



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-18

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



Editor:
Helen Billing



In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – None this week – Happy Victoria Day!
- **Additions to Our Permanent Collections** – One new book
- **What's New** – Ancestry (Surrey County Council records, Hampshire Marriage License Allegations, NSW Surveyor's Books); FamilySearch (Belgium Civil Registration, Donetsk Ukraine church books); FindMyPast (Updated UK WWI service & pension records); DeceasedOnline (Bunhill Fields Burial Ground)
- **News from the Trenches** - The 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Empress of Ireland
- **The Forum** – A further suggestion for the previous question but no new questions again this week
- **Were You Aware...** – Genetic Genealogy – Shared Autosomal DNA, Deciphering Certificates

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

Roberta Harris has donated *The Golden Bridge - Young Immigrants to Canada, 1833-1939* by Marjorie Kohli to our collection.

Please also note that we have been going through our library of books and CDs to eliminate some of the old and out of date books. The book shelves have been reorganized and when this process has finished, a new book list, CD list and All Resources list will be published.

What's New

Ancestry has added some new Surrey County Council records, including Licensed Victuallers 1785-1903, Land Tax Records 1780-1832 and Jury-Qualified Freeholders & Copyholders 1696-1824. They have also updated the Surrey Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from the parish registers which are deposited at the Surrey County Council; note that many urban Surrey parish registers are deposited at the London Metropolitan archives and are in Ancestry's London collection. Another new collection is Hampshire Allegations for Marriage Licences, 1689-1837. Surveyor General Field and Sketch Books 1794-1903 for New South Wales have interesting diagrams of land complete with the owners' names; these records are not name indexed.

FamilySearch has added 2,571,405 indexed records and images from the new Belgium, East Flanders, Civil Registration 1541–1910 collection (these are not yet all indexed) and a (timely) browse-only collection of church books 1809-1994 for Donetsk, Ukraine. More images have been added to the Georgia US Deaths 1928-1940 collection.

FindMyPast has re-indexed UK WWI service records (WO363) and pension records (WO364) and these records now include close to 600,000 names never previously captured. It is worth having another look at these records as there are service records for men who served in the Boer War as well as pension records for men who enlisted as early as 1850. These records are available to view at Family History Centres.

DeceasedOnline has added more than 71,000 burials for Bunhill Fields Burial Ground in the London Borough of Islington for the dates 1713 to 1854, when the burial ground was closed. The name Bunhill is apparently derived from "Bone Hill" and it is believed that burials have taken place here since Saxon times although other burials and remains were reinterred here in the 16th Century.

News From the Trenches

The 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Empress of Ireland

In two weeks Canada will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of Canada's largest maritime disaster in peacetime. The *Empress of Ireland* was on its way from Quebec City to Liverpool on **May 29, 1914** when it was struck by a Norwegian collier, the *Storstad*, hauling coal from Sydney, Nova Scotia to Montreal, and sank, resulting in the deaths of 1,012 of the 1,477 people on board. The passengers included 167 members of the Salvation Army on their way to London for their World Congress. Most of these were members of the Canadian Staff Band of Toronto and the Peterborough Temple Band. Only eight of the 167 survived the sinking. More passengers died in this tragedy than died when the Titanic sank; many more crew members died in the Titanic sinking.

The *Empress of Ireland* left Quebec City about 4:30pm on May 28th and was heading down the St. Lawrence River, having just dropped off its river pilot shortly after midnight. The *Storstad* was heading to Montreal. The two ships sighted each other but very shortly thereafter a fog rolled in. The *Storstad* crashed into the Empress's side at about 2am. According to his testimony, the captain of the *Storstad* tried to keep his ship embedded in the side of the Empress to keep the gaping hole plugged but the current pushed the two ships apart. The Empress listed to its starboard side and sank in about 15 minutes. Many of the passengers were asleep in their bunks and had no chance to escape.

The statistics are horrifying: only four of the 138 children on board survived; only 13% of the female passengers and 28% of the male passengers survived. Eighty per cent of the second and third class passengers and nearly 60% of the first class passengers (whose cabins were higher up) died. The crew fared better, perhaps because they were working; 60% of them survived.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Empress of Ireland and to honour the dead, several events have been scheduled. The largest commemoration will be in Rimouski, the Point-au-Père Historic Maritime Site, and area. There are details about this commemoration on this [website](#). There are many touching stories and photographs there of both the people who lost their lives and those who survived.

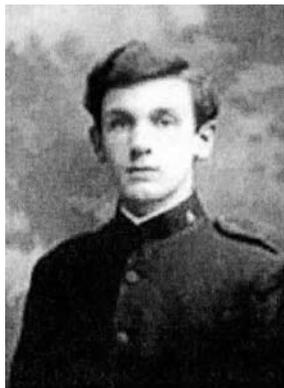
Because so many Salvation Army members perished in the tragedy, a large memorial was constructed in the south-west corner of Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Toronto and a memorial service is held there every year. This year the service will be held on Sunday May 25th at 3pm. The inscription of the *Empress of Ireland* memorial reads, "*In Sacred Memory of 167 Officers and Soldiers of the Salvation Army Promoted to Glory From the Empress of Ireland at Daybreak, Friday May 29, 1914*".

Another memorial will be held at the request of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool in the Liverpool Parish Church of Our Lady and Saint Nicholas, at 2:30 p.m. BST on Thursday, 29 May 2014. [For eight hundred years The Church of Our Lady and Saint Nicholas has been known as the Sailors' church.] The church is one hundred yards from where the Empress of Ireland left on her final voyage to Canada and faces the Royal Liver Buildings, Canadian Pacific's Liverpool Headquarters at the time. The ship was largely crewed from a small area of North Liverpool called Seaforth.

This is family history for at least two readers of the Bulletin. Denise Reynolds' grandparents, Thomas and Margaret Greenaway, and her great-uncle, Bert Greenaway, were three of only eight Salvation Army members who survived the sinking. Margaret's letter to her parents-in-law in England is a very gripping account of the events that night. Denise has given me permission to publish Margaret's letter in next week's Bulletin. The Greenaways are also the great-grandparents of the daughter-in-law of another Bulletin reader.



Tom Greenaway



Bert Greenaway

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/15. Devon, England.

I was wondering if there were any burial records of a little town called Knowle in Devon. 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?

Adrian Hetherington was intrigued by this question and has several suggestions.

"Great and Little Knowle are both close proximity to [East Budleigh](#). If one follows the old maps link towards the bottom of the page, one can look at snap shots of old OS maps centred on East Budleigh. I looked at the 1903 sheet and onwards to the sheet dated 1977, a time span within which one would expect to find a hospital annotated along with the school, post office, war memorial and police station. All of the latter appear, along with public houses, but not a cottage hospital.

"I put up two enquiries on RootsChat and they have been fruitful. The cottage hospital wasn't in East Budleigh itself but south of there towards Budleigh Salterton. An extract of the Kelly's directory for 1914 is as follows: 'The Cottage Hospital on the East Budleigh Road occupies with its grounds about three-quarters of an acre, given by the late Hon. Mark G K Rolle; it is an edifice of red brick, erected in 1888 at a cost of £900 in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, has 14 beds and an endowment of £1000 given by the late Rev. James Boucher curate of Littleham and Exmouth.' The 1893, 1910, 1914, 1922 and 1923 Kelly's Directories just list the name as *Cottage Hospital, East Budleigh Road*; it had no formal name. Google Maps will locate an operational hospital of appropriate age if they search on "Budleigh Salterton Hospital".

"It is helpful to know which Church of England parish the hospital was located in and also which civil district. Which of HM Coroners had jurisdiction? Which Poor Law district was East Budleigh covered? Any of this can influence where Albert might have been buried especially if the parish or the Coroner were involved (it would be wrong to presume they weren't, families do hide what they felt at the time to be shameful or embarrassing). [[FamilySearch Maps](#) indicates that East Budleigh and Budleigh Salterton were in the Diocese of Exeter and the Poor Law Union of St Thomas.]

"Were Great and Little Knowle parishes in their own right or were they chapels of ease, satellites, of another parish? A Google search to <http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/Crediton/> suggests that they may have looked to Crediton for governance. This does not seem rational when one looks at a map but is plausible. Another thing worth knowing for sure is where do the parish registers get deposited when they are full? Once located look to see what the oldest date is in the records held. Given that the date is relatively recent it could just be that Albert was an early entry in a parish burial register that is still in use. [[FamilySearch Maps](#) shows that Budleigh Salterton is a chapelry of East Budleigh and that the records started here in 1856. East Budleigh records from 1555 to 1954 have been deposited at the Devon Record Office – from Philimore's Atlas.]

"In GenUKI is the following about Great and Little Knowle: 'BUDLEIGH (EAST) is a straggling village in three parts, called Lower, Middle, and Higher, pleasantly situated near Bicton Park, in the vale of the Otter, about two miles from the sea, ... Its parish contains 2620 acres and 2319 souls, including the hamlets of Great and Little Knowle, about two miles S.S.W. of the pleasant and handsome little town and bathing place of BUDLEIGH SALTERTON, delightfully situated on the sea coast at the mouth of the estuary of the Otter... Great and Little Knowle are suburbs of Budleigh-Salterton, and on Park terrace, in the latter hamlet, is a small Baptist Chapel, built in 1844, by subscription.' This suggests that the idea that there was a chapel of ease administered from Crediton is plausible."

The researcher may never find the burial of Albert but there appears to be two cemeteries in the area – St Peter's Burial ground in Budleigh Salterton and All Saints' burial ground in East Budleigh. It is quite likely that there is no monument as he died suddenly. There should be a record of his burial in one of these two places.

Were You Aware...

Genetic Genealogy - Shared Autosomal DNA by Linda Reid

See this ISOGG (International Society of Genetic Genealogy) [page](#) for an analysis of how much autosomal DNA you share with various relatives:

There is more to this than just the simple statistics (which are averages). I may share only 25% of my DNA with an aunt/uncle, for example, but I am interested in all my aunt's DNA because it came from her parents-- my grandparents. So think of testing aunts/uncles as a chance to capture the 75% of the DNA that you didn't inherit but came from your grandparents and may help you to connect to distant relatives.

Remember that a child gets 50% of his/her DNA from each parent. So your cousin is just a subset of his/her parent's DNA. If you are testing an aunt/uncle, it would be a waste of money to test the child (your cousin) as well. But it would be worth testing a cousin who is a child of a different parent because that cousin would have inherited a different mix of DNA.

In determining a priority order for testing other relatives, think "up"-- the highest level of the chart at which you have living relatives.

Deciphering Certificates

A reader sent in the Irish marriage certificate below with the question being – what is the “condition of the bride”.

Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.
William Balfour	Full	Bachelor
Margaret Ann Nicholson nee. Full		Spinster

This is Linda Reid's suggestion: “My first guess was that it said “private” but the word “spinster” with some of the writing missing makes more sense. This is Irish but I had a similar problem with deciphering an English marriage certificate. I had bought the certificate from the GRO so I contacted the local register office with a copy and asked if their copy was clearer. They replied that it wasn't. In this case I was trying to decipher a middle name that was faint and in poor handwriting that could have been Horton, Morton or Norton and there was no known family connection to suggest what it might be.

“I suggest that the researcher contact the local registrar in Ireland and ask for help or contact the GROI and ask if the record from which they made the photocopy is any clearer. In this case the problem is that photocopying hasn't picked up the fainter part of the handwriting so I think it is a legitimate query.”

I agree with Linda that the word is Spinster, with the bottom of the S and p missing.

Films received in the week ending May 15th and due for return about the end of July.

Film Content	Film No
SCF FIF Kettle OPRs	1040336
SCT FIF Ceres & Colessie OPRs	1040155
SCT FIF Kennoway & Kettle OPRs	1040114

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 catalogue 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](#).

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