



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-03

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Announcements

Toronto OGS Monthly Meeting – Monday, January 27th at 7:30pm

Genealogy Searching Forward: Back to the Future

Lawyer, Margaret Rintoul, will be speaking on "Genealogy Searching Forward: Back to the Future". While genealogists usually focus on finding ancestors, there are both ancestors and descendants in every family. Find out what happens from a legal perspective when genealogy meets estate law and the question is how to find the current heirs when a person has died. Our mini-presentation by Valerie Watt will be on "10% Non Parental Events: Fact or Fear?"

What's New

Ancestry has been busy adding records for the United Kingdom that have originated at FamilySearch and have been there for years. Many of them are the old IGI (International Genealogical Index) records. In the description Ancestry recommends going to the FamilySearch site to get a description of the records. This may help those of you do not think of going to FamilySearch.

FamilySearch has added a small collection of indexed parish registers for Dorset; no images are available but the FHL film can be ordered. Collections of images to browse have been added or updated for Nova Scotia, Mexico, Utah, Iowa, Spain, and Portugal.

News From the Trenches

Paul Branson wrote to the Bulletin this week: "I have been feasting on the extensive Italian records on familysearch.org, and as many are not indexed I've developed a system for making the browsing process less painful."

"The Joy of Browsing" by Paul Branson

Every Family History Researcher sees this eventually and it's enough to send a shiver up your spine! The button that says - "Browse 1,750,246 images. You roll your eyes, sigh heavily and move on to the next database. Not any more! - I have learned that with patience, persistence and a disciplined approach, un-indexed collections can not only be made to yield their treasure but with some basic record keeping they will become part of your library for future reference. I used the following three steps while searching Records from Italy on family search.org

1 - Preparation

We'll assume you have already identified a database of interest and are hopefully able to narrow things down by town name and a year range. Create a folder on your hard drive where you'll record your progress. Mine is called Search Tracking. Using your favourite word processing software create a file and type in the date and a short statement of who and what you are looking for. It may be a good idea to look for a secondary name as well, while you are at it. Record also the exact name of the database you are working in. This file will be very important two or three years from now when you "find" this same collection and decide to search it - AGAIN! If your memory is as faulty as my middle-aged hard-drive it is always a good idea to check the Search Tracking folder first so as to not inadvertently repeat work already done. Pick a

time of day when you are unlikely to be disturbed. Get a comfortable chair, ensure there is a sufficient supply of cool beverages at hand and you are prepared to go.

2 - Assess the Database and Start Searching

Just as with film records you have to see how things are organised. Normally there will be a year of records followed by an alphabetic index. Record the start and end page numbers of one year's records, then enter the start and end page numbers for the index. At first it will be trial and error. If any of your names appear in the index then go back to the item number indicated and read the record to see if it is what you are looking for. Record the page numbers of any hits beside the year. You may find the desired surname but different parents. It might be worth recording these names as they may be cousins and you can return later to investigate further. If there are no results - record that too. Repeat this process for each year and once you find that there are say - 700 pages per year, skipping ahead to the next year will be more predictable. After doing ten years or so, what you have created is a yearly index to the database, and future visits to search for other names will be easier as you will be able to go directly to the indexes for each year.

3 - Pace Yourself and Stay the Course!

This is where the persistence part comes in. As the work progresses choose a pace that is comfortable. It's nice to be quick but more important to be thorough. How quick will depend on your own language skills (if not in English), the quality of the scans, and the handwriting quality of the clerk who wrote these records long ago. You only want to do this once, so whether you're recording page numbers or reading a birth certificate - satisfy yourself that it is right - or wrong, before moving on. This is work that will not be completed in a few evenings or maybe weeks. When you get discouraged, remember that you are doing this from the comfort of your own home and at a time of your choosing. If work or other commitments arise, searching can be set aside until you are ready to resume and you'll know exactly where you left off because of the page numbers dutifully recorded - RIGHT??? You did not have to order or wait for microfilm and at least in the case of FamilySearch - many of the databases contain original documentation which you are getting FREE!! One cost you may incur is if you exceed the bandwidth allowed by your Internet Service Provider, though most have upgrade plans that are quite reasonable. Eventually you will find the family members for whom you are searching and will experience that moment of exhilaration that comes with a new find, only more so because of the extra effort.

Some Advantages of Browsing:

- **You may find unexpected family members that would not have surfaced by using a search engine.** All my Italian Aunts and Uncles thought that Grandad and his sister were the only siblings in his family. Imagine their surprise when I unearthed seven other siblings from the same parents. These are names I would never have known to search for by conventional means.
- **Future research on the database will be much easier.** One of my cousins declared that our common G-Grandfather had a twin brother. Since I had previously found his 1873 birth in Sicily by browsing, it was a simple matter to return and check the birth records preceding and following his and also the Index for that year. Finding no matching surnames, it was unlikely that there was a twin.
- **Search for records you already have.** I had found my grandfather's birth certificate on microfilm several years ago but it was badly faded - unreadable in places. The online version was much better, and it's always good to have a soft copy to back up paper records. These are easier to find online as you already know the place and date.
- **Bragging Rights.** You can boast to anyone that will bother listening - that you did it - "The Old Fashioned Way".

The Renaissance artist Michelangelo said - "*Every block of stone has a statue inside it and it is the task of the sculptor to discover it.*" I try to remember this in the middle of a marathon search session when my eyes are blurring and I really should have gone to bed two hours ago. My ancestors are in there somewhere - patiently waiting for me to find them.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/03. Toronto.

Given the problems of trying to find what happened to the Belfield children in the question last week, what facilities were there in Toronto for orphaned or abandoned children about 1910? Were there orphanages or workhouses or local Dr. Bernardo's homes? Where might we find adoption records?

Q2/2014/03. Poland to Canada.

I am trying to find records for my father's father, Wojciech Orłowski, who was born in Momina, located north east of Kielce. He was in the Russian army before he immigrated to Canada in 1907, landing in St. John, N.B. onboard the SS

Montezuma. The last place of residence before immigrating was Milowice. On records I have found for him his name changes from Wojciech to Adalbert, ending with George as his final choice as there is no translation of these Polish names to English. There is a Church of St. Adalbert in Momina which might be where his given name came from. Where can I find Catholic Church records/baptisms? What would be the best way to start a search?

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/02. Canada.

We are trying to discover what happened to the BELFIELD family after the 1911 census of Canada. We can find no trace of the mother or the children. The father may turn up in Peterborough Ontario. Arthur Wallace BELFIELD went to live with the HOWES family where he was known as Wallace HOWES. We are anxious to know what happened to the rest of the family and why they would part with little Arthur Wallace.

The 1911 census for this family listed two parents and four children. The youngest two children did not have their births registered, which was a little odd in Toronto in 1910/1911, especially given that the two older children had Ontario birth registrations.

This family did prove to be amazingly elusive to track down and our researchers came to the conclusion that something catastrophic happened to the family. Perhaps the father left them and the mother was unable to raise them on her own; or visa versa. We know that the third child, Arthur Wallace, was adopted, formally or not, by the Howes family, Ernest Howes and Elizabeth Duggan (m 1902). Unfortunately Elizabeth died in the influenza epidemic of 1918 (death registered). Ernest and Wallace have not been found in the 1921 census. Ernest does remarry in 1926 to Gertrude Rosewell, when Arthur Wallace would have been 16. Wallace was found in the Canada to US Border Crossings on January 12, 1928, when he gives his birth date as January 4, 1910. His father, Ernest, crosses the border on January 30, 1928; I wonder why.

No trace can be found of the two girls – no marriage or death registrations or 1921 census entries.. A Stanley Victor Belfield was found in an online part of the Peterborough (Ontario) Examiner of Thursday, April 1, 2010; this is a list of Non-Verified WWII veterans, needing full name, regimental number and/or date of birth, to be included on the Veterans Wall of Honour in Peterborough. This could possibly be the older brother of Wallace. The Canada Voters Lists on Ancestry do have a Stanley and Annie Belfield as eligible voters in Toronto in 1940 and in Peterborough in 1945 and 1957. Stanley could not be found on the 1921 census. The Peterborough Examiner newspaper appears to be online from 1980 onward but there may be a microfilm of the paper available to search earlier editions.

Wallace's mother, Lillie in the 1911 census but Elizabeth Annie at her marriage in England, was traced. A single-woman Lillian Belfield of the right age born in Bristol marries Francis Alexander Lyons in 1914. She identifies her parents as William Belfield and Martha Tudor (Elizabeth Annie Belfield's parents were William Tudor and Martha Clifford from the English censuses and marriages). Our researchers think that this is Wallace's mother, despite the obvious problems. She is found in the 1921 census living in Etobicoke with her husband, Frank, a brickmaker. The online Toronto Might's directories at archive.org have a Frank Lyons, brickmaker, at Bloor St W. The Canada Voters Lists at Ancestry have a Frank and Lily Lyons living on High Street in Etobicoke. No burial records were found in the Toronto Trust Cemeteries online at FamilySearch.

The researcher has found only a couple of possible mentions of Stanley Charles Belfield in the Toronto Star after conscription was instituted during WWI in August 1917. On November 12, 1917 page 9, the Star lists S.C. BELFIELD of 118 Pembroke Street [amongst many others] under the heading "Exemptions Category B" for call up into the military. [Category B seems to grant an exemption certificate for the continuance of education or training, or on the ground of exceptional financial or business obligations or **domestic position**.] But on May 28, 1918, the Star reports that Exemption was refused for Stanley Belfield 104 Sydenham Street. There appear to be no Belfields in the Toronto Might's directories; no Stanley Belfields on the Toronto voters' lists; and no Stanley Belfields in 1921 census.

Were You Aware...

How to Get Irish Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

You will first have to find the index entry to the birth, marriage or death. These can be found [here](#) at FamilySearch.org or at Ancestry. The records at FamilySearch include an index of Ireland civil registration for births 1864-1958, marriages 1845-1958, and deaths 1864-1958, but exclude index records for Northern Ireland after its creation in 1922. The indexes at Ancestry appear to include the indexes for Northern Ireland. The Toronto Family History Centre has films of the BMD indexes for Northern Ireland 1922-1959. You will need at least the year of the event to order the certificate; the volume and page number are also useful.

You can buy certificates for all of Ireland up to 1922 and after 1922 for the Republic of Ireland from the GRO Ireland. From the GRO Northern Ireland you can buy certificates for what is now Northern Ireland from the beginning of civil registration. Do note the cheaper option of ordering a film that will contain an image of the desired certificate (see below).

For certificates from the Government Register Office of Ireland, click [here](#). You can apply for the certificate online but it costs €20 plus €2 for postage! A much cheaper alternative is to order an uncertified copy by mail - €4 plus €2 for postage. Go to the [Fees page](#) to see this option.

For certificates from the Government Register Office of Northern Ireland, click [here](#). The cost of a full certified copy of a certificate is £15 plus £1.16 postage. Do NOT order a short form certificate as it does not contain enough information to be useful in family history.

Many Irish birth, marriage and death certificates have been filmed by the LDS Church and can be ordered from the Family History Library (FHL). For Ireland before partition, films for [births 1864-1880 & 1901-1913](#), [marriages 1845-1870](#) and [deaths 1864-1870](#) are available. Births in the Republic were not available for filming for the years 1914-1929 but films for births from 1930 to the March quarter of 1955 are available [here](#) (scroll down). For Northern Ireland, films of [birth](#), [marriage](#) and [death](#) certificates between 1922 and 1959 are available to order from SLC. The cost of ordering a film for review from the FHL is only \$8. The Toronto FHC has a printout of available films numbers with years and our volunteers will be happy to help you find the correct film to order.

1901 and 1911 Irish Census

It may be helpful for you to find your ancestors on these censuses to determine their ages. Go to the [National Archives of Ireland](#) to search the census records for all the counties in Ireland, including what is now Northern Ireland. This site is free to search and to download the transcription and original census image.

Films received in the week ending January 23rd and due for return the middle of March.

IRL GAL Cath. PR	0979690
JAM Westmoreland Civ Reg 1964-67	1937870
JAM Westmoreland Deaths 1890-1995	1699582
Kirchenbuch Evangelische Kirche GroB Lukow	0069175
USA IL La Salle marriages 1832-1926	1710812

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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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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