



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-46

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



Editor:
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In This Bulletin

Announcements – Closed over Christmas and New Years; Even More Good News; New OGS Toronto Courses

What's New – Ancestry (US WWI military records); Ontario Archives (new release of BMD info); Isle of Man Museum online

The Forum – Suggestions for two questions

Were You Aware ... - Cite Your Sources – Where Did You Get That Information From?, Family Tree Analyzer

Announcements

We will be closed from December 20th to January 6th.

New computers – Our nine new computers are up and running (quickly) – come and try them out! Don't forget to bring your USB key.

New OGS Toronto Courses

Two half-day courses have been added to the roster of courses offered by the Toronto Branch of OGS:

Tracing Your African Heritage in the British West Indies - February 1, 2014, 1pm – 5pm

North York Central Library, Instructor: Pooran Bridgelal

For those with African heritage, this half-day course will help you to trace your heritage through historical records. The course will present information relevant to these countries: Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts, Bahamas, Guyana and Dominica.

Tracing Your East Indian Heritage in the British West Indies - February 15, 2014, 1pm – 5pm

North York Central Library, Instructor Pooran Bridgelal

For those with East Indian ancestors, this half-day course will help you to trace your heritage through historical records. The course will present information relevant to Guyana, Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and St. Vincent.

More information and registration can be done at the OGS Toronto [website](#). Register early as Mr. Bridgelal's course in September was full.

What's New

Ancestry has added a new database of 600,000 records, which lists men ordered to report for military duty 1917–1918 in some US states. They have also added links to Isle of Man baptisms, marriages and burials at the Manx National Museum website (see below). The London England Marriages and Banns 1754-1812 database has been updated, as has the 1901 England and Wales census.

The **Archives of Ontario** has released another year of vital statistics. The new release includes 1916 births, 1931 marriages and 1941 deaths for Ontario. You will have to go to the Archives to access these records; Ancestry has births to 1913, marriages to 1928 and deaths to 1938. At FamilySearch the records are births to 1912, Marriages to 1927, and deaths to 1937. (Rick Fitches advised us of this last week.)

Isle of Man iMuseum has a collection of transcribed records online for censuses, baptisms, biographies, burials, marriages, photographs, registered deeds and war memorials. (Note that the Toronto Family History Centre has a large collection of parish register films for the Isle of Man on long term loan from SLC courtesy of patron Joan Challis.) The iMuseum has also digitized newspapers and other publications that can be accessed by paying a fee of £7 per day.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week

Suggestions:

Q1/2013/45. Poland.

I am trying to locate the birth record for my husband's father. I have not been successful in locating anything indexed. His name was MORDECHAI (or MORDKA ?) GRUSZECKI (or another spelling GRUSZKA?) and he was Jewish. He was said to have been born on August 21, 1912 in Warsaw but I do not know which town or community in Warsaw. As his birth was 101 years ago, this then satisfies the minimum 100 year ruling in order for a record to be made available from Poland. I would greatly appreciate your guidance.

Paul Jones suggests that the researcher may find more expertise in this area with the [Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto](#) and, of course, [JewishGen](#). Bill Sklar sent the Bulletin the burial information from JewishGen for Mordechai, which I think the researcher probably has. Bill goes on to say that many of the Warsaw Records after 1900 were lost in WWII and that the LDS microfilming projects of the 1990s did not capture many of the 20th century records. Jacob Psutka suggests looking on Rootsweb message boards for old posts. Jacob also says that it is his understanding that, even though a particular record is past the century mark, if there are other records that have not attained that seniority, all the records would not be released.

In 1995 [Jewish Records Indexing – Poland](#) was launched. There are now five million records from more than 550 Polish towns that have been indexed. From their website: “Indices in JRI-Poland come from two major sources: 1) Indexing LDS microfilmed records (about 1808 to 1865), comprising about 2,000 films from more than 500 towns and villages. 2) The JRI-Poland / Polish State Archives Project. While the LDS films contain approximately two million records, there are several million additional records in the Polish State Archives that were not filmed. Generally, these cover the last 25-35 years of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century... Only indices to vital records more than 100 years old may be made available online; some records for **1910** are already in the database. Registers containing records that are all more than 100 years old are available for transfer each year from town civil records offices (Urząd Stanu Cywilnego) to branches of the Polish State Archives.” As this states that they are currently adding records from 1910, perhaps the researcher will have to wait for a few more years for 1912 records to become available here. As the researcher realizes, an index will be the only way to find Mordechai given that she does not know which town he came from. The PolandGenWeb [website](#) also has lots of useful information and mailing lists.

Q2/2013/43. Devon, Toronto, US.

I am trying to locate one of my gr gr grandmother's brothers in a certain period. Nathan LAZARUS was born in Exeter, Devon, England c. 1826. He appears in the 1841 census for Exeter with his father and others. In Feb. 1853 he was married in Plymouth, Devon, to his cousin Fanny LAZARUS (sister of my gr gr grandfather Frank). Nathan, Fanny, Frank and Phoebe LAZARUS appear in the 1861 Toronto census. I can't find Nathan anywhere between the 1841 census and his marriage in 1853. I want to find out where Nathan was in those years 1841-53 because I'm trying to find out how and where he learned to be an optician. Presumably, he apprenticed somewhere, but where? I've tried a number of different ways to find him, but with no success.

Adrian Hetherington has been thinking about this question from a couple of weeks ago and has a few thoughts and further questions for the researcher. He has found on Ancestry a Nathan Lazarus, of an appropriate age, inbound to New York Aug 29 1848 on the Diadem.

“When you say optician are you taking the modern understanding of the word referring to the manufacture of lenses for glasses or the wider definition that would be applicable at the time? In the 1800s an optician would make optical instruments, telescopes, microscopes and the like.

“Is the researcher aware of [The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers](#)? In the 1800s time frame the Livery Company was the accrediting organisation for opticians. The optics to correct sight are the same as the optics for an optical instrument, so it follows that your man should have been sanctioned by them. All London Livery Companies permit admission by "patrimony" so they would keep records to support such claims. What records they do have and whether you can access them to try and answer your questions I cannot say but you could enquire. I'd advise that the Blitz of WWII did a lot of damage to the fabric of London. Part of that damage was the loss of Livery Halls and the ancient records.

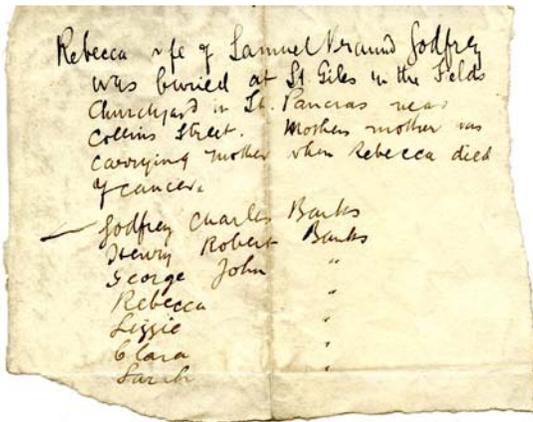
“If there were jewellers and watchmakers in the family, it follows that he may have been more than a purveyor of corrective eyeglasses. The precision associated with all three occupations could well combine into an optical instrument undertaking alongside the optometrist activities. My Worshipful Company suggestion would also cover the jewellers and the

watchmakers but which of the Companies I'd not like to guess at. If Nathan was known to travel then he could easily be missing from a census. Ship's passenger lists are the next step."

Were You Aware ...

Cite Your Sources – Where Did You Get That Information From?

My father-in-law passed on the information that he had collected about his family history, shortly before he died in England. We did not wonder where he got the information from. We just sat down to prove it. We ordered birth, marriage and death certificates; rolled through many, many films of census and church records; and eventually proved to our satisfaction that nearly all of it was true. It would have been even more helpful if we had known exactly where he had derived his information from. Some of it was personal knowledge like his marriage date; some of it was the personal knowledge of his relatives; and some of it was from a family tree drawn up about 1900 that was an attempt to prove a link to an inheritance (that regrettably was not proven). What we now have is a family tree that, we hope, has references to where we got each piece of information, ie which church, which film, which online database with its sources, which civil records with copies, etc. Later generations should not be left wondering "I wonder where that came from".



This scrap of paper was one of the items we inherited (approximately life sized). Is this the type of info you are passing on?

I often ask patrons at the FHC "where did you get that" or "how do you know that". If they do not know, we move down a generation until we have established a base which uses facts we know are correct. Only from this base can we work backwards. It is a waste of time, and often a huge amount of effort, to research a family that is not yours; you may not rediscover this for several years. It is also a waste of time if you cannot remember or have not written down where you found the information and you have to retrace your steps backwards. Please write down exactly where you got any information from (the first time!); if it is an online source, note where their data came from.

FamilySearch has a wonderful box at the bottom of the page for many of its records: "**Citing the Record**" has a specific format for creating an excellent citation. Ancestry has **Source Citation** and **Source Information** which can be used to create a good citation (not found on the actual image page but on the "**View Record**" page). This does sometimes seem tedious but it will save you heartache in the end. You will know why you are right and why.

Family Tree Analyzer

Margaret Taylor sent us a link to a program to analyze your family tree data that was on her LincsList. This program, which can be downloaded free, takes a gedcom file (all family tree programs can create a gedcom file) and analyzes it for errors. "FTAnalyzer will investigate your family tree in new and interesting ways, see where your ancestors lived and moved over time on the new maps feature [Ordnance Survey or Google maps]. Find errors in your tree eg: childrens birthdates before parent was born. See lists of who is missing from census searches then click their name to automatically search on Ancestry, Find My Past, Familysearch etc." [Family Tree Analyzer](#) has been highlighted in the [LostCousins](#) newsletter (his newsletter is very good).

I tested the program out on a small gedcom that I had recently created and was surprised to find that it listed an error – my great-grandmother was having children when she was less than 13 years old. The confusion was cleared up when I checked my data – she was christened at the age of 27 years. FTAnalyzer produces lists of individuals, families, occupations, locations, censuses, data errors, etc. I think that the error analyzer and the maps may be quite useful.

No films were received in the week ending December 5th.

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. Closed December 20th to January 6th.

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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