

In This Bulletin

Announcements – March closures, OGS Toronto Meeting and Workshops

What's New – Ancestry (Wiltshire), FamilySearch (Isle of Man records, New York State probate)

The Forum – Suggestions for one question, no new questions

Were You Aware ... Toronto Tax Assessment Rolls for 1853, Toronto Historical Maps – Online and Free, Preserve the (US) Pensions – War of 1812, Bedford Registration District Marriages Online, Newspapers – New York State and Midlands and others, Free Magazine – Irish Lives Remembered, FamilySearch Family Tree Facility, UK County Resources – Cheshire & Lancashire

Announcements

Closed Friday morning March 22nd, Saturday March 23rd, and Tuesday evening March 26th. We will also be closed for Easter – March 29th to April 1st inclusive. Please call before you come even if you have a reservation.

OGS Toronto Announcements

Monthly Meeting on Monday, March 25th at 7:30pm in the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Hall

Great Revelations: Canada and the 1921 Census by Glenn Wright

In anticipation of the 1921 census, this presentation examines the state of Canada in 1921: what had been the impact of the Great War, what was the nature of its population, the demographic trends, how had the country changed since 1911? What can we expect to discover when the returns are finally made available for research purposes? The mini-presentation is *Writing for the Toronto Tree* by Marian Press.

Digging for Gold in Toronto Libraries and Archives Workshop on May 4, 10am to 4:30pm

Registration is now open for this May workshop; the early bird registration date is 15 April. Go to the [OGS Toronto website](#) for more information and the link to the registration page.

Call for Presentations for *Tracing Forward – Searching for Relatives in Recent Times*

OGS Toronto has issued a Call for Presentations for an October workshop on “*Tracing Forward – Searching for Relatives in Recent Times*”; submissions are requested by 31 May. See all the details at [Tracing Forward](#).

What's New

Ancestry has added a couple of new collections for Wiltshire: indexes to 500,000 marriages 1538-1837 and a small number of Quaker births (1636-1837) and deaths (1542-1897). This collection does not include images.

FamilySearch has added images to New York State Probate records 1629-1971 and the collection now has 8.6 million images, which one can browse. FamilySearch has started to add indexes to [Isle of Man](#) Baptisms (224,000 records 1821-1911), Marriages (42,000 records 1849-1911) and Burials (42,000 records 1844-1911). These collections are far from complete. Other notable collection updates were the 699,800 indexed records and images from the Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Immigration Cards from 1900 to 1965, and the 307,448 images from the Peru, Lima, Civil Registration from 1874 to 1996.

The Forum:

Questions : No new questions were received this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2013/08. 1891 Census Problem - UK

I am researching the family of James Hand, house painter, born about 1842 in Castleblayney, Ireland, and his wife Elizabeth Hand born about 1852, Dublin, Ireland. The family moved to England sometime before December 1878 and while I am able to find them in the 1881 and 1901 UK Census, there is no sign of them in the 1891 UK Census. I have tried a number of different ways to search for the family but have come up empty-handed. In addition to James and Elizabeth, occupants of the household could have included Bernard (b. 1872/Ireland), John (b. 1876/Ireland), Elizabeth Christina (b. 1878/Manchester); James Gilbert (b. 1880/Manchester); William (b. 1883/Manchester); Francis Patrick (b. 1885/Manchester); and Michael Joseph (b.1887/Manchester). They had another son Charles Gilbert but he was born in 1892. The 1891 UK Census could hold keys to other children they had but who did not survive (I have found 9 of the 14 children reported by James Hand in the 1911 UK Census). Any suggestions on ways I might search the 1891 UK census further to find them would be much appreciated.

Gwen Armstrong and I both tried to find this family in 1891 but with no success. My first thought was to try FindMyPast because one can add a search by occupation for some of the censuses on that website, but I had no luck there. Gwen suggests that you order the birth certificate of Charles Ernest born 1892/3 in Manchester because that will give you an address that is very close to the date of the 1891 census. The researcher could then do an address search on the 1891 census on FindMyPast.co.uk. The marriage date is not given – could they have had several children in Ireland who died before they left?

Were You Aware

OGS Toronto - Toronto Tax Assessment Rolls for 1853

A March 6th blog post by [Canadian Genealogy](#) mentioned that the Toronto Branch of the OGS has produced an indexed transcription of the Toronto tax assessment rolls for 1853 from the original assessment rolls at the City of Toronto Archives. There are two parts of the assessment rolls: a free searchable online index available on this [web site](#) with more than 9,000 names of owners and occupiers, and a book and CD version of the index with more information for researchers with interests in mid-19th century Toronto. The index in the first part is linked to online images of the assessment rolls. The second part has maps and descriptions of the wards and streets, vital records, religious records, cemeteries, land records, immigration, directories, published sources and historical background. The book and CD can be ordered [here](#).

Toronto Historical Maps – Online and Free

Nathan Ng has updated his blogspot which contains many historical maps of Toronto. Nearly 40 historical maps can be viewed from this [website](#). Highlights of this website include the 1858 Boulton Atlas, the 1842 Cane Topological Map of the City, the 1851 Fleming Topographical Plan of the City of Toronto, and the Tremaine Map of the County of York. Nathan believes that these maps “connect us to the city as it used to be and will provide remarkable glimpses into our history and heritage”.

As well, new maps from Goad’s Atlas of Toronto have been added and can be viewed [here](#). These now include “gorgeous, information-rich late Victorian-era (and beyond) fire insurance maps published by Charles Goad in 1884, 1890, 1893, 1899, 1903, 1910, 1913, and 1924. Also posted are the even-more-detailed Insurance Plans of the City of Toronto for the years 1880 and 1889, as well as a bonus article/photo gallery on the Toronto Fires of 1904 and 1895.”

Preserve the Pensions – War of 1812 (US Pension Records)

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is spearheading a campaign in conjunction with FamilySearch, Ancestry, the US National Archives and Fold3 to raise money to digitize the 180,000 US pension records with over seven million pages from the War of 1812. Go to [Preserve the Pensions](#) for more information about the project.

Bedford Registration District Marriages Online

Dick Eastman’s blog of [March 10th](#) highlighted a website for marriage registers in the Bedford Registration District 1837-1901. This has been a labour of love by Steven Gibbs. The registers from more than 40 parishes have been fully transcribed with spouses’ and fathers’ names and occupations as well as date. Dick Eastman suggests that if you do not know in which parish your ancestor married, go to [www.google.ca](#) and enter **site:http://www.sgibbs1.freemove.co.uk xxxxxxxx** – where xxxxxxxx is the surname.

Newspapers – New York State and Midlands and others

Dick Eastman’s blog of March 6th had a [remarkable story](#) about a New York resident, Tom Tryniski, who has digitized nearly 22 million pages of old New York State newspapers which are available [here](#). In contrast, the Library of Congress’ historic newspaper site, [Chronicling America](#), has only five million pages online.

John Reid’s Anglo-Celtic Connections blog of [March 16](#) mentioned that the Bromsgrove branch of the Birmingham and Midlands Society for Genealogy & Heraldry have digitised their local paper the Bromsgrove Messenger and uploaded the images onto their website. 67 years, from 1860-1937, are freely available [here](#). You will have to register (free) and then login to search the paper, which has been variously known as the Bromsgrove Messenger, the Bromsgrove and Droitwich Weekly Messenger, Local Intelligencer and General Advertiser. While it does not appear to be name or place searchable yet, you can choose an issue and download a PDF of the page, after acknowledging the copyright.

The [British Newspaper Archive](#) from the British Library now has 6.6 million pages which can be searched without charge; searches will give you a little synopsis of the article. To download the article you will need credits. This database is also available at FindMyPast.com and FindMyPast.co.uk (which is available at Family History Centres).

The Times archive is available [here](#).

The National Library of Australia has [pictures](#) and [newspapers](#) online at their [Trove](#) website.

Wikipedia has a long list of online newspaper archives, many of which are free, [here](#). Don't forget that some newspapers can be accessed from home using one's library card; Toronto library card holders can view historical Globe and Mail and Toronto Star newspapers.

Free Magazine – Irish Lives Remembered

Irish Lives Remembered publishes their magazine also called Irish Lives Remembered, on their website each month. There are now nine magazines at <http://irishlivesremembered.com/magazines.html> for you to look at. The February Issue has an article on “*An Orphan at Grosse-Ile*”, the Canadian equivalent near the City of Quebec of Ellis Island in New York.

FamilySearch Family Tree Facility

If you have ever looked at the online trees of other people, you should be interested in the Family Tree Facility on [FamilySearch](#). To access this, you will need to **Sign In** (top right hand corner); I use the User Name and Password, which I have for ordering films but one can sign up without ordering films. Then a new heading “**Family Tree**” appears in the top line. You can “**Discover**” what has already been found, “**Preserve**” your family tree online, or “**Share**” to invite others to view and collaborate on your tree. You can add your own tree or search for others who have already submitted data.

UK County Resources – Cheshire, Lancashire, next week Yorkshire

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

For those interested in Cheshire, last week I neglected to mention the indexed collections on FamilySearch: [Cheshire Register of Electors 1842-1900](#) (added March 3); Bishop's Transcripts 1598-1900; Non-Conformist Records 1671-1900; Parish Registers 1538-2000; Probate records 1492-1040; Workhouse Records, 1848-1967; Land Tax Assessments 1778-1832; Marriage Bonds and Allegations 1606-1900; Register of Electors 1842-1900; and School Records 1796-1950. Some of these are indexes only and the images must be viewed at FindMyPast [available at FHCs]. [DeceasedOnline](#) has 200,000 records for seven cemeteries in Cheshire West and Cheshire Council.

Sandra Lewis had another suggestion for Cheshire and surrounding places. “A lovely and interesting website for those with ancestors from Wirral peninsula in Merseyside aka Cheshire at one time is this [BBC website](#), showing copies of paintings by Harold Hopps, a painter of scenes around 1900, of places like Bidston, Upton, Woodchurch and Irby.

Lancashire researchers have many online resources. **Ancestry** has Lancashire parish registers indexed with images from 1538 to the 20th century; Manchester parish registers from 1541 to the 20th century; Manchester Cathedral marriages 1754-1930; Liverpool parish registers 1659 to the 20th century; and Liverpool Catholic records (baptisms 1801-1906, marriages 1754-1921, burials 1812-1988 and confirmations 1813-1920). [FamilySearch](#) has Oldham Cemetery records 1797-2004 and miscellaneous Manchester records 1700-1916 (Apprenticeships, School Admissions, Prison Registers, and Workhouse Registers). **FindMyPast** has Manchester Baptisms, Births (in workhouses), Marriages, Burials, Deaths (in workhouses) and Manchester and Oldham records.

The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society has several online databases which are available [here](#). Memorial inscriptions transcribed from several Manchester and Salford burial grounds are available, although limited results are given in the public data area. An index to persons named in a number of Roman Catholic registers which have been transcribed and/or indexed by the Society's Irish Ancestry Branch is a very useful starting place when looking for baptisms of Roman Catholics.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has eight cemeteries and crematoria online for Bolton Council, Lancashire.

Some church pictures are available [here](#).

Films received in the two weeks ending March 21st, 2013 and due for return May 9th, 2013.

Film Content	Film No
ENG BRK Thatcham BMB 1764-1805; Bapt 1806-1883; Burials 1806-1914	1040692
DEU WPRU Gro ^d Bellschwitz Taufen, Heiraten, Tote 1750-1821	0208133
ENG BRK Cholsey Bapt 1839-1909	1849236

ENG BRK Thatcham PR 1561-1992	1040693
SCT "K" parishes & Jura PRs	1041079
SCT Coll Baptisms and marriages 1776-1856	1041081
SCT Tyree Baptisms and Marriages 1766-1856	1041082

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.)

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm

Thursday 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Saturday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed Friday morning March 22nd, Saturday March 23rd, and Tuesday evening March 26th. 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.*

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