



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-32

August 29, 2013

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



Editor:  
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### Announcements

We welcome Leslie Dorschell as a new volunteer in the Toronto FHC. Leslie has researched her family history in Canada, the US, Germany and England. She will be at the FHC on Wednesday afternoons.

Many thanks to Joan Challis for bringing in some old maps that may help researchers looking in England.

The Toronto FHC will be closed next Thursday evening, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has announced that access to travel and immigration records will be [free](#) from now until September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The featured free collections are: New York Naturalization Petitions 1794–1906, U.S., Index to Alien Case Files at the National Archives at Kansas City 1944–2003, Hamburg Passenger Lists 1850–1934, U.S., Atlantic Ports Passenger Lists 1820–1873 and 1893–1959, Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship Records, Ship Passenger lists, U.S. Passport Applications 1795–1925, and NY Irish Emigrant Savings Bank. Ancestry has added a new collection of non-conformist records 1567-1970 for England and Wales. These records are in RG4, 5 & 8 at the PRO in Kew and contain birth, marriage and death/burial registers from congregations and churches that were not Anglican (Church of England). If you find a marriage in an Anglican church after 1754 and no baptisms of children, it would be worth looking in these records for the birth notices or baptisms of children. There are more complete non-conformist records on [TheGenealogist.co.uk](http://TheGenealogist.co.uk), which is also available at family history centres.

**FamilySearch** has added 1.4 million records from the Find A Grave index this week. [I would recommend that you search the original [FindAGrave website](#) first as it has more than 104 million records.] FamilySearch has updated Guatemala civil registration records, Seattle Passenger lists (1890-1957) and the 1867 Mecklinberg-Schwerin census, and have added indexed records to the civil registration for Hungary 1895-1908. This is the first time that I have seen airplane passengers and crews lists; these are for Baltimore 1954-1957 (images only).

**TheGenealogist.co.uk** has added a new collection of criminal register records. These records feature over 89,000 criminal records covering indictable offences in England and Wales between 1782 and 1892. The records also cover prisoners 'pardoned' and those classed as 'criminal lunatics'. One set of records (HO27) has been available on Ancestry for some time but the other three record collections are unique. Click [here](#) for a complete description of the new records. The Genealogist is available without charge at family history centres.

## News From the Trenches

### Quest for the Owners of a Family Bible

A reader writes: "My aunt's husband inherited a "family" Bible. While I was admiring it, they told me they weren't sure how the family names in the front were related to my uncle. Using those few names I was able to bring the family forward. I could find no direct or indirect connection. Our best guess now is that the last remaining member of the family died in England in 1965 in the small town where my uncle's family was living. I have suggested getting the death certificate to see who registered it. Maybe my uncle's family were friends or distantly related. Very distantly related because I can find no link. Even going back a couple of generations and coming forward on collateral lines.

"The single lady, who died in 1965 at the age of 87, had a sister. This sister married and died young leaving behind one child. Her husband remarried, and so perhaps lost touch with his unmarried sister-in-law. I have been able to trace the family forward to a living relative with whom my family is going to get in touch to return the family Bible. The living relative would be the great-grandson of the original owner."

I am sure that the great-grandson will be delighted to be contacted. Yesterday John Reid in his Anglo-Celtic Connections [blog](#) had a similar story about a family bible.

## The Forum:

### Questions:

#### Q1/2013/32. FindMyPast Subscriptions

Please help me to differentiate between what each of: "findmypast.uk" and "findmypast.com" provide to the subscriber. My research interests are primarily in the UK. I have had offers to subscribe to each one and cannot find any comparison. The ".com" version is considerably cheaper-priced than the ".uk" version. Is one better than the other? If so, in what ways? Does one incorporate/duplicate the other, and provide even more resources? Is one more comprehensive or more enriched than the other? What are the pros and cons to each? Any other guidance/ words of wisdom are welcome.

## Were You Aware...

### Tracing Your Eastern European Ancestors

Family Chronicle and Internet Genealogy are pleased to announce a new special issue in their continuing *Tracing Your Ancestors* series. If you are researching your ancestors in Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary or Ukraine, their authors have provided up-to-date and information on resources that will assist you in your research. It will be available in September at their [website](#).

## Historic maps of Norfolk

A link in the Norfolk RootsWeb list reminded me that I have not put this [link](#) in for some time. It has lots of fascinating maps about Norfolk and Norwich that can be shown side-by-side or overlaid for comparison.

## National Library of Scotland Maps

This is another amazing website that has been previously mentioned and which has [maps of Scotland](#). It now contains over 48,000 maps as high-resolution, colour, zoomable images. The maps date between 1560 and 1961. There are also a few maps of England, Ireland, Great Britain and Belgium.

## Back-to-Backs – Housing in Victorian England

I have been having a lively discussion with one of our patrons about what a back-to-back is. My future father-in-law introduced me to the concept of back-to-back houses when he was living in Leeds. The back-to-backs in Leeds were pairs of terrace houses of two to three storey buildings facing in opposite directions with a common rear wall. There was a street on each side, just the sidewalk separating the front door from the street, with laundry hanging across the streets. The tall chimney pots lining the roofs made me think of a Dickens novel where smoke from the chimneys would create thick smog. The definition of a back-to-back in my Oxford Concise is "*esp. Brit (of houses) with a party wall at the rear*" and my Oxford Canadian suggests a house separated by a common back wall. My correspondent has a different Oxford Concise "*built in a terrace backing on to another terrace, with a party wall or a narrow alley between*". It is this "narrow alley" that is the bone of contention. [Comments from readers would be welcomed.] Wikipedia says that "*It has become common for the term "back-to-back" to be applied erroneously to "through" terraced houses, the backs of which face each other but are separated by an alleyway, and are thus not contiguous like a true back-to-back*".

Back-to-backs were built starting in the Industrial Revolution for workers moving into the cities for work. They were built mainly in inner cities of the north like Birmingham, Bradford, Leeds, Liverpool and Manchester. There was no indoor plumbing and toilets were at the end of the row. With one window in each room, they must have been grim places to live. The room where one entered was typically 11' x 12' and it would contain the fireplace and stairs to the second floor. Often there was a fixed ladder-type stair to the third floor. In 1861 John Everitt lived in 44 Inge Place, Court 13, with his wife and six children – eight people in three rooms. This was not particularly overcrowded as they were all employed. At 40 he was an iron bedstead forger, his wife a carpet bag maker and his sons aged 11 to 17 were brass founders. Only the 7-year-old, Joseph, was in school. At one point in the 1800s, about one quarter of the population lived in back-to-backs.



Birmingham has made one terrace of back-to-backs into a museum that is run by the National Trust and the NT now rents two of them as [vacation properties](#). [They have been equipped with indoor plumbing!] In a peculiar reversal, given that back-to-backs were not built in the 1900s (except in Leeds), there are a few proposals for new back-to-back housing in England with quite modern facilities. More detailed descriptions of back-to-backs are available [here](#)

Millions of row or terraced houses (or what Canadians would call townhouses) were built in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They usually had a very small front garden (judging from Google Streetview, just big enough today for one's recycling and rubbish bins) and a small private rear garden with a tall fence around. The flush toilet was often in an attached room at the rear of the house; bathing arrangements varied. [I have researched several people who were bathing attendants in the census – families often went to "the baths" weekly.] This picture shows a typical London terrace house.

### FamilySearch Courses

Are you stuck? Do you need some pointers? FamilySearch has hundreds on [online courses](#) that may help with your problem. Irish researchers have a choice of eight lessons to choose from. There are 24 courses on Courts, Land and Wills. There are 63 lessons for the United Kingdom and 97 for the United States. Some courses are very short, only a few minutes long, while others are longer than half an hour. They tend to be a combination of videos and slides. A quick glance at a few looks interesting.

### The In-Depth Genealogist Digital Magazine

Have you ever looked the digital magazine that The In-Depth Genealogist produces on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month? They have interesting articles, with a bias towards US research. The 58-page August issue contains an article on the 1921 Canadian Census, written by Ottawa blogger, Elizabeth Lapointe. Click [here](#) to read the magazine online.

### Films which were received in the week ending August 29<sup>th</sup> and due for return October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Film Content	Film No
ENG LAN Liverpool Rice Lane, Walton Park burials 1891-1905	0093819
ENG LAN Patricroft PRs 1868-1910	1786243
ESP H Tierz Not. Records 1649-1687	1457909
ITA Mirabella Imbaccari Civ. Reg. 1820-61	1467873
ITA Misterbianco Civ. Reg. 1820-1949	1467900

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 & Leslie 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](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

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