544-1552 | 0194561 |
| ENG SSX Chichester Consistory Court Wills - 1552-1559 | 0194562 |

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 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. Closed Thursday evening March 7th, Friday morning March 8th, Monday morning March 11th, Tuesday evening March 12th, and Friday morning March 15th. Closed for Easter – March 29th to April 1st inclusive.

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.

*If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, reply to this email with the word "**Delete**" in the subject line.*

Toronto Family History Centre
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3V 3V4 Phone: 416-422-5480 Est. 111
Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca