



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-33

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Announcements –

OGS Toronto – Fall Courses and Workshop

Using Legacy Family Tree Software – September 20th; 9am to 5pm

This full-day workshop, given by Geoff Rasmussen, is for beginner and intermediate users of the Legacy Family Tree. Geoff will review basic techniques for using Legacy, highlight what's new in version 8, and explain how Legacy makes it easy for you to make the best use of LDS Family Search. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Basic Genealogy and Family History - 8 October to 26 November 2014, 2 – 4 pm

In this course, Jane McNamara will cover the basics, including terminology, types of sources, the use of on-line resources, libraries and archives, including LDS Family History Centres, and record-keeping – to help you “think like a genealogist”. For the full details, click [here](#).

Maps and Mapping for 21st Century Genealogists – November 6, 12, 19 and 26, 6:15 – 8:15 pm

James Thomson has designed this four-week course for intermediate and advanced-level genealogists. It explores sophisticated ways in which maps and mapping tools can contribute to family history research, analysis and writing. This course was sold out last year. For further information, click [here](#).

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Patriotes, Reformers, Rebels & Raiders – Tracing your ancestors during the troublous times in Upper and Lower Canada, 1820-1851, written by Kenneth G. Cox

While using a case study of two men, this book has many documented names and links to helpful resources on the web or in libraries. It will be very valuable for researchers looking for their Canadian ancestors before the 1851 census. Many thanks to Ken, who has donated a copy of his new book to our library.

What's New

Ancestry has added a database of 27,000 Ireland marriages documented in Walker's Hibernian Magazine, 1771-1812; these records are cross-referenced with the partner's surname and vary in the detail given. The Warwickshire BMBs 1535-1812 database has been updated. Passenger and crew lists for Illinois 1918-1963 and Maine 1894-1960 have been added; these include lists for both ships and planes.

Ancestry announced this week “New Global Records Just Released – 67 countries; one billion new records”. These records are free to search on Ancestry because they have come from FamilySearch. While not really “new”, it may help people who are not familiar with FamilySearch find new records. One of Ancestry's new countries is Argentina for which

they have added millions of records connected to FamilySearch. Ancestry says it has new (to them) records for 6 countries in the Caribbean, 6 in Central America, 10 in South America, 8 in Europe, 3 in Africa and 10 in Asia/Pacific.

FindMyPast has added 62,625 new parish records consisting of transcripts of baptism and burial registers for existing collections for Cheshire, Sheffield and North West Kent parish records. The records include burial records from Church Hulme Chapelry in Cheshire, baptism records for St Silas, Sheffield, baptisms from Stone St Mary, Kent and burial records for 18 more parishes in North West Kent. FindMyPast also added new Australian passenger lists this week: Inbound to Victoria 1839-1923 with over two million records and Outbound from Victoria 1852-1915 with over 1.7 million records.

[FamilyTreeDNA](#) is having a sale on all its Y-DNA (male line) tests. This includes updates from one level (eg. Y-37) to another (eg. Y-67). FamilyTreeDNA claims to have the largest Y-DNA database. This sale ends September 3rd.

[DeceasedOnline](#) will be adding 378,000 Aberdeen City Council records on September 11th.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/32.

A person with a well documented tree on Ancestry has posted this comment about my ancestor George NICHOLLS, born 1820. *“George faced a Poor Law Examination on 15th January 1850. He gave his address as No. 2 Cranbrook Street, Old Ford Lane and that he had lived there for 8 years. He stated that he had married on 3 September 1841 at Hackney (but no certificate was produced) to Mary his wife and had 3 children Joseph aged 7, Esther aged 3 and George aged 11 months. He mentioned that his father came from Ware in Hertfordshire and that his mother Esther lived at 15 Caroline Street, Cates Lane, Upper Clapton. There is no trace of his marriage in Hackney registers.”* Where might I find this Poor Law record, as I would like to see it for myself? His address of 2 Cranbrook Street suggests that it would be in the Poor Law Records for Bethnal Green. But there are so many films of Poor Law records that I cannot figure out which one to order. Can anyone advise me please?

The Bulletin thanks those who sent the suggestions for this researcher - Adrian Hetherington, Mike Webber and Marie Burger. Each of them noticed that there are Poor Law records online for the London Poor Law Unions of Bethnal Green, Hackney, Poplar, Shoreditch and Stepney at Ancestry.com. The types of records (Removals, Examinations, Settlements, etc.) and the available years vary for each Poor Law Union. Thanks to Ancestry World Archives Project volunteers these records have now been indexed and can be searched by name. [It has taken five years for this indexing to be done.] Searching by name is relatively new for this database as on Friday morning the description of it said: “Because the records haven’t yet been transcribed, it’s not possible to search for your relatives automatically.” But by the afternoon that disclaimer had vanished!

The records for George were in a Bethnal Green collection called Rough Examinations and it has a bit more interesting information. George was never apprenticed in the parish; because of this and because neither parent was from the parish, George would not necessarily have been entitled to poor relief. The other bit of information not in the quote above was that George’s mother “must be examined”; this would establish if there were any reason to give George poor relief.

Regarding the lack of marriage records, Adrian writes: “This man is asking for relief on the Parish. You can be certain that the Overseer would use any reason to deny relief as that was an expense avoided. One reason for denial might be the matrimonial state, unmarried and three children suggest you had brought it upon yourself. Married and suggesting long residency in the Parish ticked boxes. So given the choice of fibbing or continuing to starve you are going to tell the Parish worthies what they’d like to hear. A marriage in 1841 covers this, the eldest boy is born well inside the date of marriage, and they appear to have shown restraint in starting a family.” Adrian also comments: “Being poor was your fault in 1850, your lack of industry - nothing to do with society.”

Adrian and Marie did a type of Ancestry search that I had not thought about doing. On the Ancestry plain Search page (<http://search.ancestry.com/search/>), put in the name “George Nicholls” and “1850” exact for “Any Event” and click Search. There are 302 results. These can be narrowed by defining the Category to “Tax, Criminal, Land & Wills”, leaving only 45 results. Of the ten sets of results there are only two in the London Poor Law records and one is for George and the other his son.

Were You Aware...

Poor Law Records in England and Elsewhere

The Poor Law Act of 1601 established the parish as the administrative group responsible for looking after the poor, with the churchwardens or parish overseers collecting poor rates and distributing relief. The poor rates were given to the parish needy as "out-relief" [they were living in their own dwellings], in the form of bread, clothing, fuel, rent payments or money.

The Settlement Act of 1662 established if a person was allowed to live in the parish. If a poor person moved to a new parish, he had to prove that he had a right to settle there. This right came to a child from its father and to a wife from her husband. Children who served their full apprenticeship were allowed to stay in the parish where they served that apprenticeship. Illegitimate children were allowed to settle in the place where they were born and so parishes tried to send the single mother back to her parish of settlement before the child was born or else their parish had to support that child with poor relief. The parish also "examined" or questioned the mother about the identity of the father and if she named him, the parish would go after him for child support (Bastardy Examinations).

Parish records before the new Poor Law of 1834 often have very interesting snippets of information. The churchwardens' accounts which one occasionally sees on films of parish registers have items like how many loaves of bread Mrs. Smith and her children got that week or how much wood was given to Widow Jones for the week.

The Poor Law was significantly amended in 1834. This law organized parishes into groups called Poor Law Unions for the purposes of operating a workhouse and required a central body to organize the system. The parishes within the union were required to support only the poor who had a right of settlement in those parishes, but that did not prevent people from living and working outside their parish of settlement. It is easy to find which Poor Law Union included the parish where you ancestors lived. Go to maps.familysearch.org; search for the name of your parish; click on the name when found; a map of the parish boundaries will appear with a box in the middle; clicking on Jurisdictions will give you not only the name of the Poor Law Union but the Civil Registration District, the Probate Court and the Hundred. **Tracing Your East End Ancestors**, one of the books in the Toronto FHC library, has a map of the boundaries of all the London Poor Law Unions on page 129, which may help you determine where you should be looking.

The poor laws were not abolished until 1930!

Peter Higginbotham has a wonderful website about workhouses, www.workhouses.org.uk. He has very detailed descriptions and pictures and plans of workhouses from England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland (poor houses and almshouses). There are even a few workhouses or houses of industry from outside the British Isles. Pictures of Toronto's 1848 House of Industry can be found [here](#). The workhouse that George Nicholls and his family in the question above would have gone to is pictured [here](#); it could have held up to 1400 inmates.

Poor law records include churchwarden accounts, rate books, settlement certificates, removal orders, examinations, bastardy bonds, guardianship, and apprenticeship records. Some of these may be available on films with the parish registers. In these records you may find names, birth dates and places, marriage information, name of spouse, parents' names, death or burial information, and the parish where the family lived, and they can be a very important source of information for those people who were not landowners. A removal order may be issued by a parish for a person for whom the parish feels that they have no responsibility to support. Removal orders usually send the person or family back to the parish where the head of the family was born. A settlement certificate may give a person or family the right to move into a parish where they were not born, usually because they can prove that they will not be a burden to a parish

Where can one find Poor Law Union Records?

Norfolk Poor Law Union records from 1796 to 1900 are available as a browse-only collection on FamilySearch but they are divided up by the Poor Law Union. Some of the books are a bit long to browse through. The Loddon and Clavering Poor Law Union (where I might expect to find some poor ancestors) has records for the Heckingham workhouse and the records of admissions and discharges are more than 6,000 pages. I have not yet looked at all 6,388 pages.

As discussed in the question above, some **London** Poor Law Union records (Bethnal Green, Hackney, Poplar, Shoreditch and Stepney) are available on Ancestry and have been indexed. I spent a bit of time searching these records and found a couple of interesting entries: my husband's grandmother apparently received relief after her husband died, and a distant cousin of mine was sent to a lunatic asylum.

The Toronto FHC has a couple of English county CDs with Poor Law records on them – **Gloucestershire** (BR064) and **Cambridgeshire** (BR129). We also have a few films and fiche with poor records on them, including a couple for the poor in Ireland.

[British Origins](#) has a small number of the City of London Poor Law abstracts that were published in seven volumes by Cliff Webb between 1978 and 1993.

Of course, the Family History Library has many films containing Poor Law records. A keyword search at www.familysearch.org of "poor law records" results in more than 5,000 results and many of these would have many films associated with the one title.

Films received in the week ending August 28th and due for return the beginning of November.

Film Content	Film No
SCT FIF Dairsie, Dalgety OPRs	1040127

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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