



In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae

**The Brooding Soldier
by Frederick Chapman Clemesha
Canadian Forces Memorial in
Sint-Juliaan, Belgium**



This Bulletin before Remembrance Day honours those who died, veterans, and the contributions of many others in WWI and WWII, allowing us the freedom we enjoy today. We also remember the two Canadian soldiers who died in October in Canada and thank those currently serving in Canada's armed forces. Many readers have ancestors who served in the armed forces in WWI or WWII, so this week several of the FHC volunteers have written about how their relatives helped in the war effort, not necessarily in the armed forces. We know that many of you have stories like these.

Joe Mounsey writes: "My parents and their siblings were brought up as Quakers, opposed to all kinds of violence. In general, that did not mean they would not want to participate in the war effort (although one of my father's cousins felt that way, and spent the war in jail). At the start of WWII, the Friends Ambulance Unit, which had been active during WWI, was immediately re-formed, with the objective of providing support where needed on the front line or elsewhere. At different stages of the war and thereafter, my father, his two brothers and my mother's two brothers, served abroad in the Unit. My father was an undergraduate at Cambridge when war broke out but joined the Unit on graduation. After training in England he was sent to Egypt and then to Palestine. In 1944 he was transferred to Greece where a civil war had followed liberation. Subsequently he undertook relief work in Germany, working with UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration).

"My father's eldest brother was in charge of Unit members sent to Ethiopia, where they effectively ran the hospital system in Addis Ababa after the Italians surrendered there in 1941. His middle brother was captured in Greece in 1941 along with 15 other members of the Unit, and was marched across Europe to a prisoner of war camp in Germany. Despite being a non-combatant, the other prisoners elected him as their spokesman to deal with the prison commandant. My mother's

elder brother was sent to Finland in 1939, after the Russian invasion of that country, and subsequently to Syria, working with the Free French. I am unclear where the Unit sent my mother's younger brother - he did his training with my father, and that is how my parents met each other: the rest is family history!"

Linda Reid says: "Both my parents served in the Second World War: my Dad in the Royal Canadian Engineers and my mother as a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) in the army medical corps. Before WWI broke out, my grandfather was in the merchant marine and then deserted in Cape Town (I just discovered that!) A few months later (May 1913) he joined the Australian Navy for 7 years. I don't know why. His next-of-kin was given as his brother George, a sea captain. My grandfather was just a common seaman. I suspect that he was in some kind of trouble and his brother got him on the navy but I can't prove that. He wanted to see action when war broke out so he deserted the Navy and joined the AIF (Australian Infantry Force) under an alias (along with another stoker from the same ship). After the war he had to apply for a pardon but got it easily because he had joined another service. It was his request for a pardon that listed all the places he had fought (not his army record itself) and that motivated us to take the battlefields tour. He fought at Gallipoli and then in Europe. His brother was a British army officer and his brother-in-law died fighting with the Canadians and is buried near Ypres. Four years ago we went on a bespoke battlefield tour to see the places where the three men fought (and one was buried). There were 3 generations of us: my mother (then 89), my husband and myself, and our two adult children. It was a wonderful experience.

Don and Roberta Harris write: "Both Don and my family have had a number of relatives involved in various war efforts. My Uncle Lyman Nicholls enlisted at 15 in Uxbridge and ended up being involved in various battles as just a young teenager in WWI. At age 17 he fought at Vimy Ridge and ended up helping to collect German prisoners from a pill box only to find another pill box right behind it with the holdout soldiers, their guns still drawn, facing him eye to eye. They did not shoot but it was a tense moment. At another battle scene in the trench area, a shell dropped into the mud and blew a large hole. As Lyman and several others were in the line of fire, they dropped into the large hole to hide. However, another shell landed right beside them and knocked him out. When he awoke, his companion who had been beside him, had been blown apart and all of his body parts were all over my uncle. Very sobering. He said you could smell a battlefield over half a mile away. When the war ended and Lyman came home, he was just 19 years old. He said the Legions were very necessary as anyone who had not been into battle could never understand what those on the front line had endured and the veterans could talk to each other about their experiences.

One of my dad's cousins Harold Russell was also in WW1 and had signed up at university. He was in the trenches with 3 other soldiers having a quick game of cards during a break in the incoming shelling. Suddenly another shell did come in almost into the same place and blew up the other 3 soldiers right in front of him. He said he always wondered why he was spared. By the end of the war, he had been awarded 3 metals for his various war efforts.

My grandfather, Vincent Haylock, served in WW1 and was at Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele and Ypres. He was in his early 30's, married with 2 young children and living in Hamilton when he enrolled. He had been born in England but felt he should return and fight alongside some of his brothers who were also in the military. He did suffer from being gassed. My mother remembered as a young child being taken along with her little brother to the armory each day to see if their father's name (my grandfather) was on the "deceased" list. She remembered her mom being pretty tense as she hurried them along the streets on the way to the armoury but more relaxed on the way home. He wasn't able to return until 1919 having had to wait for boat passage home but lived a good life until he was 97.

Don had 2 uncles who served in WWI. Earl Harris was a military policeman during the war and he too was gassed and suffered terribly from it for many months as painful boils would erupt on his skin all over his body. After he recuperated, he became a policeman for the Toronto Police force and had a 35 year career. Frank Barbour was a service soldier stationed in England.

All of these ancestors assumed it would be a short war and they would return home in a few months!!!

Helen Billing writes: "Both my grandfathers were in the British army in WWI. My maternal grandfather started in the Royal Army Medical Corps and became a gunner in the Royal Horse Artillery. He served in Gallipoli, where he was traumatized by the fighting there and suffered from PTSD as a result. My paternal grandfather served as a rifleman in the Rifle Brigade and his two younger brothers were in the Royal Navy. My maternal grandmother worked at the Woolwich Arsenal producing the 303 rifle cartridges but in her memoirs she hastened to add that she was not a "canary girl", girls who were filling shells with TNT that turned their skin yellow-orange. In WWII my father was in the RAF and my mother was a radio intercept operator in the ATS (Auxiliary Territorial Service). They met in Egypt, where both were serving, and as Joe says – the rest is family history!"

In This Bulletin

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Announcements

WorldWide FindMyPast FREE this weekend

[FindMyPast](#) is giving free access to all their billions of records and newspaper pages from all over the world this weekend from 7am EST or noon GMT Friday to 7am EST or noon GMT Monday. To access these databases, you must register but you do not have to pay. They have recently added a collection of Irish newspapers. There are census, birth, marriage and death records; lots of global newspapers; large collections of English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish records; military records; and many passenger lists. Their search engine can be challenging and I have often found it convenient to click on the *SEARCH RECORDS* button; in the drop-down menu choose *A-Z Records*; this will reveal a very long list of records. If I am looking for a particular county like Cornwall, I type Cornwall and then the record collections associated with Cornwall are displayed and I can choose Baptisms, for example. Do try FindMyPast as it has some different databases from Ancestry, although the free weekends usually mean a longer wait for records to appear. As a nice touch, FindMyPast has extended my worldwide FMP subscription by three days. FindMyPast always offers discounted subscriptions to its renewing members.

It is quite likely that Ancestry, too, will offer free access to some of their records this US Veterans weekend. Check other subscription websites for similar deals.

[LostCousins](#) is also free this weekend until Tuesday evening (GMT). LostCousins matches you with others researching the same ancestors, with matching based on relatives on your family tree who were recorded in selected US (1880), Canadian (1881), England & Wales (1841, 1881, 1911), Scottish (1881) or Irish (1911) Censuses. These censuses were chosen as all can be accessed without charge, most of them on FamilySearch.org. (The 1911 Irish census is free [here](#).) You enter your ancestors' names and the page of the census they can be found on and, hopefully, you will find a match that is very accurate. Entering the data seems difficult at first but it is actually easy. Peter Calver writes an excellent newsletter every two weeks, free to anyone who signs up. [Today's newsletter](#) features a story about the sinking of the Empress of Ireland that you first read about in the Bulletin in May. Peter's newsletter has a rather larger distribution than this one – over 60,000 people subscribe.

MyHeritage added to FHC Portal

FamilySearch has announced that the Library Edition of MyHeritage is now available free of charge at every LDS Family History Centre in the world – all 4,700 FHCs in 134 countries. The MyHeritage Library Edition™ provides access to billions of historical documents, millions of historical photos, and other resources in thousands of databases that span the past 5 centuries and which are available in 40 languages. I have not used MyHeritage enough to comment on its search engine but it is great to have another website for patrons to explore. The FHC Portal already offers patrons free access to Ancestry, FindMyPast (only UK records), 19th Century British Library Newspapers, Access Newspaper Archive, Alexander Street Press, Fold3.com, Historic Map Works, LegacyStories, Paper Trail, and World Vital Records.

News From the Trenches – Newspaper Finds

Eve Richardson writes: "As for the British Newspapers Archive, Welsh Newspapers Online, and Findmypast's Irish Newspapers - I've been overwhelmed by the amount of information I've turned up. Not only BMDs, but a lot about the trials

(literally) and tribulations of ordinary folk that give a peek at lives we don't ordinarily get to see. For example, one of my relatives had what appears to have been a pawn shop in Exeter and there are a number of articles about thefts from his shop, or thieves who brought stolen goods to him, whereas another of the same family had what must have been a high-end antique store and supported the arts by providing items to a school for still life art classes. Simple details like what articles were stolen provide hints of everyday life that can be hard to find elsewhere. And I also found an article about one of my great grandfathers in London - charged with stealing a dog that he claimed followed him home."

Marcia Cuthbert was excited by her finds: "Thank you SO MUCH for alerting us to Welsh Newspapers Online in your recent Bulletin. It took me only a few minutes to find reference to my great grandfather, Theodore Haág, who must have visited Wales in 1869. Here's a summary of what I found (a copy of what I put on Facebook):

Sometimes I think I'm spending TOO MUCH TIME on the internet. But today it was WORTH IT !!

From the Toronto Family History Centre's latest Bulletin, I learned that "Welsh Newspapers Online" at <http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home> lets you search and download without charge any of the 7.6 million articles it has. A quick search and I came up with at least four articles about my great grandfather, Theodore Haág's violin performances in Wales.

For example, from the Aberystwyth Observer, 19 June 1869:

"A RARE MUSICAL TREAT

"A rare musical treat is in store for us the more to be appreciated because it will come upon us totally unexpected, and almost unannounced. On next Friday evening a concert will be given in the Concert Room of the Queen's Hotel, which we strongly advise all those who have soul for music to attend. It will be given by Herr Theodore Haag, in conjunction with Mr Inglis Bervon.

"Some, no doubt, will ask who is Herr Theodore Haag? We can answer that he has substantial certificates from Fame. Herr Haag is the late conductor of the world-wide renowned Hungarian Band; and leader of the late Mr Alfred Mellon's orchestral hand in the great maestro's celebrated Promenade Concerts. He is a member of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society, and of Charles Halle's Orchestra, and also was honoured in being selected by the Irish Night- Ingale, Catherine Hayes, as leader of her concert band.

"We have heard Herr Haag play, and it is not too much to say that he seems inoculated with the subtle inspiration of his fellow student, Herr Ernst, the greatest master of the most unconquerable instrument ever fashioned by the hand of man.

"Herr Haag will perform on the occasion violin soli in arrangements of and selections from the "Pirate" (ungratefully neglected) and "Sonnambula" of Bellini, the matchless master of modern melody. He will also play Ernst's exquisite Elegy," and, let us hope, the same great artist's arrangement of Paganini's beautiful burlesque upon music, commonly known as the Carnival of Venice."

"Herr Haag will be accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr Bervon".

The transcriptions contain a small number of errors, as the newspapers are OCR'd but on the whole are pretty good.

Theodore arrived in England around 1849 after a brief trip to New York in 1848 with the Josef Gungl orchestra and remained in England until his death in 1874. I have some articles from the Times of London and am finding lots on the British Newspaper Archive."

What's New

FamilySearch added or updated a browse-only collection of images of censuses for the Czech Republic 1800-1945; there are more than three million images now. US County records have been updated, so check the state you might be interested in. More probate record images for Nova Scotia 1760-1993 have been added.

Ancestry has updated its database of passengers arriving in the UK between 1878 and 1960; there are now over 16 million records to look at. Four databases of New Zealand war records were added. New Zealand Roll of Honour 1840-1903 contains names of 9,700 servicemen who defended the British Empire between 1840 and 1903 and resided in New Zealand. New Zealand Expeditionary Force Record of Personal Service WWI is a book with lists of officers, nurses, and others mentioned in dispatches, for example. New Zealand WWII Appointments, Promotions, etc has records of 85,000 people mentioned in the New Zealand Gazette. The fourth database, New Zealand WWII Ballot Lists 1940-1945 is the largest with over 300,000 names; these ballot lists, or notices as to men called up under the National Service Emergency

Regulations 1940 for Service with the Territorial Force, were extracted from the New Zealand Gazette. These lists included some third cousins of my husband, who seemed to be too old for active service and may have been serving in the Home Defence Unit. UK WWI Service Medal & Award Rolls 1914-1920 contains six million records of medals and awards; this database has been on FindMyPast for several years. The Queen's Canadian Military Hospital Registers WWI, in Beachborough Park, Shorncliffe, was a treatment facility for Canadian service personnel, maintained by the Canadian War Contingent association; it contains nearly 5,000 records. Nearly 18,000 returning Canadian soldiers were eligible for a free homestead entry under the Soldier settlement Act; this database, Canada Soldier Homestead Grant Registers 1918-1931, is a list of applications with land descriptions, etc. In addition, Ancestry has added some small collections of records for Oklahoma and California.

FindMyPast will be free this weekend to anyone who has registered to search their website. This week's new additions include over 444,000 new wills and probate records as well as over 570 pages of Cheltenham Probate Abstracts. The Lichfield Consistory Court Wills, 1650-1700, an index to over 28,000 wills and other testamentary documents recorded in the Lichfield Consistory Court. The records cover the counties of Staffordshire and Derbyshire, north Shropshire and north Warwickshire. The York Medieval Probate Index, 1267-1500, contains over 28,000 records including over 10,000 wills. The Prerogative & Exchequer Courts of York Probate Index 1688-1858 contains over 263,000 wills that were proved in the ecclesiastical courts of York. The Surrey & South London Will Abstracts 1470-1856 comprise over 26,000 wills containing over 29,000 names taken from the will registers held at the London Metropolitan Archives. The Sussex, Chichester Consistory Court Wills Index 1482-1800 contains over 22,000 wills. Each record includes a transcript of the original index that can include the testator's name, occupation/status, residence, the date the will was proved, the court it was proved in, the document type and reference. The Kent Wills & Probate Indexes 1328-1890 is a collection of indexes that contains over 63,000 records from seven different ecclesiastical Church of England courts in the county of Kent. The Gloucestershire Wills & Administrations is an index of 14,000 original wills for the Consistory Court of Gloucester from 1801 to 1858. Over 570 pages of Cheltenham Probate Abstracts, 1660-1740, have also been added.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/40. Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

A friend of mine walks through Mount Pleasant cemetery on a regular basis. For the last two years in the fall she has noticed an oddity that we hope a reader can explain. On the large Eaton family mausoleum there are two lions and each currently has a fresh green apple placed on one of its paws. On another large monument for John Clarke, a red tomato has been placed centrally on the pediment. These are obviously not put there by squirrels. Does this placement of fresh fruit have any meaning?

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/36. Vienna, Austria Births.

I finally found proof my 2nd Great Grand Father, **Johannes Gerber** (who died in the Netherlands) was born in Vienna about 1786. He was admitted to hospital in Amsterdam in 1833 and his parents' names are mentioned. I have looked through the Austrian LDS online catalogue finding many films covering that time period; however they seem to be only military records covering garrisons. I need some help pointing my search towards the right direction.

Jan Coward suggested that the only thing that comes to mind is to look in the Family History Library catalogue under different country names: was Austria called Austria in 1786 or might the records be recorded under another country name like Hungary?, Austria - Hungary?, Or Austro-Hungarian? The Bulletin tried searching the catalogue with these country names but it did not seem to produce anything useful. Searching for "Vienna" as a place name in the Catalog Search resulted in a long list of films of Church Books for various army garrisons and dates in Vienna. If his father could possibly have been in the army, these may be worth ordering. While FamilySearch has some online records for Austria, the numbers are tiny and success in finding Johannes would be unlikely. There is a Gerber birth in Vienna in 1778 to a Wilhelm and Christina Gerber and this record comes from one of the army garrisons.

Were You Aware...

Re: Oxfordshire History Centre closing

Stephanie Lever wrote: "The Oxfordshire Family History Society also has a surname search service for their index to the parish registers. It is cheap at £1.50 per 70 results for one surname. Here is a link to their website info on search services. <http://searches.oxfordshirefhs.org.uk/> The Oxfordshire FHS is the best FHS that I know of."

Eve Richardson says: "Regarding the Oxfordshire History Centre closing, genealogist, Harold Pollins, has done a lot of work on the history of Jews in Oxfordshire, as well as other provincial communities in Britain. Many of his articles are available on online [here](#). I'm currently reading his book *The Economic History of the Jews of England*."

National Anglo-Jewish Heritage Trail Website

While looking around for Harold Pollins (above), I stumbled across an interesting website, [National Anglo-Jewish Heritage Trail](#), which hopes to raise awareness of the history of Jews in England. "In 2006, Anglo-Jewry celebrated the 350th anniversary of the re-admittance of Jews to England. But, in fact, the history of the Jewish community in England stretches back well over 1,000 years. *JTrails* is working to raise awareness of this rich, but often unknown, history and heritage among both Jews and non-Jews alike, and to encourage individuals to understand their own roots as well as the fascinating origins of the community and its contribution to the history of England." There are 22 trails currently online; each has pictures and a description of places of importance for Jews in places like [Northampton](#), [Guildford](#), [Leeds](#), [Dover](#), [Stroud](#) and [Oxford](#).

Waterford Civil Birth Records

The Irish Family History Foundation has made 120,000 civil birth records from Waterford City and County available online at [Waterford Genealogy](#). You will have to scroll down to the bottom of the page to see these new records which are in addition to Roman Catholic and church of Ireland parish registers.

Films received in the week ending November 6th and due for return about the middle of January.

Film Content	Film No
CAN ON Waterloo Wilmot Twp deeds	0170026
ENG CON Wills 1781-1786	0090200

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: **December 19, 2014 to January 5, 2015 inclusive.** 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](#).

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