



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-30

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



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- **The Forum** – Two new questions and suggestions for last week's
- **Were You Aware...** – More Easily-Accessible Parish Records, Free Online Magazine, Pre-1858 English Wills – A Very Rough Guide, Release of WWI Red Cross Records, 101 Best Genealogy Websites

### Announcements

Register tomorrow for the early-bird registration fee for the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa [conference](#) on September 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. This year's conference will focus on three main topics: English family history; immigration from the British Isles, including Home Children; and genetic genealogy.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has updated both the New Zealand birth, marriage and death indexes to include another year, and the Kentucky birth index 1911-1999.

**FindMyPast** has added transcriptions of 30,000 Kent burial records for burials that took place around Charlton, Darenth, Dartford, Northfleet and Greenwich.

**TheGenealogist.co.uk** has released a new collection of 117,000 UK First World War Medal Records. These records are now available to view online complete with an image of the actual Medal Card and a link to the official government publication of the time. The Military Medal was awarded to 'Non Commissioned Officers and Ordinary Ranks' for showing exceptional courage in battle and to those that risked their lives trying to save others, often in extreme danger. A number of young women from very privileged families who chose to drive ambulances and rescue the wounded in the mud of battle are included.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has released the final set of records for their Aberdeenshire collection. There are now more than 200 burial grounds and cemeteries in this collection of the North East of Scotland with about 250,000 individuals mentioned with burial dates going back to 1615.

### New Zealand WWI Service Records

More than 141,000 First World War service files have been made available online by Archives New Zealand and the National Library. All 141,000 files can now be accessed at: <http://www.archives.govt.nz/world-war-one>. Once one has found the person of interest, click on the hotlink on the bottom line which starts with "Archives of New Zealand". This will take you to a number of images of the service files which can be downloaded. These service records include the soldiers' weight in stones (1 stone = 14 pounds) as well as a physical description. Some WWI photographs of New Zealanders can be found [here](#).

### The Forum:

#### Questions:

#### Q1/2014/30. Africa.

My ancestors have come from Uganda and Kenya. How do I go about tracking them back?

## **Suggestions.**

### **Q1/2014/29. Scotland to Canada.**

I am looking for David Marshall, who was born 15 June 1883, in Lochee, Forfar, Scotland. At some point after 1911 and presumably by 1916 he was in Canada. I have postcards addressed to him by various family members and they are all addressed to David Marshall at 16 George Street, Toronto. I found him in the 1911 Census in Scotland - St. Bride's, Govan, Partick, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He is living with his older brother, James Marshall and his family. David is listed as a visitor born in Lochee and an engine fitter. But I have been unable to find him in the 1921 Canadian census or when he immigrated to Canada. Do you have any ideas for finding him?

Fred Ewins writes: "I looked in the Toronto City Directories from 1912 to 1922 and found they show the lowest number on the west side of George as 48. I also looked at some maps, and don't see residences there." The Toronto City Directories, published by Might Directories Limited, are available from [Internet Archive here](#). Fred has found that the directories are easier to search if they are downloaded to your computer. "I find the .djvu files particularly easy to use, with a free viewer called WinDJView."

When looking for immigration/emigration records for that time period, the researcher can check Ancestry's Canadian Passenger Lists 1865-1935 and FindMyPast's Passenger Lists leaving the UK 1890-1960. The David Marshall's found in one can be checked with the David's found in the other. This may eliminate some of the David's from consideration. It may also be worth checking other east coast ports, notably New York for this person. No obvious David Marshall's were found although there were several going to Toronto.

### **Q2/2014/29. Canada. Military.**

I have found a picture of a person of interest on [CanadianHeadstones](#), which now has over 900,000 gravestone photos from across Canada. The gravestone reads James M [Morley] Bennett, MC, Lieutenant, 19 Battn, CEF, 2 June 1956, age 60. I know that he was born in Dunnville but had lived and worked in Montreal throughout the 30s, 40s and 50s. I was wondering if there was an obituary for him in a local Dunnville paper, the Hamilton Spectator, or in a Montreal paper. Can I access any of these online?

By using your Toronto Public Library card (or many other library cards), you can get online access from home to the Globe and Mail (1844-2011) and the Toronto Star (1894-2012). A quick search of the Globe revealed a death notice for James Morley Bennett on Monday June 4, 1956. James died at St. Mary's Veteran's Hospital in Montreal and was buried in Riverside Cemetery, Dunnville. The death notice mentions four surviving brothers: Eugene E., Norman W., W. Basil and Robert C. Bennett but no other relatives. The Access Newspaper Archives, a subscription website available at FHCs, revealed newspaper notices for James in March 1918 in articles about the "Bravery of Canadian soldiers". Fred Ewins writes: "I have had much success with online newspapers recently. One excellent free site is [ourontario.ca](#), which has many papers. The ones I have been using are out of Newmarket." A search of OurOntario was done, but no further information was found.

As we know that he received a Military Cross, the [London Gazette online](#) was searched for mention of James. Indeed he was "gazetted" on March 5, 1918 with the following notation: "For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when leading his platoon in a counter-attack on an enemy force which had gained a footing in our trench. Doubling over-land he attacked the enemy fighting hand to hand with his men until the position had been cleared. He then dashed forward with his party and attacked the retreating enemy in the open, inflicting severe casualties. He remained with his platoon and held the line so taken for two and a half days, though for thirty-six hours it was impossible to get up rations and water. During this period he displayed splendid initiative in improving and consolidating his position, and by his example kept up the spirits of his men under most trying circumstances." [[The Gazette online](#), the official UK Public Notice also has records of insolvency as well as military and civilian awards and Trustee Act notices.] A search of the Ancestry Canada Military Honours and Awards Citations Cards also revealed the reason for his award.

Following the brothers of James may provide more links to James's life following WWI.

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

### **Easily Accessible Parish Records – Update**

Herb Proudley has found a website for the [Ercall Magna](#) area of **Shropshire** that contains parish register indexes (about 18,000 records) and other information for the parishes of Cold Hatton, Cotwall, Crudginton, Ellerdine, Haughton, High Ercall, Isombridge, Moortown, Osbaston, Poynton, Roden, Rowton, Sherlowe (Wiseland / Lower Ground), Sleaf, Tern and Walton. The website seems to be a labour of love by Robert Ridgeway, who lives in Walton.

June Edmonds has found a couple of other websites of parish registers that can be accessed easily. The Online Parish Clerk for the county of [Lancashire](#) has transcribed nearly four million baptism records, over one million marriage records and nearly 2.5 million burials. Many of the parishes in Lancashire are at least partially covered, including Liverpool and Manchester. The other website she finds useful contains indexes to the parish registers of some parts of the Diocese of [Worcester](#), the Diocese of [Hereford](#), and some parishes in [Shropshire](#). The **Shropshire** records come from old transcriptions done by the Shropshire Parish Register Society in the early 1900s, and they include non-conformist records and Roman Catholic chapels/churches.

### **Free Online Magazine**

The Irish Family History Foundation has published its second online magazine, the August edition of Clann. It can be read online or downloaded by clicking on this [link](#).

### **Pre-1858 English Wills – A Very Rough Guide**

From 1384-1858, probate in England and Wales was handled by the ecclesiastical courts. The country was firstly divided in two parts: the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) handled probate for the south part of the country for people, on the whole, with more money and for people whose estates were in more than one county, and the Prerogative Court of York (PCY) handled probate for wealthy people from the north of England. All the PCC registered copy wills are easy to look up and download from the [National Archives UK](#) at a cost of £3.30 each. Always start here because it is easy.

There were many other probate courts and the simplest way to find the mostly likely court that handled your ancestors probate is on FamilySearch. Go to [maps.familysearch.org](#) and type in the name of the last parish your ancestor lived in before death. By selecting the parish in question and clicking on the JURISDICTIONS button in the centre of the box, you will find the most likely Probate Court where the will would be found. A book at the Toronto FHC goes a bit further by giving the three or four most likely courts where you may find a will.

The next place to look online for a will would be the National Wills Index at [Origins.net](#). They have free indexes to wills from Chester, Devon, Hertfordshire, some of Lancashire, and Oxfordshire, and you can then purchase digital copies of the wills. They have indexes (not free) to the Archdeaconry of London (1700-1800), Chichester Consistory Wills 1282-1800, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lichfield Consistory wills 1650-1700, Surrey Peculiars 1660-1751, York Peculiars 1383-1883 and York Medieval Probate 1660-1751. Origins also has abstracts and actual wills that can be purchased for many of the previously mentioned locations. Origins has good research guides for wills.

The Toronto FHC has an excellent collection of indexes to wills by county and many other probate resources (including volunteers happy to help). The films for probate can be found in our [All Resources List](#). Kent wills before 1858 can be found and downloaded on FamilySearch.org at family history centres.

Once you have found an index entry for your ancestor it is very probable that you will be able to find a Family History Library film that has the will on it – sometimes the original will with your ancestor's signature and sometimes a register copy will.

This is just a tiny rough guide to probate in England; FamilySearch Wiki has a much better description [here](#). Many of the books at the Toronto FHC have very helpful guides for finding wills. Do look for wills, even if you do not think that your ancestors had much money or land. I have been amazed at what I have found.

Old wills are fascinating because of the unusual items that the testator disposes of. A few weeks ago we were sent the transcription of the will of my husband's 7-great-grandfather. Written in 1784, eight months before he died, he left small items to his son and his son's children but to his daughter's eldest son he leaves "16 silver coat buttons, best suit of clothes, razor, arithmetic books and instruments, and violin", to her eldest daughter "the clock, best bed with its furniture, the rest of the books, half the pewter, brass kettle, one crock, one table board, all the china and silver tea spoons, with the contents of one little red box with her name" and to his daughter "the entire residue of the estate, after providing for his wife Jane during her life". We can infer from his possessions that he was reasonably well off and that he was quite literate because he had a number of books.

### **Release of WWI Red Cross Records**

**Q1/2014/22** in June asked about the release of Red Cross records which had been found in a storage location in Switzerland. The International Red Cross has recently released records of the prisoners of the First World War. Ten million people, service men or civilians, were captured and sent to detention camps. The belligerent countries sent lists of prisoners of various nationalities to the ICRC. Then the ICRC set up alphabetical indexes and these can now be searched

[here](#). The records are scans of the index cards and from them you can find the person and what appears to be a page number where the person was recorded by the belligerent countries. There are postcard pictures of the camps and some camp reports.

### 101 Best Genealogy Websites

Family Tree Magazine has released a list of best websites by category, including Best Canadian Websites (there are only four) and Best Mapping Websites. Click [here](#) to check out the list.

### Films received in the week ending August 6th and due for return by the end of October.

| Film Content                                   | Film No |
|--|---------|
| DEU MEC Gustow Taufen 1787-1856                | 0069162 |
| DEU MEC Luth Ch.Taufen 1857-1884               | 0069317 |
| ENG CON Lewannick, Liskeard PRs 1675-1804      | 0090256 |
| ENG CON Quethiock PRs 1574-1885                | 0254461 |
| ITA Avellino Grottaminarda births 1809-1820    | 1518198 |
| ITA Avellino Grottaminarda births 1820-1857    | 1518199 |
| ITA Avellino Grottaminarda births 1858-1865    | 1518200 |
| ITA Avellino Grottaminarda births 1866-1882    | 1801096 |
| ITA Avellino Grottaminarda births 1893-1910    | 1801097 |
| ITA Udine Caneva Civ. Reg. 1870-1910           | 2097146 |
| PRT Castelo Branco Casegas Casamentos 1841- et | 1387331 |
| PRT Castelo Branco Casegas Ch Rec 1619-        | 1387329 |

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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