



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-01

January 9, 2014

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



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In This Bulletin

Announcements – Our ten new computers are up and running – quickly!

What's New – Ancestry (pre-1858 PCC Wills, London England rate books, St. Peter's RC cemetery in Peterborough Ontario, several US collections), DeceasedOnline (Kensal Green cemetery), FindMyPast (Manchester, Plymouth, Southwark and Westminster rate books, Royal Tank Corps Enlistment records), FamilySearch (Norfolk Electoral Registers, Essex parish registers)

News From the Trenches – An interesting will

The Forum – One new question and one suggestion for last year's question

Were You Aware... England & Wales Wills and Death Duties

Announcements

Our ten new computers are now available to use. There are six computers in the Annex that are able to access all the subscription websites on the Portal that are most used by patrons. Downloading images is quick and reliable. The other four new computers are in the main computer room and one of these can also access those subscription websites. Additionally we have a computer for copying film or fiche. Please bring a USB memory stick to copy any images that you might want onto it.

What's New

Ancestry added over one million records of Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills 1384-1858 for England & Wales (see Were You Aware below) and 178,000 records of rate books in London England 1684-1907 (a small portion of all the rate books in the City of London and half of this collection is for St. Dunstan's parish). A new small collection for Peterborough, Ontario is both an index to, and digital images of, 6700 tombstones in St Peter's (Roman Catholic) Cemetery 1857-2000; if there were names on more than one side, all sides were photographed. There are several large new collections for the US: two million marriage records for Georgia; 286,000 records for the Dutch Reformed Church Records from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania; and 240,000 records of \$500 bonuses paid to men and women who served in the armed forces in WWII and who lived in Iowa. A new collection of passenger and crew lists (arriving) for Florida 1906-1954 is available to browse through.

DeceasedOnline has added another of London's Magnificent Seven Cemeteries – Kensal Green in West London. There are currently more than 257,000 records available online starting from its opening in 1833. The cemetery is still open for burials and cremations. There are scans of the original burial reference books, details indicating those buried in each grave, and scans of cremation registers to 1993 with computerized records thereafter, with maps of the cemetery to be added soon.

FindMyPast has added two new collections that are available at FindMyPast.co.uk (available at Family History Centres) and at FindMyPast.com. The largest collection is 19 million rate book records from Manchester (1706-1900), Plymouth & West Devon (1598-1933), Southwark (transcription only), and Westminster (1634-1900); you may find where your ancestors lived, their addresses and who owned each property. The second collection, the Royal Tank Corps Enlistment Records 1919-1934, contains 88,000 British military records of soldiers who served in the Tank Corps and Royal Tank Corps 1919-1934 and has previous military service, biographical information and date of discharge.

FamilySearch has added indexed images for Norfolk (England) Register of Electors 1844-1952 (4.5 million records) and a few (half a million) Essex (England) parish register transcriptions. They also added the England and Wales birth, marriage and death indexes but I still far prefer to use [FreeBMD](#) to search for births, marriages and deaths after 1837. [This set of indexes on FamilySearch indicates that the dates covered start in 1800 but they do not start until July 1837.] Additions have been made to the birth, marriage and death records for several states.

News From the Trenches

I was delighted to see that Ancestry had put all the pre-1858 PCC wills online and I quickly checked for a few names that I hoped would help provide me with proof of earlier generations. A will of a John Mansfield in 1831 in Woolwich, Kent caught my eye. John's will started off with the usual introduction: "*This is the last Will and Testament of me John Mansfield of Parsons Hill Woolwich in the County of Kent Timber Dealer First I direct that all my just debts funeral expenses and the charges of and relating to this my Will be fully paid and satisfied by my Executrix herein after named as soon as convenient after my decease and after payment thereof and subject there*". But the next 'sentence' [wills of the period have no punctuation] was unusual: "*I give and bequeath unto my sons John James and William Mansfield and my daughter Elizabeth Board five shillings apiece and no more because I have educated and placed them in the world with sufficient ability to maintain themselves*". [This is perhaps the equivalent of what we told our children – that we would pay for their first degree but after that they were on their own.] In the rest of the will John leaves his estate (household goods and business) to his wife, Jane, for the "*support and placing out in the world of my son Robert Mansfield*". With a little more sleuthing on Ancestry, I found that Jane had died a few years later leaving everything to her son, Robert, and not mentioning the other children. Perhaps she was John's second wife and the aforementioned John James William and Elizabeth were not her children. Unfortunately when I checked the burial of John, he was born about 1770, just a year before my ggg grandfather, John Mansfield, also of Woolwich. Perhaps they were cousins, rather than father and son.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/01. Canada/Ireland.

I have hit a brick wall. Catherine McCarthy, 83 years old, is listed on the 1861 Census for Drummond Twp. Lanark County, Ontario and she says that she was born in Ireland. On that Census are listed her son John, his wife Ann Jane, their children William, Susannah, Margaret, Catherine, John. In the 1871 Census the family has moved to Westmeath Twp., Renfrew County. Catherine (John's mother) is not listed but my grandfather Samuel, a younger son, is on the census for Westmeath Twp, Renfrew County. To find out where my family came from in Ireland, I need to find Catherine's obituary, death certificate and/or grave marker. I have searched with no success. Can anyone help me please? Note 1: On the 1861 census the family's religion is written as RC but I know them to be Presbyterian. Note 2: My grandfather Samuel McCarthy and family members are buried in Beachburg Union Cemetery. Approximately 100 feet away there is another family plot with the name McCagherty written on it. I learned that this is the grave of Samuels' father John, mother Ann Jane and some of his siblings. Any help in finding Catherine would be appreciated.

Suggestions:

Q1/2013/47. Ireland.

I have a puzzle. A look-up of the marriage of Thomas Moffit and Mary Ann Byrne on the 19 Nov 1853 at St Nicholas RC Church in Dublin shows *Maria Anna Byrne alias Hay*. The previous entry also said *alias*. As these records were written in Latin, could the *alias* mean *formerly*? When her children were baptised in the RC Church in Manchester her name was recorded as *Mary Ann Byrne*. Since Mary Ann said she was born in Kilkenny about 1830 and the marriage was in Dublin, I wonder how the priest came by this information. I have not found Mary Ann's baptism or birth records in Kilkenny either as Byrne or Hay. If she was a widow and this was her second marriage I could understand him knowing. What was the priest indicating when he wrote "*alias Hay*", born out of wedlock or previously married?

Nora Kerr writes: "Alias" does mean formerly. I have found a Cathrine Green in my family tree. Her sister Maria Green in her will in January 1855 left various things to her sister, Cathrine Green. Maria died in February 1855. Probate for the will was granted on May 16 1856 to "Cathrine Johnson alias Green, wife of Patrick Johnson" so it clearly means formerly here and Cathrine married Patrick Johnson between 1855 and 1856 though those marriage records are not available. In this case Green was Cathrine's birth name. Perhaps it might work for a widow as well but I haven't come across that.

Were You Aware...

England & Wales Wills and Death Duties

As noted in What's New, Ancestry has added more than a million Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills 1384-1858, the largest collection of pre-1858 wills in England & Wales, to its collections. The PCC handled probates from southern England and Wales, for individuals who owned property in both the Province of York and the Province of Canterbury, or those who died outside of England and Wales. Most of these wills will be for members of the middle and upper classes, but not all as it includes some of my ancestors.

Once a will has been found in the new online PCC wills on Ancestry, it is useful and informative to go one step further and look for the death duties. Death duties are the taxes to be paid on the estate before it is divided among the legatees. The index to death duty registers (TNA reference IR27) can be searched at FindMyPast.co.uk (available on the Portal at Family History Centres) from 1796 to 1903 complete with the details needed to find the will or administration – Registry, Affidavit number, Will or Admon Folio, Date of Death and Administrator. The list of films of death duty register for wills in the country courts 1812-1857 that are available from the Family History Library can be found [here](#).

James Thomson has written a Pathfinder/Guide on how to find the corresponding Death Duty records (kept on the Admin Desk at the FHC). If an FHL film is available for the death duty records, the records will provide a valuation of the estate, the names and addresses of the legatees, and their relationships. I have found two records of death duties paid on estates in the early 1800s that certainly helped further my research. Anyone wishing to try to find death duty information is advised to come into the FHC and consult the Death Duty Pathfinder and one of our volunteers.

There are several guides available to help figure out wills and probate records. Here are three: [TNA Wills and Probate Records](#), [FamilySearch Wiki](#) [this article has links to the lists of probate films available from FHL], and [Dorset History Centre](#). Note that record copy wills from 1858 to 1925 for the Principal Registry are all on film and can be ordered to any FHC; in the catalog, search for keywords – record copy wills 1858-1925 principal registry. Record copy wills from the District Probate Registries are also available from 1858 to 1925. Please let us know if we can help you find something.

Films received in the week ending January 8th and due for return about the end of March.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC PRs Kotelow1786-1833	0069765
ENG SRY Merstham Church Records	0991689
JAM Westmoreland Deaths 1878-1995	1699582
MEX Nuevo Leon Doctor Arroyo Church records	0729973
PRT Castelo Branco Boidobra Church records	1387328
PRT Castelo Branco Donas Church records	1387327
PRT Castelo Branco Paul Church records	1387435
PRT Castelo Branco Paul Obitos 1706-1795	1387436
PRT Castelo Branco Paul Obitos 1796-1859	1387437
PRU WPRU Freystadt PRs 1787-1873	0208095
PRU WPRU Freystadt PRs 1851-1892	0208097
PRU WPRU Freystadt PRs 1873-1920	0208096

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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