



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-16

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



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Announcements

J. Brian Gilchrist R.I.P.

We are very sad to announce the death, earlier today, of Brian Gilchrist, a prominent Canadian genealogist and Reference Archivist for Peel Region at the Peel Art Gallery Museum and Archives (PAMA). Brian was an enthusiastic genealogist, who was always keen on spreading the word. He had given talks, lectures and workshops for the Ontario Genealogical Society and at the One World One Family Conferences, among others. He will be dearly missed not only by his close friends and family but by the genealogical and historical community in general. Details of his funeral at St. James Cathedral in Toronto will be posted on our [blog](#) when they become available.

University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies Course

The University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies is offering a six-week Spring evening course about Toronto local, house and family history research techniques called *Toronto's Past: Your City, Your House, Your Family*. If you are interested in researching the history of your family once in Toronto, the history of your house or neighbourhood, or the history of a Toronto business or institution, this course has been designed with you in mind. Sessions are on Tuesday evenings, starting this Tuesday, May 6. More information is available [here](#). There is a "Request Registration" link to online registration at the foot of the page; alternatively one can register by phone at 416-978-2400 (the course number/section is 2034-008).

What's New

Ancestry has added the following databases: a large collection of Quaker records from the US; West Yorkshire Prison Records 1801-1914 (336,000 records) and other associated police and reform school records; and New South Wales Government Gazettes 1853-1899 (630,000 records). The London Electoral Registers database (1832-1965) has been updated to include 160 million records. A browse-only collection of Select Crew Lists and Manifests 1890-1961 for the United States now includes over 1,300,000 records.

FamilySearch has added indexed and transcribed parish registers for Sussex and Dorset. It indicates that images are also available for the Dorset records but I was unable to look at them at the time of writing. New browse-only images have been added to collections for the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal, Peru, Spain and a few states in the US.

FindMyPast has added 2.5 million new Shropshire parish records (1,133,580 baptisms, 535,600 marriages, 42,245 banns, & 800,795 burials) with indexes and images; this collection includes Methodist and other Non-conformist registers. Early Irish Census records have also been added to the FindMyPast website; small portions of the original censuses survived: large parts of County Cavan, Fermanagh, Galway, Offaly (King's) and Meath in 1821, Derry/Londonderry in 1831, Cavan in 1841 and Antrim in 1851. These include the names of over 600,000 people. These records are free for all to view. But a

great deal also survives because of the way the pension system operated in Ireland. For the complete information about this release, read the FindMyPast blog [here](#). Another important addition to FindMyPast is over 870,000 Royal Artillery attestations and nearly 30,000 casualty cards. The information in the Royal Artillery attestations is taken from enlistment books which were maintained by British Army regiments between 1883 and 1942. Four lines were allotted for each man's entry. FindMyPast.co.uk is available at family history centres on their Portal of free subscription websites.

TheGenealogist.co.uk has added a number of collections over the past few months. I have refrained from mentioning them as I had hoped that the **Family History Portal** would be updated to include TheGenealogist again. Unfortunately the latest information from last October says that the Family History Library is still negotiating to get free access at family history centres to this site. A Diamond subscription costs £119 for a year and is not available for a shorter period. The additions that should be mentioned are: parish register transcriptions for Essex, Kent, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Monmouthshire, Somerset, Wiltshire, Worcestershire; Army Lists 1784-1797; and 11 million tithe records from the National Collection of Tithe Records at the National Archives UK.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/15. Devon, England.

I was wondering if there were any records - burial in nature - of a little town called Knowle in Devon. I'm sure I have a relative that must be buried there as I can't find him anywhere else and this was where he was working at the time; he died at the cottage hospital of East Budleigh. He is not there or in Otterton where his remaining family moved after his death. His name: Albert Edward Farrant born 1864, died Christmas Day 1905. Can anyone help?

Anne Douglas, a Canadian living in Devon, sent these suggestions:

"There are three "Knowle's" in England: one is a village in north Devon (part of Braunton now); another is a village near Bristol; the third is a small place in the parish of East Budleigh. [[Maps.FamilySearch.org](#) says that other places in the parish of East Budleigh include Great Knowle, Little Knowle & Knowle.] Given that the deceased died in East Budleigh, near Otterton, both of which are on the south coast, the researcher might want to try:

East Devon District Council
responsible for Sidmouth, Sidbury and Seaton cemeteries
Contact address: Knowle, Station Road, Sidmouth, Devon
Tel: 01395 517410
www.eastdevon.gov.uk/cemeteries.htm

"By the way, Albert Edward Farrant died in St Thomas Devon which is part of Exeter in 4Q 1905, according to the FreeBMD index. He likely was then buried back near East Budleigh, which is very near Sidmouth. Transport was indeed that efficient in 1905!

"I have checked all three cemeteries in Exeter St Thomas (the burial records are online free, courtesy of Exeter City Council at apps02@exeter.gov.uk) but Albert does not appear among the Farrants listed. However, the researcher might want to see if any other of his Farrants are there!

"My hunch tells me the best bet will be to check the burial records for the villages around East Budleigh via the Devon Records Office where all the county family history files are. They have new offices and are quite an active centre. Just use google maps and work in a circle." [I would use [Maps.FamilySearch.org](#).]

Mike Webber wrote: "There is a church in Knowle (C of E) with the following contact information:

St John, Knowle (Budleigh)
Mr A Bennett (Deputy Churchwarden)
5, Knowle Village
Budleigh Salterton
EX9 6AL
Tel: (01395) 443136

St John: Dalditch Lane, Knowle (Budleigh), Devon, EX9 6AN
A call to him might produce some info on burial records.

From searching, one of Albert's children came to Canada and was married in Toronto in 1924. Constance Georgina Farrant stated at that time she was Church of England, so perhaps this was their "home" church.

Were You Aware...

[LostCousins](#) is Free until May 6th

Peter Calver's LostCousins website is celebrating its 10th anniversary by offering completely free access to the records until May 6th. LostCousins matches cousins by using the various censuses of England & Wales (1841, 1881, 1911), Scotland (1881), Ireland (1911), Canada (1881), and the US (1880). Because you must enter your ancestors' names and detailed census information, LostCousins claims to have the most accurate matching system. It is a bit of work entering the details for each census page but any matches will be accurate.

Peter also writes a newsletter twice a month that is a good read. His latest newsletter can be found [here](#).

London England Electoral Registers and OCR'ing

The London Electoral Registers database on Ancestry now contains 160 million records. It is another way to track one's London ancestors or even oneself at different addresses from 1835 to 1965. I have found it really interesting to "watch" my families gain suffrage as first men (who did not own property), and then women, were added to the voters' lists. I can also see changes as ancestors reach voting age and then move away from home and marry. They provide another confirmation that Aunt Hilda married Uncle Steve, for example. But they can also be a bit boring when the information remains the same over a number of years.

How has Ancestry managed to index so many records? This is due to a technology called OCR or Optical Character Recognition, where a computer is taught to recognize letters. A fairly simple OCR technology is available in Adobe Acrobat, which many people have on their personal computers. More advanced OCR technology is used by companies, such as Ancestry, but it is not perfect and you will come across many many errors in the London Electoral Records. This should not deter you from looking at these fascinating records. OCR technology is used for digitizing newspapers and a lot of newspaper websites ask that you correct any "reading" errors you find. The Australian digitized newspapers at [Trove](#) are a good example of users submitting corrections – there have been over 52,000 user corrections made to text files on their website, so far today.

Films received in the week ending April 10th and due for return about the end of June.

Film Content	Film No
ENG SAL Multiple Parishes PRs C of E - C-F - 1569-1979	1657548
ENG SAL Multiple Parishes PRs C of E - Cs - 1538-1981	1657547
ENG SAL Multiple Parishes PRs C of E - Cs - 1570-1951	1885979
ENG SAL Multiple Parishes PRs C of E - M-O - 1573-1993	1895093
ENG Rec. Copy Wills May 1876	1544943
USA CT Gen. index of probate records	1522107

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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