



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-31

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



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**The Forum** – No new questions, some suggestions for last week's questions

**Were You Aware ...** - 1921 Canadian Census - Districts in Montreal, Early Photographs Cont'd, UK Probate Records

### Announcements

Don't forget the One World One Family Conference this Saturday in Brampton.

### Additions to Our Permanent Collection

We have added several books to our reference library this week.

***Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet, A Guide for Family Historians*** by Chris Paton was published earlier this year and has received good reviews. It should help patrons and volunteers alike trace Irish family members, as it is packed with useful website addresses

### ***Consistory Court of Ely Probate Records 1449-1858 – Part I: A-E; Part II: F-P; Part III: Q-Z*** – 3 Volumes

These three volumes published by the British Record Society in the mid 1990s contain a nominal index to these probate records of Ely including the Dean & Chapter of Ely. [Before 1837 the consistory court of Ely covered the Isle of Ely and most of the "old" county of Cambridgeshire. So if you have any Cambridgeshire ancestors, do check these books.] For each name (including alternate spellings), the parish and hamlet if listed, status (widow, bachelor, senior, junior, etc) and occupation are given. The symbols that follow indicate the source of the information.

So VC 47:218 is a Consistory Court Will Register with the number of the register (48) and the folio or page (218).

### ***The Records of the Woolwich District*** by W. T. Vincent

Ruth Bailey has donated two volumes of Woolwich District records. Written in 1890, it covers Woolwich, Plumstead, Welling, Erith, Bexley, Wickham, Shooters Hill, Charlton, Kidbrooke and Eltham. The books contain no parish records but have huge amounts of information and history about the area and what it was like. It has illustrations, biographies of celebrities, memorable events, etc. It would "add depth and life to your genealogical research". The books also come on a CD which will be catalogued for our library in the coming weeks.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has updated a few collections this week: West Yorkshire marriages and banns 1813-1935, Swedish indexed birth records 1880-1930, WWII UK prisoners of war, and US WWII army enlistment records. One new collection is the New York WWI military service records.

**FindMyPast.co.uk** has added the Canadian records that were added to FindMyPast.com a few weeks ago. These records can be searched at family history centres. There are 71,000 pages of books covering nearly 350 years of history from Canada, including military, religious, occupational, and immigration records, business directories, published genealogies, and some civil registration.

**FamilySearch** has updated its Jamaican civil registration records.

## The Forum:

### Questions:

#### Q1/2013/30.

I am writing to ask how do we figure out which one of the many soldiers running around in WWI is our chap? I am working on Alexander Jarvie born October 1897 in Dalziel, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He did join up in Scotland and served in France, where he was gassed. He recovered in France and then in Ireland. I don't have his numbers and I don't even know which kind of military type he was in - Highlanders, Riflers, etc.

Adrian Hetherington sent a response to this researcher: "A significant portion of WW1 records were destroyed in the Blitz of WW2 which causes problems. You will have to come at this from a circular route because it is a big question for so little information. Where was he in the 1911 & 1901 census; were his parents in the same area in 1891 census? If he appeared settled in one area, which regiments recruited in that location? This is a question best asked on Rootschat. There are a number of people who are well read on military matters. They may know if there was a "Pals" list for Dalziel or where ever.

"A general Ancestry search for Alexander Jarvie may show that he was entitled to medals. Some medal cards for Alexander Jarvies are offered; they give name number and regiment. Two service records appear to have survived but as both men enlisted early on, aged 22, it's not likely that either are your Alexander. Adding a year or two to one's age is one thing but five pushes things a little too far even for a Recruiting Sergeant with a quota to fill. Still, look at their place of attestation and whom he puts down as next of kin. You may just be lucky, but people frequently gave false information when they enlisted so move cautiously.

"If you are confident of where he lived then you could look at local newspapers which may suggest the regiment but not his number.

"Another thought: do you know Alexander was hospitalised in Ireland because you have some clear evidence or do you suspect it from less clear information? I ask because, for a long time, I combined information about my grandfather, also wounded in WW1, and I was wrong. In my case I knew he was in the "Dublin" hospital from his field medical card. I wrongly supposed that to be in Dublin because it explained another piece of information. The reality, as I discovered via Rootschat, was that it was a Field Hospital in France staffed by people from Dublin. A little later I did find out where granddad had the shrapnel in his eye treated in the UK."

#### Q2/2013/30. UK Birth Registration.

My English-born third cousin is puzzled by his late mother's procrastination in getting his birth registered. He was born in December 1948 but his birth was not registered until October 1950. Adding to the confusion is the fact that his date of birth is shown on the certificate as December 1949 when there is prima face evidence that he was born in December 1948. Obviously late registration then and now would result in some serious trouble for those who are late registering their offspring. My third cousin's surmise is that his mother may have mitigated her late filing penalty by declaring December 1949 as the date of birth rather than December 1948? What were the penalties then and now?

Registration of births in England and Wales started July 1, 1837 but registration did not become compulsory until 1875. Births had to be registered within 42 days (still the length of time). Apparently the 1837 Act made the late penalty for registering a birth after 42 days, but before six months had elapsed, five shillings for the Registrar and 2s 6d to the Superintendent Registrar. After 1875 a fine of £2 was introduced. In 2011 the maximum fine for not registering a birth was £200 in England and Wales. The communications manager for the GRO at that time indicated that possibly 20 births a year went unregistered, but this was just a guesstimate. Speculation on the internet suggested that Adele, a UK singer, could face a fine of £1,000 for not registering the birth of her son in 2012! I suspect that the current Births and Deaths Act in 1949 provided for a late penalty for the birth registered between three to twelve months from the birth date and a more significant fine for non-registration, which it would have been after a year.

In his book *Ancestral Trails* (in our FHC library), Mark Herber states that many births were not registered in the early years of civil registration and that in some parts of England up to 15% of births were not registered before 1875. The Births and Deaths Registration Act of 1874 made it a duty of those present to report a birth or death to the registrar.

#### Were You Aware...

##### 1921 Canadian Census - Districts in Montreal

Daniel Parkinson wrote with some helpful information about the 1921 Census. "People not familiar with Montreal would not know from Ancestry's indexing that there are more than two districts to Montreal. The Districts of the City of Montreal should be clearly identified as such with Montreal as prefix:

Hochelaga

Jacques-Cartier-Lachine  
Laurier-Outremont  
Maisonneuve  
St-Antoine (Montreal)  
St-Denis (Montreal)  
St-Jacques  
St-Lawrence, St George  
Ste- Anne. Montreal  
Ste-Marie  
Westmount, St. Henri”

### Early Photographs, Cont'd

In Bulletin 2013-27, I posted a photograph of my gg grandmother, Catherine Jane Dewar. One of the responses which the Bulletin received (from Mary Ann Tate) was a link to a [RootsChat forum](#) where one could submit a photograph for restoring and dating. I did this and received five much improved images and one framing back. They are all shown [here](#). The restorers agreed with my assessment that the photo was an ambrotype, that it was reversed, and that the date would have been the mid to late 1850s and not 1864, which was the date my aunt had suggested. Yvonne (ymfoster) indicated that her restoration could be used with attribution and here is the comparison.



### Probate Records, UK

The three new books in our library containing the Consistory Court of Ely Probate Records have an informative introduction. I found the following of interest:

Who could not make a will: those under 21 years of age, those of unsound mind and the excommunicated.

Women and wills: A will could not be made by a married woman without her husband's consent. A will made by a woman before she married became void when she married. Between 1540 and 1770, approximately 15% of all wills were made by women in the Ely Consistory. Between 1760 and 1858, the percentage increased to between 20 and 30%. Of the women who were identified in the records as widows, spinsters or wives, 81% were widows; 12% were spinsters; and only 7% were listed as wives. Women gave land to daughters in a much higher proportion than men did.

Very few wills were made during the interregnum (the period of the Commonwealth of England 1649-1660).

The introduction says that the will would usually be dictated to the scribe by the testator. The scribe would then write it down formally. He would return with the formal version of the will and read it to the testator, who would then sign or mark it. At least two witnesses would then sign or mark the will and it became official.

The preamble of nearly every will is a brief "soteriological profession" and this seems to be a standard form for each will written by that particular scribe. An example of this is illustrated in the will of my 6g-grandfather: "***In the Name of God Amen I, Francis Scotting, of Littleport within the Isle of Ely in the County Cambridge Yeoman being weak in Body but of sound and disposing Mind Memory and Understanding thanks be given to Almighty God for the Same do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following***".

If you do find an index entry in one of these books indicating that your ancestor has left a will, you will be able to order a film from the Family History Library with the will on it. Click [here](#) for a list of will films for the Consistory Court of Ely. You will note that the will appears in two films: one has the original will with your ancestor's signature or mark and the other is a "register copy", which as the name suggests is a copy for the record.

These books not only contain references to wills but also to administrations, inventories and guardianship papers. A list of the bonds and inventories for the Consistory Court of Ely can be found [here](#). Guardianship papers will be found in with the bonds and inventories.

#### Films which were received in the week ending August 22<sup>th</sup> and due for return October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Film Content	Film No
DEU HES Ober Ofleiden Tote 1867-1875	1195795
DEU MEC Alt Bukow PRs	0068946
DEU MED Kuppentin Konfirmationen 1801-1883	0069287
ENG STS Land Tax A'ments 1781-1833	1469008

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.)**

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm (Linda)

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm (Ann, Joe am, Helen pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Don & Roberta)

Thursday 9:30am to 3:45 pm (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Helen)

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](#)

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