



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-39

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



Editor:
Helen Billing



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Announcements

We will be closed for the evening of October 31st so that volunteers can deal with the ghosts and goblins that will come calling.

What's New

Ancestry has added an index to the Peterborough Ontario Jail Registers 1876-1896. There are 2,634 records in the collection and the details for each prisoner include name, age, location, marital status, faith, whether or not they were temperate, the crime committed, the sentence, who did the sentencing and length of time served. The original Peterborough jail register covers additional years (c. 1860–1905) and is held at the [Archives of Ontario](#).

FindMyPast has added a small database of 4,756 ex-apprentices and trainees who trained with the electrical engineering company, Metropolitan-Vickers, at Trafford Park, Manchester between 1902 and 1934. Many of these trainees were based overseas. The records give you information such as name, address, date and type of apprenticeship, whether deceased by 1935 and cause of death.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added records for the first four of eight cemeteries of Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council in North Yorkshire. There are 105,000 burial records for Boosbeck (1931 - 2010), Brotton (1936 - 2010), Eston (1865 - 2010), and Guisborough (1873 - 2010). The records available comprise scans of burial registers, details of each grave and, coming soon, cemetery section maps indicating grave locations. The remaining four cemeteries, Loftus, Redcar, Saltburn and Skelton, will be added soon.

FamilySearch has added indexed records to the collection of Norfolk Bishop's Transcripts, 1685-1941.

DC Thomson Family History, formerly *brightsolid* and owner of FindMyPast and GenesReunited, and **FamilySearch** announced a partnership today. They are “collaborating to deliver a wide range of projects including digital preservation, records search, technological development and the means to allow family historians to share their discoveries. More than 13 million records from FamilySearch.org launched today on findmypast, including major collections of births, marriages and deaths covering America, Australia, and Ireland. Around 600 additional collections, containing millions of records, will follow.” The first releases are Californian marriages 1850-1945, Iowa marriages 1809-1992, Indiana marriages 1780-1992, Virginia marriages 1785-1940, Alabama marriages 1816-1957, Alabama deaths 1908-1974, Utah births 1892-1941, North Carolina deaths 1931-1994, Indiana births 1773-1933, California births 1812-1988, Australian births 1792-1981, Australian deaths 1816-1980, and Australian marriages 1810-1980. These records are already available on FamilySearch. Is this partnership advantageous to genealogists?

FamilySearch announced another partnership this week with **MyHeritage**. MyHeritage users will be able to use select historical records digitized by FamilySearch, and FamilySearch users will be able to use the record- and family-matching algorithms created by MyHeritage.

The Forum:

No new questions or suggestions this week.

Do you have a brickwall that other Bulletin readers might be able to help with? Do you have questions of a general nature that other Bulletin readers might also find interesting?

Were You Aware...

More than *Irish Lives Remembered* Genealogy Magazine

George Tuck was exploring the link given for the *Irish Lives Remembered* magazine last week and found more interesting and free genealogy articles. Go to <http://issuu.com/yourfamilyhistory>. George writes: "Once there, look for a search box in the upper left. Searching for <family history> or <genealogy> will lead to other relevant publications, some free and some just a table of contents with a lead to purchase. It looks like a few people have posted their personal family histories on this site, too." There are a number of Nick Barrett's columns that were originally published in *Your Family History*, a magazine that has been replaced by *Discover History*. [issuu](http://issuu.com/yourfamilyhistory) has 14 million publications on its website now and adds about 25,000 new publications a day.

Divorced or not?

An article in the Globe and Mail on Wednesday caused me to think about divorces in Canada. The article, entitled *Reconstructing Harry – Sometimes a search of your genealogical tree can turn up a rotten limb*, immediately caught my eye because I think "rotten limbs" can be a lot more interesting than "sensible folk". The article mentioned that her grandfather was divorced before he married her grandmother and that her great grandparents were also divorced. I felt that I would like to see the divorce records. From the article, it appears that these ancestors were ordinary labourers and that the divorces happened before 1901 and 1923. I would postulate that divorce never happened but that the previous spouse was never mentioned when the second marriage took place. Additionally, it appears that each of the two sets of marriages took place in different countries – the US and Canada.

From 1840 to 1968 divorces in Canada were granted only by private acts of parliament. From 1840 to 1867 there were only five divorces granted. Between 1867 and 1968, a notice of intent to petition the government for an Act of Divorce had to be placed in the Canada Gazette and two newspapers where the petitioner resided, where it had to appear for a six-month period. [I was unable to find an example of this in online Canadian newspapers.] The petition would contain details such as the date and place of the marriage, events surrounding the demise of the marriage, and, in the case of adultery or bigamy, a co-respondent was named. If the petition was allowed, Parliament passed an Act of Divorce nullifying the marriage. Up to 1963, a transcript of the Act, including names and grounds for divorce, was published in the Statutes of Canada for the current year.

This would have made it difficult and expensive for labourers or their wives. I suspect that it was quite common for people to separate and then marry a second time without a divorce. I have several examples in my own family; sometimes the couple living together would not marry until the death of the first spouse.

In England after the Divorce Act of 1857, the cost of a divorce dropped from over £600 to about £50 (still not cheap for a labourer). It is fairly easy to see if a divorce was filed in England between 1858 and 1927: The National Archives has about 120,000 records, or about 99% of cases. Go to the [National Archives advanced search page](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced); enter the name of your person of interest as a keyword; select a date range; and select the reference number "J77". Before 1884 only the surname is indexed; after 1884 the full name is entered and after 1910 the reason is included. Co-respondents' names are not always there. A successful search will give you a précis only.

Films received in the week ending October 10th and due for return at the beginning of 2014.

Film Content	Film No
GER Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Bruel, Prs 1685-1934	0069021
PRU WPRU Freystadt PRs 1867-1896	0208094
SCT FIF Balingry, Census 1891	0208748

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 (Helen)

Thursday 9:30am to noon (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Don & Roberta)

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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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