



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-13

April 3, 2014

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



Editor:
Helen Billing



In This Bulletin

What's New – Ancestry (Early Irish Will Indexes); FamilySearch (more browse-only collections); FindMyPast (US passenger records), General Register Office of Northern Ireland (online civil registration)

News From the Trenches – Never Give Up!

The Forum – No new questions or suggestions

Were You Aware... – Early Ontario Marriage Licences, Genetic Genealogy – AncestryDNA, mtDNA, The Test Kit, Testing Older Relatives

What's New

Ancestry has added the *Irish Indexes to Wills 1384-1858* database with over 30,000 records. These are five volumes of Phillimore and Thrift's *Indexes to Irish Wills* and cover some records for the counties of Cork, Dublin, Meath and Ossory. Not all counties are included because of the Public Record Office fire in 1922 and when many of the wills referenced were destroyed. Another recent database addition is Texas Naturalization Records 1881-1992.

FamilySearch has again updated a lot of browsable record collections in the last week. Two of the larger indexed collections with updates are Michigan births and Massachusetts marriages.

FindMyPast.com has added two million records of US passengers 1846-1890. The manifests include arrivals into Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York and Philadelphia. These records are on the world-wide FindMyPast and are not available at Family History Centres. The records are most likely available on Ancestry (which is at FHCs) but a new transcription is always welcomed.

General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) has made civil registration records available [online](#). One can get copies of birth records over 100 years old, marriage records over 75 years old and death records over 50 years old; all civil registration records start in 1864, except for Protestant marriage registration which started in 1845. Chris Paton has written two extensive blogs about this exciting development and they can be read [here](#) and [here](#). You need only spend 40p to access the basic (free) search facility.

News From the Trenches – Never Give Up!

Joan Challis has long been searching for a relative with the unusual name of Fred Ovenell. Fred was easy to find in the censuses after he was born in 1882 until 1901 when he is living with Annie Tyler (the girl he marries in May 1901) and her family. By 1905 Annie is living in Hackney Workhouse with her two children, Henry John and Violet Edna. In 1911 Henry John Ovenell is living with his uncle, Herbert Tyler. Annie is Annie Tyler again in 1911 and is working in a London hotel. Little Violet Edna has yet to be found. Joan has searched for any further reference to Fred Ovenell with no success ... until very recently.

When Fred Ovenell marries Annie Tyler, his marriage information given is:

May 1 1901 Fred Ovenell, 21, Bachelor, **Jeweller**, 139 Mansfield St, Father - **Henry Edgar Ovenell, bicycle maker**

Joan has been in email contact with many equally interested relatives of Fred Ovenell. Recently the great-granddaughter of Fred's brother wrote to say that she had been through her grandfather's papers and had come across a reference to Fred where the name, Walton, had been written in brackets. Bingo! Maybe. A search in the 1911 census found a Fred Walton, age 30, watchmaker, living with his wife May. It says they have been married for 10 years and have two children still alive, although no children are living with them. The marriage indexes between 1901 and 1911 had an interesting entry of a Fred Walton marrying a May Catty.

When this marriage registration was ordered, the information for Fred's marriage on Dec 15th 1905 is:
Fred Walton, 23, bachelor, **Horologist** (*clock or watch maker*), Father **Henry Edgar** Walton (Dec'd), **Cycle Maker**

Fred and May are married in the Register Office in Holborn, a bit unusual for the day. Fred Walton's occupation, his father's names and occupation are very close to those of Fred Ovenell's. This seems to be very suggestive that Fred had abandoned Annie and bigamously married May. Joan and her contacts are now vigorously working to prove or disprove this exciting new lead. Pictures of Fred Walton and a possible Distinguished Conduct Medal in WWI for a Fred Walton are spurring the search on.

If you have had any recent exciting finds, we would love to hear about them and put them in the Bulletin.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions were received this week.

Were You Aware...

Early Ontario Marriage Licences in the Drouin Collection

Daniel Parkinson wrote to the Bulletin this week to say that he had found some Ontario marriages in an unusual place – as part of the more than 14 million records in the Drouin Collection for Quebec on Ancestry. He writes: "From 1848, when Montreal was the capital of Canada, there is a 68 page microfilmed file including a 21 page index of 47 marriages from various Upper Canada districts including Gore, Niagara, Wellington and the counties of Prescott, United counties of Wentworth, Halton & Brant. Search for James Allen married 1848 and then go to page one of the alphabetical index. The indexing is weird and the file says Protestant instead of the name of a church or parish. The marriages are not in the Ontario Marriage index in Ancestry."

Genetic Genealogy

AncestryDNA – Paul Jones had a suggestion if you would like to have your DNA tested with Ancestry: "For Canadian readers who take extended trips to the US from time to time, it is possible to have your DNA tested by AncestryDNA. Just notify your credit card company before you leave Canada that you expect to be making some charges from your temporary US address. They will note this on your file. Then order the Ancestry kit at your US address and pay with your credit card. Purchase expedited shipping if you think you will need it. Payment should go through smoothly and you will soon receive your kit. Just pop it into the mail before you leave the US. All subsequent communications with Ancestry, including your results, will be via e-mail or the website, so the fact you're back in Canada won't matter. I did this when I was in US last month and I'm now eagerly awaiting my results. These will supplement my earlier FTDNA and 23andme tests and will expose me to a whole new group of potential genetic cousins."

mtDNA – Paul Cohen wrote to the Bulletin with an additional perspective on the usefulness of mtDNA testing. "It is not only for "deep" genealogy. It is also great for validating presumed relationships within a few generations. And mtDNA comes in three types (HVR1, HVR2, and FMS), each of which adds measurements from additional DNA locations. Anyone who wants a conclusive result should get the FMS (full mitochondrial sequence) test rather than upgrade later as inevitably you will do to validate a lesser match. The value of this test can be seen when you have several families that you can't sort out. Because all the daughters of a family share their mother's and their grandmother's mtDNA, by sampling living female descendants, you can confirm whether the families share a common maternal ancestor. This has solved a couple of major mysteries in my ancestry, and allowed me to connect branches that we didn't know were related. One further subtlety: while mtDNA passes from mother to daughter, it also passes to a son. It is just that the son can't pass it on. But he can be tested for his mother's mtDNA, and that gives you more chances of finding a living descendant of the maternal line you want to trace."

The Test Kit – What to Expect

(from Linda Reid)

After you have placed the order for your FamilyTreeDNA test, you will get an email giving you the kit number and a password. Keep track of them. It will take a week or so for the kit to arrive. There are instructions inside. There are two small white cardboard scrapers. You use one for the inside of each cheek, scraping for about a minute. You then put the scraper in a little vial with solution in it that is provided and mail it back in an enclosed envelope. One of the instructions includes not eating or drinking for an hour beforehand. Tests for other companies are slightly different – 23andme requests a sample of spit.

After the kit is returned it takes about 2 months before the results are posted online. You will get an email when this happens. You then log on with the kit number and password and look at the list of genetic matches. **While you are waiting, you should load a GEDCOM to the kit, so that the genetic matches will be able to look at your pedigree chart.** Many people will not contact matches if there is no GEDCOM data available. Uploading a GEDCOM file also creates a list of ancestral surnames that is used in FamilyTreeDNA.

When the results are available, you will find a list of people who match genetically, the closest first. Unless you test other known relatives, your matches may be fairly distant. You look at people's pedigree charts and the list of their ancestral names to see if you can see where the relationship might be. If you click on people's name, you get their email addresses and can email them.

More people are tested all the time so every month you should log on and sort the matches in date order to see what is new. There is no on-going charge.

Testing Older Relatives

Linda has tested a number of elderly relatives, some of whom are no longer alive. She has a few suggestions for doing this, especially if you wish to be the one contacting the matches and helping figure out relationships. When ordering the kit, put in your relative's name and address (or whatever address you want it to go to) and your email address. That way you will be the one to correspond with any of the people who match. Keep track of the kit number and password you receive when ordering the kit. If possible, ask another person to be involved in making sure that the relative follows the instructions, including not eating or drinking for an hour beforehand. Linda has sometimes sent the kit to a son or daughter who got the sample when visiting and then took it to the post office to mail.

Films received in the week ending April 2nd and due for return about the middle of June.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Russow PRs	0069511
ENG YKS Scarborough PRs	1850192

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](#)

*If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, reply to this email with the word "**Delete**" in the subject line.*

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