



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-43

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



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Announcements

FamilyTreeDNA is again offering discounts on all its DNA tests. These discounts are available until December 31st. Family Finder \$89 (for relatives on both sides of your family); Y-DNA (\$129 for 37 marker test – men only); mtDNA (\$169 for direct maternal line only). Please go to FamilyTreeDNA for all the discounts on tests and upgrades. There is also a new Mystery Reward every week, which is a further discount that customers can use or can share with a friend. FamilyFinder is the test that Linda Reid suggests. Ancestry will probably be discounting its DNA tests for Black Friday; it is reported to be available for \$79 but only in the US. Ancestry may be in the process of extending their testing to be available outside the US.

News From the Trenches

Success in a New Database – Written by Paul Branson

I've said this before, but one of the great benefits of reading the bulletin regularly is that the Bulletin keeps readers informed on new and updated websites. Last week, one such reference led me to some valuable insights.

This relates to my Grandmother's brother, Arthur Hooker who was killed in action in WW-1. For unknown reasons, he travelled back to Britain from Canada, joined the Royal West Kent Regiment, died and is buried in the small Belgian town of Dranoutre. His service record was among those in the Burnt Series, and, although we have scoured all the usual places, have very little information about him. His family was so traumatised that they, understandably, did not talk about him. The result today is that we do not have even a photo of Arthur. His date of death, June 17 1916, did not coincide with any major battle so we had concluded that his demise was a random act, perhaps a snipers bullet.

So it was that on reading that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission had scanned some index records - I pounced on it!!! The information relating to Dranoutre Cemetery was nothing new to me, but what did stand out in the list of fallen soldiers was the number who had died on June 17 1916. There were nine from the West Kents alone and many more from other units. In addition most of these were listed as "killed in action" as opposed to "died of wounds" which may have been received days earlier. Was this number significant? To find out, I used the excellent filters on the CWGC site to search each day in June for deaths in Arthur's Regiment that ended up in his Cemetery. There were casualties on only 7 other days in June and an average of two per day. From this I conclude that some action did occur that day, though not on a scale sufficient to be recorded by history. Baby steps - yes, but now I know better what I'm looking for.

What's New

FamilySearch updated the database of New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891 to include more than 11 million records with images.

Ancestry has added three record collections for lunatics in England and Wales – UK Lunacy Patients Admission Registers 1846-1912 (842,000 records), England Criminal Lunatic Asylum Registers 1820-1843 (600 records) and England & Wales Criminal Lunacy Warrant & Entry Books 1882-1898 (4,000 records). [Just the right stuff for my family of Berry's in Buckinghamshire, I thought. And I found a great great great uncle, admitted twice and recovered twice, and two possible other family members!] The UK City and County Directories database 1766-1946 has been updated and now includes over 27 million records.

FindMyPast has added new school registers for Anglesey, Plymouth and West Devon to their National School admission Registers. About 4,000 Prison Hulk records were added to their collection of crime and punishment records. Nearly one million US birth, marriage and death records from the District of Columbia were added – 109,000 births 1830-1955, 479,000 marriages 1830-1921 and 365,000 deaths from 1840-1964. The PERSI (the PERiodical Source Index) has been updated with 18 new publications (1823-1924). It now includes over 2.5 million searchable records from 8,000 different periodicals, indexed according to location, topic, surname, etc. For Ireland there are new Griffith's Survey Maps & Plans, 1847-1864 records. The records are only transcripts for Northern Ireland but do include maps for the Republic.

DeceasedOnline has added records for the five cemeteries and the crematorium managed by the City of Lincoln council. There are about 70,000 burials in the five cemeteries: Canwick Road Cemeteries (new and old) starting in 1856, Eastgate Cemetery starting in 1856, Newport Cemetery starting in 1856, St Margaret's Cemetery starting in 1907, and St Swithin's starting in 1890. The Lincoln Crematorium has 68,100 records from its opening in 1968.

London Probate Search

As of Friday, December 12th, wills or probates for people who died in England or Wales after 1858 to the present can be ordered online from the Probate Service. They will cost £10 to order and you will be sent an email letting you know when the documents are available to be downloaded on your computer. The London Probate Service office will close as of December 12th. The website for ordering probate files is <https://www.gov.uk/search-will-probate> and presumably it will be updated on December 12th. Don't forget that you can still order FHC films for \$8 that will have a will or probate up to 1925; ask FHC volunteers for help in ordering the correct film.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/43. Germany.

I am looking for information on Hugo Heinrich Spengler, born 6 Sept 1872 in Bruchsal, Germany. I think that he died between January and April, 1937 in Karlsruhe, Germany. In 1908 he was *Oberapotheker* in Neudenau, in 1929, he was *Apotheker* in Karlsruhe and in 1937 he was *Besitzer der Stern-Apotheker* in Karlsruhe in 1937 (owner of Star Pharmacy). I thought that he died in early 1937 in Karlsruhe, and would like to find the exact date of death and where he is buried. Further, I would like information about his children. I believe that he had a daughter named Anneliese Spengler who was also a Pharmacist in Neudenau, Germany. I think that she took over the pharmacy that her father worked in Neudenau while he went to work in Karlsruhe, perhaps in 1929. But now I find a Spruchkammer file (a file from the trials the Germans held for those who were Nazis or involved with the Nazis) for Hugo Heinrich Spengler. I presume this means that, if this were the same person, Hugo Heinrich Spengler was alive in 1946 and that he could have been alive after World War II. Do these Spruchkammer files contain any personal information about family? How do I get his file?

Were You Aware...

What Can You Find at Family History Centres?

Volunteers - The best resource that we have at all Family History Centres is a devoted group of volunteers who have an enthusiasm for family history. We are keen to help find those elusive ancestors and share our knowledge. Please ask questions! Do not sit at the computer getting frustrated; we would like to help. Often explaining the problem will help you to crystallise your thinking, and you may come up with new ways to approach the problem. But be prepared to answer the question: how do you know that?

Access to Films – All research cannot yet be done on computer! FHCs provide access to millions of films that are stored in Salt Lake City. These are copies of records from around the world: English parish records, Hungarian church

records, US land records, copies of family histories, etc. Volunteers are happy to help find films that could further your family history research.

Resources Specific to the Toronto FHC – The resources that we have in our FHC includes books, CDs, fiche and films. To see if we have something of interest to your area of research, go to [List of All Resources](#) and download the pdf.

The FHC Portal – Family History Centres all have access to subscription websites to search at no charge. These change regularly – to the point where volunteers also have trouble knowing what is available. As of the end of November, the detailed list below will give the basics of each website. Unfortunately there is no way to make a detailed list of the particular databases on each website: there are currently over 30,000 record collections on Ancestry.com. The websites that are most likely useful to Toronto researchers are **Ancestry** (worldwide records), **FindMyPast** (now access is available for English, Welsh, Scottish, Irish, US, Australian, New Zealand, and Canadian records but NO NEWSPAPERS), **MyHeritage** (a new addition to the Portal with records from around the world, similar to Ancestry or FindMyPast), and probably the newspaper websites.

Premium Family History Websites at the Toronto FHC

19th Century British Newspapers

- Over two million British Newspaper pages, 1800-1900, National & Regional, Fully text searchable

Access Newspaper Archive

- More than seven million newspaper pages from 1753-2014
- Most from the US
- Some Canadian papers from Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta
- Small collections from around the world

Alexander Street Press

- Covers the American Civil War with
 - o A database of indexed, searchable information on over 4 million soldiers and thousands of battles, regiments, and includes 17,000 photographs
 - o Letters & Diaries
 - o Photographs, Posters & Ephemera
- US Social & Cultural History & US – Women and Social Movements

Ancestry.com

- Millions of records from around the world
- Best coverage in the US, England, Wales, Canada, Australia, New Zealand,

ArkivDigital Online – Indexed lists of Scandinavian Archives – available on Admin computer only

Create you Who Do You Think You Are? story for free (Test or Beta version from FindMyPast)

- Probably not useful to patrons

FindMyPast – Institution version; some digital images, some transcriptions

- **NO NEWSPAPERS**
- English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish records
- US records
- Australian & New Zealand records
- Canadian records (very few as yet)
- Good for immigration & emigration

Fold3.com – US War records from the US National Archives

- War of 1812 Pension Application Files
- The Civil War, WWII Collection, Vietnam Wall and others

Historic Map Works – Library Edition

- 1½ million land ownership maps for the US
- Many other historical maps and atlases from all over the world

Legacy Stories – A pilot project with FamilySearch to connect with FamilySearch trees

MyHeritage – Library Edition

- Millions of records from around the world; competitor to Ancestry & FindMyPast

Paper Trail – Oregon-California Pioneer Trails

- Name Searchable with PDFs of trip – like “Darwin travelled alone on horseback to Ft Kearney, ..”

ProQuest Obituary Listings – Obituaries from the US Newspapers listed below:

- Atlanta Constitution (1868-1922), Boston Globe (1872-1922), Chicago Defender (1921-1975), Chicago Tribune (1852-1984), Los Angeles Times (1881-1984), New York Times (1851-1994), Washington Post (1877-1950)

World Vital Records

- Records mainly from the US (815 million) but also includes records from Canada, UK, Australia and very small collections from the rest of the world

Genetic Genealogy and *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.*

No doubt, some readers have been interested in watching the *Finding Your Roots* television series over the last couple of months. CeCe Moore, *Your Genetic Genealogist*, was the DNA specialist behind the show. She has posted some very interesting blogs about making the series and they are available to read [here](#).

Films received in the week ending November 27th and due for return about the end of January.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Parekentin Taufen 1824-1875	0069416
ENG WAR Solihull Bapt. 1813-1921	0234507
ENG WAR Solihull Bur 1813-1909	0234508
ENG WAR Solihull Ch. Rec 1770-	0234505
ITA Torino, Bobbio Pellice, Notarial Records Vol. 2003 1610-1613	1958679
POL BK Miastkowo PRs 1808-1825	0995614

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](#).

[FamilySearch - Search](#)

[FamilySearch - IGI](#)

[Hugh Wallis IGI Batch Numbers](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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