



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-35

September 19, 2013

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



Editor:  
Helen Billing



### In This Bulletin

**Announcements** – Fall hours, OGS Toronto Call for Speakers for Spring Workshop on Scotland

**What's New** – Ancestry (Birmingham records, Perth Australia records); FamilySearch (new records for Spain and images for Brazil & Mexico), FindMyPast (Royal Household records)

**News From the Trenches** – Occupations

**The Forum** – No new questions or suggestions

**Were You Aware ...** - Signatures

### Announcements

As of October 15<sup>th</sup> (after Thanksgiving), we will be switching to our fall hours and the FHC will not be open on Thursday afternoons. We will close at noon on Thursdays. Other hours will remain the same.

### OGS Toronto - Call for Speakers: SCOTLAND AND ITS PEOPLE

The Toronto Branch and the Canadiana Department of the North York Central Library will be co-hosting a one-day workshop for family historians on April 12, 2014 about the social, economic and cultural history of Scotland. If you have an interest in Scotland and its history, please note this date in your calendar. They are looking for speakers who would like to be part of this workshop and wish to receive proposals from professional genealogists, historians, family historians, librarians and archivists. Please submit your proposals to: [courses@torontofamilyhistory.org](mailto:courses@torontofamilyhistory.org). The deadline for proposals is November 18, 2013.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has added a major new collection of English parish records for Birmingham. There are four large databases: Birmingham Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1538-1812 (551,000 records), Baptisms 1813-1912 (700,000 records), Marriages and Banns 1754-1937 (829,000 records), and Burials 1813-1964 (315,000 records). There are two smaller Birmingham collections: Harborne confirmations 1915-1931 and calendar of prisoners 1880-1891 and 1906-1913. Ancestry also added a collection of 800,000 records for Perth, Australia - the Rate Books 1880-1946 (a good census substitute for people renting property).

**FamilySearch** has added indexed municipal records for the Province of Barcelona, Spain 1387-1936. A number of browse-only collections for Brazil and Mexico have also been added.

**FindMyPast.co.uk** has published more than 300,000 Royal Household staff records. There are over 380,000 staff records stretching from 1526 to 1924 to discover detailed information about your ancestor's time in service, such as name, occupation, age, length of service and salary. In some instances you may even find their signature.

## News From the Trenches

### Occupations

A patron recently asked FHC volunteers what the occupation of John Ogburn was in this 1891 England census:

John Reynolds	usson	m.	<del>24</del>	N. W. Newway		
John H. Ogburn	Head	m.	<del>38</del>	Corn Dealer - Carman		X
Aunie M. Do.	Wife	m.	<del>44</del>			
Minnie Do.	Daughter	f.	<del>12</del>	Scholar		
Elizabeth F. Do.	Daughter	f.	<del>10</del>	Do.		
Robert G. Do.	Daughter	f.	<del>8</del>	Do.		
Robert Hawckner	Lodger	f.	<del>17</del>	Corn Dealer - Warehouseman		X

I believe that the entry says *Corn Dealer – Carman*. It is often helpful when looking at census entries to look at the pages before and after the entry. The lodger in John Ogburn's house is a *warehouseman for a corn dealer*. There are many *Carman* living along the street – *carman newspaper*, *carman hay and straw*, *druggist carman* and several just plain *carman*. These people all drove vehicles to transport goods. As this was 1891, the most likely vehicle would have been a horse and cart or perhaps just a cart. John Ogburn moved corn. This would have been grain of some kind; corn in Britain did not mean corn on the cob until very recently. The type of grain depended on where one lived: corn in England referred to wheat, whereas corn in Scotland and Ireland meant oats. The marks on the censuses, made by someone checking through the census entries, often make census entries hard to read. The occupations were divided into groups and sub-groups for statistical purposes. By 1911 this process had become more rigorous and occupations were classified by number.

### The Forum:

**No new questions or suggestions this week.**

### Were You Aware...

#### Signatures

Signatures on original records can be quite significant and helpful. I find it really interesting to see original signatures and notice how much difficulty some of my ancestors had writing their names. I was looking at a Birmingham marriage today on Ancestry and found that the father of the bride was a witness; William Henry Parkes wrote his name *Williham Henery Parkes*, giving me an insight into his level of education and his speech. I also remember to appreciate that I do not have to write with a quill pen. A civil marriage record is a written copy of the marriage but the church record contains the individuals' actual signatures. The signatures can be compared to prove relationships; many witnesses are siblings or parents. On that same Birmingham marriage, the other witness was the bride's sister and I was able to compare her signature then to her signature when she got married.

In another instance in our family, an 1830 will mentioned several siblings that we had never heard of. We tried to track these siblings in the censuses but this proved rather difficult because the last name was quite common in the London suburb they lived in. The London marriage records were more successful. Our direct ancestor, Thomas Harvey, was a witness to several of these marriages and we were able to connect them because of the similarity of the signatures of the witnesses to Thomas's signature when his own marriage record.

Actual signatures are also found on military records and can be compared to those in church marriage records. Recently a patron showed me three Canadian military records for a person with the same or similar name. Library and Archives Canada had filed two of the records together, confident that those two people were the same. But the patron wondered where the third person fitted. In the first two files, the attestor had signed his name as *William* but the third file was signed *Wm*. After quite a lot of discussion and examining the signatures very carefully, it was decided that the three files were all for the same man, although he may have tried to disguise himself for the third.

Films which were received in the week ending September 19<sup>th</sup> and due for return about November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Film Content	Film No
ENG MDX London misc.Huguenot	0962139
HUN Szatmar Gebe Greek Catholic Church Recs 1786-1895	0601662
PRU WPRU Freystadt PRs 1841-1867	0208093
PRU WPRU Rehnhof PRs 1782-1862	1196386
ZAF Cape Province, Cape Town, Deaths, 1925-7	1670717
ZAF Cape Province, Cape Town, Deaths, 1961-2	1864366
ZAF Cape Province, Cape Town, Maitland Cemeteries Index	1259122
ZAF Cape Province, Cape Town, Maitland Cemeteries, Index	1258779

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: As of October 15th (after Thanksgiving), we close at noon on Thursdays. 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 Ext. 111

Email: Toronto\_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca