



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-23

June 19, 2014

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



Editor:  
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- **The Forum** – One new question and suggestions for last week's question
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### Announcements

**We will be closed on Canada Day, July 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Reminder: OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting – Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 of Toronto in the early 1930s and ends in 19th century Eastern Europe." Mini-presentation: Sherilyn Bell - Visualizing Genetic Genealogy Results – A 23andMe/Cytoscape Mashup.

### What's New

**Ancestry Problems** – Ancestry has been having problems over the past few days. If you have been having difficulty at home, it is not just you. It was bad enough that the Ancestry subscription through the Portal for Family History Centres was suspended. Hopefully the issues have been fixed.

**Ancestry** has added records from Łódź Poland Ghetto Register Books 1939-1944 (90,000 records) to its collection of Holocaust records. They also added a small database of Lancashire Vagrants 1801-1835. Another addition are the maps from the book of Phillimore's Parish Registers. One can search for a parish and the corresponding map will appear without a grid; but all maps have a grid range from A1 to M10, with the letters falling along the longest side. I have found that the maps on [FamilySearch](#) are much easier to navigate; it covers parishes in England and Wales. The Phillimore's Atlas & Index to Parish Registers book, which we have in the Toronto FHC library, tells where the registers can be found and whether they have been transcribed. All the Lancashire parish records and the Swedish church records (35 million) have been updated.

[FamilySearch](#) has updated many collections, mostly browse-only ones. Please check for your area of interest. No new collections.

**FindMyPast** has added a number of collections, as promised, over the last few weeks: Dorset Parish Records, Berkshire Parish Records, Non-Conformist records for England and Wales, Lincolnshire Poor Law Removals, and more. They are about 75% of the way to meeting their goal of 100 record sets in 100 days. To see the complete list of records sets that they have added, go to [100in100](#).

**FindMyPast** has purchased **Origins.net**. Origins.net specialises in unusual and often hard to find British and Irish records. Its many early records include rare marriage indexes, apprentices and poor law records. Another key strength is its National Wills Index, which, combined with collections on FindMyPast, will provide the largest online resource for UK wills and probate material. Origins will become a wholly owned subsidiary of FindMyPast and the extensive record sets from Origins will be brought into FindMyPast over the next few months. The wills that have been on Origins.net have helped me considerably. There are now wills for the Archdeaconry Court of London, Cheltenham, Chester, Chichester Consistory, Court of Husting, Devon, Gloucester, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lichfield, London & Middlesex, Oxfordshire,

Prerogative & Exchequer Courts of York, Somerset, Surrey & South London, Surrey Peculiars, Surrey, York Medieval, and York Peculiars.

## **The Forum:**

### **Questions with Answer:**

#### **Q1/2014/23. General.**

How can I search old Bulletins for an article I remember reading but do not remember when?

As I can answer this question easily, I will do it immediately. Go to the Toronto FHC Blog at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.ca/> and click on the **Resources** button near the top. Scrolling down will take you to a list of PDF files that can be downloaded. As well as the lists of the resources (films, fiche, books and CDs) that are at the Toronto Family History Centre, there are files of each year of the Bulletin from 2008 to the present and a file of all the Bulletins between 2005 and 2013. These can be searched by a particular word or term by doing a Ctrl-F and entering the word into the box.

## **Suggestions:**

### **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](#).]

Readers Eric Ruppert and Adrian Hetherington both found that the International Committee of the Red Cross hopes to publish the records in August 2014. Please see the complete article [here](#). The Agency's collections consist of some 500,000 pages of lists and six million index cards. In 2008, the ICRC's archivists began this project to restore and scan the lists and index cards and make them available to the public online.

Dee Megow reminds readers that the [Commonwealth War Graves Commission](#) lists all deaths for the Army, Navy, Merchant navy, Air Force and civilian war dead for Commonwealth countries in WWI and WWII. Many of the records list next of kin. They also have descriptions of cemeteries in many countries where these people were buried. Dee also mentions the [Forces War Records](#) website. I was a member of this site for a time but found that most of the records at that time were available on other websites, notably FindMyPast and Ancestry. A list of the collections they have can be found [here](#). These are records only for the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Adrian Hetherington notes that there are three articles about military records in the latest edition of Peter Calver's LostCousins newsletter available [here](#). They include *Western Front Association overwhelmed by lookup requests; Was your ancestor a PoW in WWI*; and *Red Cross to make WWI records available from August* (see above).

## **Were You Aware...**

### **FamilySearch and Ancestry Searches Find Different Items**

Last week in the News from the Trenches, I wrote about a patron looking for a family by the name on Kunsenhauser. FamilySearch had updated their index to Ontario Births 1869-1912 and so I wondered whether there would be much difference for the index entries found by Ancestry and FamilySearch. FamilySearch does a "fuzzy" search unless you say exact match only and I compared the results found by it to those of Ancestry with restrictions to *EXACT*, *SOUNDEX* or *sounds like*, and *SIMILAR matches*. With these three restrictions, Ancestry found 12 matches for a child with the last name of Kunsenhauser. The spelling variations were: Kunsenhauser, Kunnsenhauser and Kunsenhouser. When I broadened the search to include PHONETIC, it found 770 matches, which I consider far too many to go through. A search for Kunsenhauser on FamilySearch brought up 53 matches, but some of these are duplicates or the mother's maiden name. The 16 actual names found included Kenssenhauser, Kunsinhauser, Nunsenhauser, Kunsunhauser, and Kunsunhouser. When a comparison between the two was made Ancestry had three more Kunsenhousers than FamilySearch and FamilySearch had six that Ancestry did not have. There were 18 Kunsenhauser births between the two sites. Similar discrepancies were found for marriages and deaths. Ancestry did not find the "Nunsenhauser" birth even with a broad search.

**It is always worth checking what different search engines and different transcriptions will find when doing your research.**

### Further Thoughts about Online Trees

Linda Reid had a few more thoughts about online trees: "There is more involved in bad family trees than just a lack of sources. One can cite a valid source for a marriage or baptism, but it may not be relevant to the tree in question. My feeling is that people should not post online family trees that they have not researched themselves. Obtaining a tree from someone else is not doing research. A genealogist should consider someone else's tree as a suggested route and confirm each link. Just because someone else has cited a census entry as the source that links people together, doesn't mean that there isn't another census entry for someone of the same name and age that might suggest different ancestry. Genealogists should be collecting as much evidence as possible for each link in the tree and weighing it carefully. Newbies should resist the urge (and the pressure) to post their trees online. They might think that it will attract distant cousins-- but it might turn off people who aren't impressed with the quality of what is posted. If you want to post your tree online because you want to share, wait until you have done considerable research and have something valid to share."

Leslie Dorschell mentioned that there should always be a degree of etiquette involved in using or providing online tree information. I think that etiquette should include the following: "Do not post details of living people; even better would be to limit your online postings to people born more than one hundred years ago. Do not "steal" other people's photos without requesting that you can use them. Do not post other people's research as your own, unless you have been able to independently verify it (but then it is your own research). If information has been provided to you privately, do not put it on your online tree without first checking with the provider of the information that they do not mind you doing that. Respond to people who contact you about your online postings to help with source information, etc."

### Your Family Tree Explained and more

Dick Eastman's [blog on June 10<sup>th</sup>](#) had a link to a funny cartoon video called [Your Family Tree Explained](#) by CGP Grey. It explains family relationships and has a downloadable sheet called the *Cousin Calculator*. My favourite blog video by CGP Grey is [The United Kingdom Explained](#), which explains the differences between the United Kingdom, Great Britain and England (and a whole lot more), but there are many more: [The Difference between Holland and The Netherlands](#), [How Many Countries Are There?](#), etc.

### Films received in the week ending June 19<sup>th</sup> and due for return by the end of August.

Film Content	Film No
CHN Genealogy of Chao family	1131003
DEU MEC Neustrelitz PRs	0069783
ENG LAN Liverpool Walton Pk Cem 1871-1907	1656708
ENG LAN Liverpool Walton Pk Cem 1893-1902	1656707
ENG Rec. Copy Wills 1885	1472160
ENG SAL Multiple PR transcripts	0510679
ENG YKS Lythe BT	0919068
IRL KIK Thomastown Catholic PR 1835-81	0926203
PRT Alvoco da Serra PRs 1672-1911	1461802
PRT São João Mártir PRs 1551-1859	1387346
PRT São Martinho PRs 1627-1859	1387347
PRT Vilar Maior PRs 1644-1911	1461801

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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