

In This Bulletin

Announcements – Closed next Thursday evening, Free ink cartridges

What's New – FindMyPast (UK parish records), Ancestry (Surrey parish records), ScotlandsPeople (1895 Tax Valuations), FamilySearch (Cheshire Bishops Transcripts)

The Forum – No new questions or suggestions

News From the Trenches – One Step Forward

Were You Aware ... USB Flash Drives

Announcements

We will be closed on Thursday evening, June 6th.

The Toronto Family History Centre has several ink cartridges that are surplus to their needs. These are for HP Laserjet II or III printers - the package says replacement for 92295A. If you would like one, please reply by email or phone our Centre at 416-422-5480 ext 111. For pickup only. Available on a first reserved basis.

What's New

FindMyPast (both the UK and worldwide versions) has added over 450,000 new parish records for 1538-2009 from Northumberland, Durham, Ryedale, Sheffield, Wiltshire and Suffolk. There are 141,525 Suffolk Baptisms 1753-1911 from the Suffolk FHS, 244,309 Wiltshire Baptisms 1538-1867 from the Wiltshire FHS, 27,420 Northumberland & Durham Burials 1587-2009 from the Northumberland & Durham FHS, 22,687 Sheffield Baptisms 1837-1968 & 8,181 Sheffield Marriages 1824-1991 from the Sheffield FHS and 7,113 Ryedale Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1754-1999 from the Ryedale FHS. These are transcriptions and do not include images.

Ancestry has added several million Anglican parish registers for Surrey dating from 1538 to the 1900s. These records are indexed to images of the actual registers and come from the Surrey County Council History Centre, which holds records for the more rural part of Surrey. The Indiana marriage collection 1800-1941 has been updated and now includes over three million marriages.

ScotlandsPeople has added the 1895 Valuation Rolls, a complementary collection to the 1905 and 1915 Valuation Rolls which have been available for some time, and a great resource between the 1891 and 1901 censuses. The new records, comprising 2,095,707 indexed names and 75,565 digital images, cover every kind of building, structure or dwelling that was assessed in 1895 as having a rateable value. The Rolls contain the names of owners, tenants and occupiers of each property - and in many cases, occupations are also included. The head of the household is usually the named person, although sometimes a husband and wife might both be listed - interestingly, women are often the named tenant in rented property. The Rolls contain individuals from right across the social spectrum and reveal some very interesting features of social history in Scotland during the late Victorian era. You can find out who was living at a specific address, and whether they rented or owned the property. You can also see the rent that was paid for the house or flat, as well as the rateable value of the property.

FamilySearch has added transcripts of over two million records in Bishop's Transcripts 1598-1900; these are in addition to the transcripts of Cheshire Parish Registers 1538-1900 available since December and other data for Cheshire. There are no images associated with these databases. [Cheshire non-conformist and Roman Catholic parish records and wills are available on FindMyPast with images.] FamilySearch added a huge database of Massachusetts Land records 1620-1986 with over 5.7 million images; this database can only be browsed.

The Forum:

No new questions or suggestions this week. Please send the Bulletin your problems.

News From the Trenches

Keep Trying – One Step Forward but a Disappointment as well

For many years I have been searching for my great-grandmother's family. I knew that Ada Johnson was born in London sometime in the mid 1860s and that she married Alessandro Achillini in St Peter's Italian Church in Clerkenwell in 1890. Alessandro was one of the many Italian immigrants who lived within walking distance of St Peter's. For the last twelve years I have known that her father's name was Robert, a bootmaker, from her marriage certificate, but I had been unable to find the perfect fit. I could not find an Ada living with a Robert Johnson, bootmaker, in any census. With neither an exact age nor her mother's first or last names, I was stymied. I had ordered half a dozen birth certificates of various Ada Johnsons born in London in the mid 1860s but none of them had father, Robert. I did get very excited when Ancestry put their London parish records collection online but that did not have 'my' Ada. One day, I was discussing the fact that many new Roman Catholic records were coming online (and new CDs of Catholic records that the FHC had acquired) with James Thomson. I lamented that St Peter's was not one of the churches that had been transcribed. James said: "Oh, but they have. By the Anglo-Italian Family History Society, and they are online for members only." I had been a member of this organization in the past but had let my membership lapse because I had not found anything helpful by being a member.

So I joined again. I very promptly received the member login information and found indexes online. I had to email them to get the transcriptions of the records. Not knowing what records to ask for, I emailed a request and received a reply the next day. It confirmed some of the information I had but did not add much new. The AIFHS wished a copy of family group sheets, so I mailed those off and went on holiday. On my return I had an email containing priceless information, which came from Ada's christening into the Roman Catholic faith the day before she was married. It confirmed that her father's name was Robert and that he was a shoemaker. It also gave her date of birth as March 31, 1864 and her mother's name as Rebecca Semminous (perhaps Simmons?). I was able to find Ada as a 7-year old living with her mother, who then was a widow with several other children. I had already obtained the birth certificates that fitted her birth date and they did not match, so I knew that I had to track the siblings. The marriages of two of them on Ancestry's London Marriage collection, with father Robert, either a boot or shoe maker, confirmed a match.

I then followed Ada's older brother, Robert, through the censuses after he got married. In earlier censuses when he had been living with his mother, she had given his birth place as London, but after he was married he says that he was born in Birmingham. So I ordered what I hoped was his birth certificate. I was very disappointed on its arrival as it was not Robert Johnson with parents, Robert and Rebecca. So now it is back to the drawing board. I now have several more siblings to track to see if their births can be traced. A birth certificate will give Rebecca's maiden name. It is difficult to imagine that not one of the children was registered in some registrar's office in the 1850s or 1860s, so I will keep trying.

The success that I had finding Ada's mother's forename was entirely due to discussing the problem with an interested third party, James Thomson. I have often found it helpful to describe my brick walls with someone else as they can often look at it from a different point of view and come up with a new idea or area to search. Discussions with volunteers at your Family History Centre or members of your Family History Society or even a [RootsWeb mailing list](#) may provide you with valuable input to break down that brickwall.

Were You Aware...

USB Flash Drives

I often recommend to patrons coming into the Family History Centre that they bring a USB Flash Drive to save digital images. The same suggestion applies to other research facilities – libraries, archives, etc. It need not be expensive. This week at Future Shop there are 34 different USB drives that cost less than \$10 and another 80 that are less than \$20. For purposes of downloading images to a flash drive, an 8GB (GigaByte) Flash Drive will be quite sufficient; one could probably save 8,000 census images on that drive. At our centre we have a computer which will copy images from a microfilm or a microfiche. This computer works best with a USB drive that is less than about three years old (a second generation or USB 2.0 drive). Any new USB flash drive will meet this criterion.

Films received in the week ending May 30th and due for return July 18th.

Film Content	Film No
ENG MDX Hackney Refuge for the Destitute, 1819-1902	1551252

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. 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

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm

Thursday 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Friday 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, click [here](#).

[FamilySearch - Search](#)

[FamilySearch - IGI](#)

[Hugh Wallis IGI Batch Numbers](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

*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