



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-22

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



Editor:
Helen Billing



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Announcements –

OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting – June 23rd at 7:30pm

How Uncovering my Grandmother's Deepest Secret Revealed a Rich Jewish Ancestry by Coral Grant

"The man my Grandmother was married to – whom we called Grandpa Fred - was not my biological grandfather! Then who was? Please join me on a journey that began in the garment district in Toronto in the early 1930s and ends in 19th century Eastern Europe." Mini-presentation: Sherilyn Bell - Visualizing Genetic Genealogy Results – A 23andMe/Cytoscape Mashup.

Coral Grant is not the only one with a Jewish grandparent. Dick Eastman's blog of [June 10](#) refers to a New York Times article that discloses that the cardinal of New York City from 1985 to 2000, Cardinal John Joseph O'Connor, was the son of a woman who was born Jewish and the grandson of a rabbi. The article can be read [here](#).

What's New

Ancestry has added a database of Michigan Divorce Records 1897-1952, which has more than one million records listing names, reason for divorce, whether granted or not, and other information. Ancestry has updated the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center Obituary Index 1810s-2013 for the northwest part of Ohio; it now has 2.5 million records. Their database of Texas death records 1903-1982 now contains nearly five million records.

[FamilySearch](#) has updated its database of Ontario birth registration transcriptions 1869-1912.

FamilyTreeDNA Sale – Two DNA tests are on sale until Sunday, Father's Day. The [FamilyFinder](#) test is FTDNA's autosomal test and until Sunday is only \$79 USD. This is the cheapest I have seen it so far. The Big-Y test is a relatively new test that tests a much higher fraction of the Y chromosome; as a Y-chromosome test, it is only available for males and, as Linda Reid puts it, is "just for experienced genealogists with deep pockets". The Big Y test is on sale for \$595 USD!

News From the Trenches

A Name Change Found in Ontario

Patrons came in last week looking for the unusual name of Kunzenhauser in Ontario. This was a rather tricky name to look for in the Ontario records because the name was spelled in so many different ways: Kinsenhauser, Hunsenhauser, Kunsenhawse, etc. The patrons wanted to find the death record for Isaac Kunzenhauser, who, they knew, died in 1918. There was no-one with a name spelled even close to that in the 1918 records. So we looked for the names of Isaac's children and looked at all the children as we found them, not just the direct line ancestors. [FOLLOW THE SIBLINGS is another tip I often give patrons at the FHC.] We found the birth of Norman Herbert Kunsenhauser in 1910, which had a very interesting note beside the entry: **Name Changed to HOUSER by Deed Poll Dec. 12, 1918; Copy Filed Jan 1927.** We then searched for the death of Isaac Houser in 1918 and, BINGO, there was his death registration on Dec 21, 1918

with the same note: **Name Changed to HOUSER by Deed Poll Dated 12/12/18; Copy on File Jan 1927.** I wondered why a copy of the deed poll had been filed in January of 1927. Perhaps it was because Isaac Houser's widow, Mary Ellen, remarried on February 9, 1927 to Thomas Urquhart, a widower, 30 years her senior, with whom she had been living in 1921.

Transcriptions of unusual names are often difficult, but the birth registration that raised my eyebrows occurred in 1908: Cewtis Urgaharo Kunsenhawse. He was probably better known as Austin Urquhart Kunsenhausser, as in the 1921 census.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/22. WWI Red Cross Records.

One of the best parts of your bulletin is when you suggest new websites. At this point in my research finding new sources is critical. Sometime ago I heard a rumour about Red Cross records of killed and wounded soldiers from WW1. Apparently they were found in some mountainous storage area in Geneva Switzerland and were supposed to be digitised and made public to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the start of WW1. My Grandmother's brother was killed in 1916 and is buried in Belgium but we have no details of his demise. Suffice it to say I have been on the edge of my seat awaiting this one. If this is in fact true, do you have any idea when it might be released? [See this 2009 BBC [News Release](#) for the original story. You can read a detailed discussion by Peter Barton who discovered the 400 linear metres of shelf space of WWI material [here](#).]

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/21. Angola.

Can you suggest where, on the Family Search website, I can access pre-1900 records for Angola?

To find for records for Angola (**or any country**, in fact), there are two places to look on the FamilySearch website. On the <https://familysearch.org/search> webpage at the bottom, there is a map on the right and a list of continents or countries on the left-hand side. Click on the continent/country you are interested in, in this case Africa. The record sets available online will be displayed. Although there are 1,779 databases of historical record collections, there are no online record sets for Angola. The second place to look is the FamilySearch [Catalog](#). In the **Search By; Places** box, type the name of the town, county, province, state, or country you are interested in. By typing Angola, you get a list of possible records that are available on microfilm. [The catalog collection includes over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 727,000 microfiche; 356,000 books, serials, and other formats; over 4,500 periodicals; and 3,725 electronic resources.] You are most likely to be interested in church records or civil registration. The records for Angola are pretty limited at the moment:

Church records (1) Parish registers, 1918-1958 Nederduitsch Hervormde Kerk (Angola)

Civil registration - Indexes (1) Civil registration (marriage indexes & registers), Angola (various locales), 1901-1928
Author: South Africa. Department of the Interior. Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Civil registration (1) Civil registration (marriages), Angola, 1908-1928
Author: South Africa. Department of the Interior. Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

Remember to check back occasionally for newly added records or databases. Approximately 200 cameras are currently digitizing records in over 45 countries. Records have been filmed in over 110 countries, territories, and possessions.

Q1/2014/20. Schleswig-Holstein.

I received this baptism record from Hamburg and I am sceptical of the godparent: a Danish German constable, Soren Sewaldsen, and his wife, Ingeburg Sorensen, have a daughter named Carolina Cornelia SEWALDSEN in 1807, who has only one godparent, roughly translated, as Mrs. Countess Carolina Cornelia von BAUDISIN. The BAUDISIN family did live in Schleswig-Holstein. I would assume this is just a family naming their daughter after aristocracy and of no relation. Do you agree?

George Tuck suggested using the Million Short search engine mentioned below in *Were You Aware* to find some relevant links. George says that Million Search works best in Firefox (it works just fine in Chrome too) but that since the hits were in German, he ported them into Google in order to get an English translation.

<http://de.cyclopaedia.net/wiki/Caroline-Adelheid-Cornelia-Graefin-von-Baudissin>

George posits that the time span fits. C'ss von Schimmelmann and von Baudissin seem to be the same person. "As an author, maybe she inspired the Sewalden parents?"

Were You Aware...

Million Short Search Engine by George Tuck

Patrons may wish to check a resource that led me to a couple of fascinating discoveries. Found in the last GenealogyinTime newsletter, the [Million Short search engine](#) uses a filtering technique to narrow down a search. Focusing on genealogy websites and eliminating Google's most found general hits it brought up some interesting results for me.

I have been researching families from the Eastern Czech Republic for a couple of decades with little luck. I knew Zipsers had been in the Silesia/Moravia area for about 900 years. A Roman Catholic baptismal certificate for my wife's grandmother, Olga Zipser, located her in Biala, Poland in 1888. All known members of the family had subsequently dispersed through WW2 and subsequent communist occupation. A visit to the area two years ago brought little information.

Using search keys <Zipser Biala> brought up a hit which seemed relevant. The Jews of Krakow and its Surrounding Towns, 1891 showed a Karl Zipser in Biala, occupation translated as cabinet maker/carpenter. Carolus aka Karl was listed as Olga's father on the baptismal certificate. A search for <Zips language> led to another document, by Duncan Gardiner, Foundation for East European Family History Studies, <http://feefhs.org/>. It outlined the migration of Zipsers from Saxony Germany in the 900 year time span.

We have additional evidence of Jewish heritage in the family; in fact, 3 Zipsers from the area died in Auschwitz. As usual with family discoveries, two new documents now raise more than two further questions! (As a side note, and probably a coincidence, there is a Wojtyla on that same list! Karol Wojtyla from Krakow became Pope John Paul II.)

Any suggestions from patrons on the incidence of Jews becoming Catholics or any flexibility in the recording of non-Jews in a Jewish Directory are welcomed. [See the New York Times article mentioned above about Cardinal John Joseph O'Connor.]

Thoughts about Online Trees

I thought that I would ask our volunteers and patrons if they use online trees and what they have found out. I received the following replies.

George Tuck wrote: "Though often discredited, I have often found clues to additional cousins by searching trees posted on websites such as Ancestry, MyHeritage or FamilySearch. Much of my tree has been handed down verbally and on scraps of paper over the past 200 years by family members. Through the usual research means, film, fiche and ordered primary sources, the majority of links have been proved as valid. Census documents have shown additional cousins and branches. The variety of material on web-posted trees, though, is very broad, from the accurate to the ridiculous. As a general rule of thumb, there are always discoveries to be made. I have discovered second husbands and wives whose identity has stood the test of verification through sound sources. In a nutshell, my recommendation would be to use the trees, but carefully. Where there is an opportunity to create a dialogue, do so - it often leads to shared primary sources."

Linda Reid says: "I have posted a tree only on Family Tree DNA. The only people who see it are those who genetically match me (or who manage the kits of those who do). A cousin has posted a tree on Ancestry with information that came from me years ago. It is incomplete and a bit garbled."

Roberta Harris has had positive results: "I have had one tree on FamilySearch for some years now, and also on Ancestry. They have been very successful for me in that I have been in contact with relatives, some who I did not know before who have put names, dates and details, ancestral photos, tombstone photos, stories etc. online on my trees. They have really helped both me and Don to round out our family history. Usually when I go on to my trees, I find they have added more info as some cousins are really motivated.

"However, not every bit of info has been accurate, but I review each one carefully and make changes where necessary, question the info or eliminate it. I like proof for all my tree info. **In talking with FamilySearch, I was told to keep a separate tree not online.** I have my tree on my computer in Roots Magic and I believe it is accurate. I add to it from the other trees which are open to others. Sometimes I have found errors in dates and names which others have added. These obvious mistakes, some of which are laughable, I eliminate or question online and do not put into my Roots Magic. Definitely, I have been thrilled with so much info which I have received from others and am grateful for my online trees which have really pushed both of our family histories forward."

Leslie Dorschell: "I have not put my tree online, although I did put a couple of names on Ancestry. I have found my distant cousins on FindAGrave -- yes, ones that are alive -- and on genealogy boards (Ancestry and a German one). One of my

surnames is so unusual that a cousin started up a FaceBook page for it, with quite a few living cousins and not-yet-confirmed cousins joining it. Most did not know their family history so we provided it to them via private e-mail."

Ann Behan: "I have not done so in all my years of doing research. I have looked at other people's trees, of course, in various places and do find them very occasionally to be useful as pointers only. I wouldn't want other people tinkering with my research. I suppose other people could contact me with information I don't have, but so far I haven't taken the risk. I figure, let them post their trees and I can look at them without contact. There are a few entries on Genes Reunited which I know would have useful info, but so far have resisted the urge to contact them."

Joe Mounsey: "I've posted partial trees on Genes Reunited and on Rootsweb World Connect. Initially I had a lot of response from Genes Reunited, almost all regarding distant descendant relatives, although a few helped me back a generation or two. World Connect probably garnered less response as I hid all probably living people. I have had people copying my tree so fast that I couldn't correct it."

I have my basic tree on FamilyTreeDNA to contact those who are most likely related to me genetically but I have not put my tree on Ancestry or FamilySearch.

A new trend in genealogy seems to be collaborative world-wide family trees. The biggest is the TREE section of FamilySearch.org; another is [WikiTree](#). Login information is required (but free) for both websites. This will be an interesting development to watch over the next few years.

Life on the Ocean Wave - National Archives UK

The National Archives has a wealth of naval records available to search and download now. Highlights include over 600,000 [Royal Navy Ratings' service records 1853-1923](#) (ADM 139 and 188), over 5,000 [Royal Navy officers' service records cards and files 1840-1920](#) (ADM 340) and over 148,000 [Royal Naval Reserve service records 1860-1955](#) (BT 164 and BT 377).**

Merchant Seamen & Royal Naval Reserve

Ancestry has added two indexes previously only available at the National Archives website: the first is an index of records of over 100,000 medals awarded to merchant seamen who served during World War 2 - you can search them [here](#). The second index is to the service records of over 130,000 members of the Royal Naval Reserve - you'll find it [here](#).

Note: these are just indexes - images of the records themselves are currently only available through the National Archives site, at a cost of £3.30 each. The main advantage in having these indexes at Ancestry as well as at the National Archives is that it makes them more readily accessible.

Films received in the week ending June 12th and due for return by the end of August.

Film Content	Film No
DEU RC PR Hessen Hessloch Kr.Worms	0948719

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](#).

[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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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