



# Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-40

October 24, 2013

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



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## Announcements

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

We apologize to any patrons inconvenienced by our unexpected closure on Tuesday.

**New Camera** - The Toronto FHC has acquired a camera and associated equipment to take photographs of pages of films. The camera mounts to a monopod that will attach to the side of the film reader. It will take non-flash photos in low light levels. The image can then be quickly transferred to one of our computers and from there to a USB key. This camera offers another option for getting images of records that are on film, apart from our copy computer. It may prove to be very fast, once set up. Do NOT forget to bring your memory stick/USB key if you wish to take images from computers, films, fiche or CDs home with you.

## Monthly OGS Toronto Meeting – Monday, 28 October 2013, 7:30 p.m, North York Memorial Hall

### What Really Happened? A Genetic Genealogy Success Story

Elizabeth A. R. Kaegi and James F. S. Thomson have used several traditional genealogical techniques in conjunction with new genetic genealogy tests and have been able to solve a six decade old mystery, and have the findings conclusively confirmed. The mini-presentation is by Beth Bow: ***The best Betts house***.

## Additions to Our Permanent Collections

New CD – #BR169 LAN Manchester St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church Baptisms 1820-1826 & 1838-1900

This CD contains transcribed details of nearly 30,000 baptisms, mentioning over 90,000 people. It adds to the collection of transcribed Roman Catholic registers for Manchester, London and Essex we have on CD at the FHC.

New Fiche – Many thanks to Joan Challis for donating the following fiche sets to the FHC. They will be available next week.

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
7000136	ENG CHS Cheshire - Buried in Cheshire Vol 1 ( 5 fiche)
7000137	ENG CHS Cheshire - Buried in Cheshire Vol 2 ( 5 fiche)
7000138	ENG CHS Cheshire - Buried in Cheshire Vol 3 ( 3 fiche)
7000139	ENG CHS Altrincham St George's Monumental Inscriptions (1 fiche)
7000140	ENG CHS Chester St Mary-on-the-Hill Burial registers 1837-1844 (1 fiche)
7000141	ENG CHS Chester St Mary-on-the-Hill Burial registers 1851-1854 (1 fiche)

7000142	ENG CHS Egremont St John's Church Monumental Inscriptions (1 fiche)
7000143	ENG CHS Higher Bebington Christ Church Monumental Inscriptions (2 fiche)
7000144	ENG CHS Liscard - Liscard Independent Chapel Baptisms (2 fiche)
7000145	ENG CHS Liscard - Liscard Independent Chapel Burials 1848-1964 (1 fiche)
7000146	ENG CHS Liscard - Liscard Independent Chapel Deaths & Burials Register 1845-1964 (1 fiche)
7000147	ENG CHS Liscard - Liscard Independent Chapel Marriages (2 fiche)
7000148	ENG CHS Liscard (aka Wallasey) St Alban's Monumental Inscriptions (1 fiche)
7000149	ENG CHS Thurstaston St Bartholomew Church Monumental Inscriptions (1 fiche)
7000150	ENG CHS Thurstaston St Bartholomew Church Monumental Inscriptions (2 fiche)
7000151	ENG CHS Wallasey Parish Church Monumental Inscriptions (3 fiche)
7000152	ENG CHS Woodchurch Holy Cross Church Monumental Inscriptions (4 fiche)

### What's New

**FamilySearch** has added an indexed collection of more than 150,000 Toronto cemetery records. The Toronto Trust Cemeteries 1826-1989 database contains an index and images to the records of York General Burying Ground (also called Potter's Field), 1826-1855; Necropolis Cemetery, 1849-1989; Mount Pleasant Cemetery, 1876-1988; and Prospect Cemetery, 1890-1985. Indexed records are available through 1935. A team of volunteers from the Toronto Branch of the OGS led by Jane McNamara has indexed these records. [Many thanks to them.] Additional indexed records have been added to the Norfolk Bishop's transcripts and to the Cheshire non-conformist records. Very large collections of browsable images for Netherlands have been added for two provinces in the Netherlands: more than five million images for Civil Registration 1811-1942 in Zuid-Holland Province and more than three million images for Civil Registration 1811-1942 in Noord-Brabant Province. The images are broken down into quite manageable sections of less than 100 pages by town and the birth, marriage or death. Also check the end of the list for "*Tienjarige tafels*" or tables indexing events in alphabetical order in groups of ten years.

**Ancestry** will officially launch the name index to the 1921 Canadian census next Tuesday, October 29th. At that point all names will be indexed – have fun! If you do not have an Ancestry membership, remember that all FHCs and most libraries have free Ancestry access. The UK Mechanical Engineer Records 1847-1930 database has been updated and now includes more than 70,000 records.

### News From the Trenches

Barbara Carter writes: "When searching my friend's family tree, I came across an 1851 census for Canada West, Brant County, Onondaga Township and was confused by the 1st column "Name of Inmates". After a sleepless night trying to figure out why a whole family would be classified as inmates, I now know through more help from Google that these people were part of a community or settlement. The head of the community was my friend's ancestor and his occupation was listed as "Yeoman". From my previous research I knew that Yeoman was a farmer who owned land. We decided to go on a field trip and not only did we find the settlement but a church, a cemetery and family gravestones."

In fact, the column heading "Inmate" was used for all people in Canada West in the 1851 census. I had a look for "Inmate" in the old Oxford English Dictionary, published in the late 1800s. There the definition is "one who lives in a dwelling with another". The definition in my Canadian Oxford is the one we are familiar with - occupant of an institution like hospital, prison, etc. But the definition in my 1990s Oxford has that meaning plus "an occupant of a house, esp one of several". The suggested origin is INN + MATE.

While the term "Inmate" is used for all the 1851 censuses in Canada West, the French used on the census forms in Canada East is *Noms des personnes dans la maison* (Names of persons in the house). So I guess that they were using the old meaning of inmate. The 1851 England & Wales Census uses the terms "Name\_and\_Surname\_of\_each\_Person ...". The US 1850 census heading for the name of the person is "The Name of every Person whose usual ..." It is an interesting example of how meanings change with time.

## The Forum:

### Questions:

#### Q1/2013/40. Canada. Ontario Tax Assessment.

I wonder whether any of your readers might help me with this frustration. I spent time in Hamilton Library looking at their Tax Assessment microfiches for the years 1870-1900. I was able to find my man on the records but to my dismay could not read the form's column headings, and so ended up with much less information than I might have. My husband, the librarian and I had our eyes out on stalks trying to make anything out, even with a magnifying glass it was impossible. The written records were difficult but not impossible. I wonder whether there is anywhere one can read the actual form. Ancestry has forms for the Censuses. I don't know where the original Tax Assessments are held. Can any one help me?

## Were You Aware...

### Divorced or not? – an Error!

A reader wrote to say: "It would appear the article on divorces is in error. My mother was granted a divorce from my father on February 24, 1941. I have the Judge's Order granted by a County Court Judge in the County of York, Ontario. There was no Act of Parliament, etc. involved."

This is interesting as Library and Archives Canada on their [divorce page](#) of "Genealogy and Family History" says: "From 1867 to 1968, a person wishing to obtain a divorce was first required to place a notice of intent to petition the government for an Act of Divorce in the Canada Gazette and in two newspapers in the district or county where the petitioner resided. It was to appear for a six-month period. The petition would contain details such as the date and place of the marriage and events surrounding the demise of the marriage. In the case of adultery or bigamy, a co-respondent was often named. If, after consideration, the petition was allowed, Parliament would pass an Act of Divorce nullifying the marriage. Between 1867 and 1963, a transcript of the Act was published in the Statutes of Canada for the current year. Then, between 1964 and 1968, the transcript was published in the Journals of the Senate of Canada. The transcripts include information from the petition: the names of petitioner and spouse; their place(s) of residence; the date and place and marriage; and the grounds under which the divorce is being sought." "From 1840 to 1968, divorces in Canada were granted by private acts of the Parliament of Canada."

"The Archives of Ontario holds divorce files from 1931 to 1978. Records from 1979 to the present are in the custody of the local courthouse of the Superior Court of Justice where the divorce was filed. Consult Research Guide 210: Finding [Divorce Files in Ontario](#) for more information."

Can any reader advise how to rationalize this apparent contradiction?

## FamilySearch Batch Numbers – Still Useful

FamilySearch Wiki says: "Since the 1970's, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been extracting records of births/baptisms and marriages from filmed records in its collection. Most of these extracted records are indexed by name in the International Genealogical Index (IGI)." As the records were extracted from one film, each group or batch refers to one parish or for a range of years of that parish. There is good coverage for England, Wales and Scotland, with some coverage for Ireland, the US and Canada.

Researchers can search for ancestors in the IGI [here](#) but be sure to uncheck the community **contributed** records.

For example, I found a baptism record of Mary Chevell in Littleport, Cambridgeshire in 1809. The record had a batch number of C03461-8. To find siblings or other relatives born in the same town about the same time I can enter only the last name and the batch number in the main FamilySearch [Search page](#). This gives me the baptisms of some of her siblings and her father.

At this point I needed to check what batches were available for Littleport, Cambridgeshire. There are two excellent websites to help me. The [Hugh Wallis site](#) records batch numbers for the British Isles and North America and it lists only one batch number for Littleport for the Independent Chapel (not this family). Steve Archer's [FamilySearch IGI Batch Guide](#) has nine batches. The batch where I had found **Mary** covers baptisms between 1599 and 1812. This website indicates another batch, C146256, for Littleport baptisms (1813-1832) and I can just click on the batch number and search for the name. I then found two more of Mary's siblings born after 1812.

It is very useful to find out what has been indexed on the FamilySearch website before looking in the myriad other places for your UK ancestors. For a better and more detailed discussion of batch numbers, go to the FamilySearch Wiki page discussing [IGI Batch Numbers](#). For the Hugh Wallis website, click [here](#). Steve Archer's [website](#) does not include any

North American batch numbers but is much more complete than the older Hugh Wallis website for England, Wales and Scotland.

### Massachusetts Maps

The New England Historic Genealogical Society email newsletter, The Weekly Genealogist, has an article on digital Massachusetts' maps. The State Library of Massachusetts has digitized 167 volumes containing more than 6,000 real estate atlas maps. Most are from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They have incredible detail including the names of many residents. To view these maps online, click [here](#). Links to all their digital collections can be found [here](#).

**Films received in the week ending October 24<sup>th</sup> and due for return at the beginning of 2014.**

Film Content	Film No
JAM Westmoreland Deaths 1878-1995	1933653

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](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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