



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-36

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



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Additions to Our Permanent Collection

A pamphlet and a book have been added to our permanent collections this week:

FamilySearch.org Research - Genealogy at a Glance by George G. Martin – a pamphlet on the best ways to use the new FamilySearch.org website

International Vital Records Handbook - 6th Edition 2013 by Thomas Jay Kemp – an up-to-date version of our previous book

What's New

FamilySearch has a database of Church and Synagogue Books in Slovakia 1592-1910 that now contains nearly 14 million indexed records. The New Jersey State census for 1915 has been updated and contains 2,785,000 names and the US General Index to Pension Files 1861-1934 has more than 2.2 million names. The 1984 census for Ghana has been partly indexed and there are now nearly 250,000 indexed names, just a few of the 12.3 million people on the 900,000 digital images available on FamilySearch.org.

Ancestry has added only two new collections in the last week. [I hope this period of inactivity means that a large collection will be made available soon.] The two new collections are passenger and crew lists: the Bermuda collection has nearly half a million names of people on board both ships and aircraft between 1957 and 1969; and the Massachusetts collection has 75,000 names for ship and aircraft arrivals between 1949 and 1957.

British Wills after 1996 and Armed Forces Wills 1850-1986

The British government is now allowing one to search for and download a will for anyone who died after 1996 and whose will was probated. (This service is in the BETA or testing phase.) The cost is £10 per document and they are provided as a digital download. Once the wills have been provided online, they will be available to you to download online for 31 days. You may have to wait up to 10 days for some documents to be provided online. Wills are for personal use only; you must get the relatives' permission if you want to publish them in any way. To find a will, click [here](#). One can also search for the will of a soldier who died while serving in the British armed forces between 1850 and 1986. For each of these searches, you need to provide the last name of the person and the year of death. While I was able to find wills of people who died after 1996, I did not find any armed forces wills.

Irish Archives Resource

Dick Eastman's [blog](#) of September 17th mentions that one can now find lists and descriptions of Irish archives on the website, [Irish Archives Resource](#). From the website: "*The Irish Archives Resource portal contains information on records in Archives Services which may help you in researching your family tree. Using key word terms to search, you can locate information on collections of archives relating to places, organisations, people or specific periods of time. The Irish Archives Resource portal is suitable for family researchers who have already discovered some facts about their family history.*" The purpose of the website is to allow users to locate archives and records that are relevant to their research and to increase the use of archives by directing researchers to the relevant Archives Services.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/36. Ireland.

I am looking for a family from Belfast – the Harlands. Six boys went into the military after school leaving. 1) Bill (William) b 1925; 2) Jim (James) b 1927; 3) Jack b 1928; 4) Bobby (Robert) b 1930; and 5) Frank b 1936. (Frank is the only one still alive; he had a lifetime career in the military). Jim (James) was awarded the MBE. Five of the boys were the eldest in the family with the last Frank in the middle of 13 children. The family, Harland, is no relation to the big ship builders. Apparently the father, James Harland b 1902, was in Navy as a young man although married in 1923.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/35. England. Prison Records.

I have a dead end on my tree in my great uncle Herbert Harold Taylor b.1894 in Lostwithiel Cornwall. I can follow his life until 1911 where he is living in Okehampton with his family. The family then moves to Torquay, Devon. I recently found an article dated 1918 about my great grandmother's funeral in Torquay, in which he is mentioned as being 'abroad in Italy or Mesopotamia' which means he must have served in WW1. I looked everywhere for a death record, and couldn't find one. I recently found another article about him dated 1921 in Torquay where he was arrested for theft of 2 one pound notes in a registered letter. He explained himself as having 'shell shock' from the war, and admitted to having been caught for theft twice before. He served three months for the crime. My question is: Is there any access to court records back that far? I'd love to know more about the trial, so I can know more of him - and perhaps have details about him after his sentence has been served.

There are English criminal records on FindMyPast but the Herbert Harold Taylor listed there says he was born in 1900. The most likely record of the trial of Herbert would be found in newspaper collections. Checking the newspapers online at FindMyPast and [British Newspapers Online](#) resulted in no further information being found. Could Herbert have left England for other parts? The Bulletin did not find him on outgoing passenger lists.

Q2/2014/35. Canada 1848 Census.

My great great great grandfather, Robert Goodrich, is listed on the [Canadian Genealogy index](#) 1600-1900 (also on Ancestry) as living in Newcastle, Cramahe Township, in 1848 (page 90). I am trying to find out where he was born and this old census may provide a clue. Where can I access this census? I have lots of information about Robert from the 1860 census onwards but very little before that. Help in finding earlier information would be appreciated.

Amy Brewitt writes: "As far as I am aware, this census has not yet been transcribed and is not available online. It is available on microfilm at the Archives of Ontario:

CRAMAHE TOWNSHIP

Census: 1803-1807, 1809, 1810, 1812-1823, 1825, 1839-1841, 1848, 1850

MS 16, Reel 2

These early township census records may not give the birthplace of the named heads of household, but it could provide information about the family's religion which could point to church records for the family, which might contain more information about Robert."

Leslie Dorschell suggests looking at the Library and Archives website as they have digital images for census records including 1842 (head of household and occupation) and 1851 (all household members, places of birth, religion, age). <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/Pages/census.aspx> In 1842, there is a head of household in Cramahe name Marvin or Marvon Goodrich, farmer, and the image can be downloaded [here](#).

Leslie continues: "Then, of course, maybe the land records if they owned land. If it is not already known whether the family came over directly to Canada or spent some time in The States, consider the possibility of them being Empire Loyalists as Cobourg was an area of settlement for them (via boat directly from Rochester) per Wikipedia "Cobourg, Ontario"."

The website - <http://www.ontariogenealogy.com/> - may have some relevant information about the Goodriches. There are name indexed databases here and some require a subscription. Old town histories, many written nearly 50 years ago for Canada's Centennial year, may contain more detailed information about old inhabitants. Old newspapers may be a valuable resource – some are available on the website above.

Q3/2014/35. Scotland-England.

My ggg grandfather John McPherson (1818 Gloucester-1888 Greenwich) was son of Colin Campbell McPherson, an intriguing dead end who seems to disappear after 1828. Any idea where I might find who his parents were? Colin had at least four children, but only John seems to have survived to adulthood.

From various sources (pension, discharge papers, etc.) we can extract this timeline, but nothing on Colin's possible parents or siblings.

1795, born Perthshire, Scotland

7 May 1812, enlisted 85th Foot in Edinburgh by Perth Mil., occupation mason, 7 years

21 February 1817 in Chester, Cheshire, occupation Private 85th Foot, married Mary Rhodes

22 March 1818, son John McPherson christened, St. Nicholas, Gloucester

24 November 1819, re-enlisted for 7 years, Northwich, Cheshire

21 Jan 1828 Discharged from Grenadier Guards, 1st Foot Guards, Aged 33

Born in the Parish of Perth

In 24 May, 1845, son John marries (St. Philip's Cathedral, Birmingham, Worcestershire), both his and father's occupations listed as musician (don't know if this necessarily means Colin was alive then, can't find him or wife Mary in any census. I can't find John in 1841 or 1851 either. In 1851 his wife is with two daughters and says she is a mariner's wife.)

Suggestions: When John marries in 1845, he says that his father's name is Colin Campbell McPherson. None of the military service records indicate that Colin's middle name is Campbell. What ties the Colin Campbell McPherson of the marriage record to the Colin McPherson of the military records?

Colin McPherson says that he was born in Perthshire in 1795 on his service records. Checking the Scottish Old Parish records on FamilySearch.org did not find a Colin McPherson baptism there. These records are only for the Church of Scotland.

Hint: For those readers with names beginning Mc or Mac, Ancestry's search engine is not very good. Using McPherson as an example, try McPherson and Mc Pherson and Pherson.

Were You Aware...

US Social Security Numbers

The Family History Centre recently had a family come in looking for information on their father, who had been born in the Philippines about 1895. Joe Mounsey quickly found that he was on the Social Security Death Index on FamilySearch and Ancestry. Interestingly, slightly different information was available on each site. It confirmed his death in the Philippines in the 1980s. The family knew that the father had worked in the US for some time. A general search on Ancestry revealed him in the 1940 US census and in various Portland, Oregon city directories between 1929 and 1940. The family was pleased to find the name of the shoe company for which the father had worked in the city directories. His passenger arrival manifest was also found on Ancestry; he entered at Seattle Washington in 1926.

But their next questions had us stumped – why was he on the Social Security Death Index? Had he been a US citizen? Social Security numbers started to be issued in late 1935 and are issued to U.S. citizens, permanent residents, legal aliens, and temporary (working) residents. It was a tax on working people to provide social assistance and, as such, all working people would have had an SS number. The death may have been reported by a survivor requesting benefits or it may have been reported in order to stop Social Security Benefits to the father. He was not necessarily a US citizen but he could have applied for naturalization, even though, at the time he entered Washington, the Philippines was under US rule. Was it necessary? [The naturalization records for Oregon have yet to be indexed.]

The Social Security Administration has a microfilmed copy of every individual's original Social Security application (known as the SS-5), as well as claims files. These documents contain additional information not available in the SSDI such as full name, full name at birth (including maiden name), current mailing address, age, date of birth, place of birth (city, county, state), father's full name, mother's full name with maiden name, sex, race, employer's name and address, date signed, applicant's signature. One can request a copy of the original Social Security application form (the SS-5) of a deceased person from the Social Security Administration for about \$27 by providing the person's name, social security number and evidence of death. The address is: Social Security Administration, OEO FOIA Workgroup, 300 N. Green Street, P.O. Box 33022, Baltimore, Maryland 21290-3022. This family may find very helpful information on the SS-5, the application for social security.

Films received in the three weeks ending October 9th and due for return about the middle of November.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Badendiek Ch.Rec.1867-1933	0068976
ENG DEV CofE Stoke. PRs 1538-1837; Sutc. PRs 1597-1875	0917535
ENG LAN Walton-on-the-Hill Church Rec 1860-80	1468977
USA IA Court Records 1849-1931	2131968

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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