



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-01

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



Editor:  
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### Announcements

#### New Toronto family History Centre Volunteers

Grace Chan and Charlene Au are our newest volunteers at the Centre. Grace was on the Chinese desk at the Family History Library in Salt Lake for over 10 years and has helped many people of Chinese heritage with their family history. She has also been involved in research for the television program Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr. Charlene Au will be assisting Grace. They will be helping Chinese patrons with their research on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 10am to 1:00pm.

#### OGS Toronto Branch Courses – Registration Now Open for the following courses

*The Toronto Branch Website is currently experiencing difficulties and a temporary webpage with links to registering for these courses can be found [here](#).*

#### Publish Before You Perish

Saturday, 21 February, 9:30am – 12:30pm, Toronto Reference Library – Nancy Conn

This course will outline the steps required to publish your family history in a printed book format.

#### Welcome to Our World: A Day with Top Toronto Genealogists and Family Historians

Saturday, 21 February, 10 am - 3 pm, North York Central Library

This interactive forum is intended for people who are thinking of getting involved in genealogy or who are beginners in this fascinating field. Some of Toronto's top genealogy and family history experts will share their perspectives and experiences.

#### Using Digital Newspapers for Genealogy Research

Wednesdays, 4, 11 and 18 March 2015, 6:15 – 8:15 pm, Toronto Reference Library, Marian Press

This three-week hands-on course will examine the uses of historical newspapers for genealogy research as well as where to find them online.

#### Introduction to Genealogy and Family History

Saturday, 28 March 2015, 10 am - 3 pm, North York Memorial Hall, Linda Reid

This fast-paced one-day course will introduce some of the types of records and techniques needed to research your family tree, with a focus on vital records, census and probate records, and how to extract and evaluate data.

## **Hands-On Early Ontario Land Records**

Tuesdays, 31 March, 7 and 14 April 2015, 4 - 7 pm, Archives of Ontario, Jane MacNamara

This three-week course is being offered in partnership with the Archives of Ontario. Designed for both family and local historians, it will provide a hands-on introduction to the land granting process in Ontario and the main types of Crown Land records. Participants will work in small groups following actual case histories through the records.

Details for all courses will be found (when website issues are resolved) at [Toronto OGS Courses](#).

## **Webinar - Lesser Known Databases for Scottish Genealogy Research**

**Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm – 8:30pm**

Christine Woodcock is holding this webinar to help Scottish researchers identify a number of online and offline resources to learn more about your Scottish ancestor. After looking at the main records available, other resources can add much more of interest to your family history. Space for the webinar is limited. To register, go to

<https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/741100047>.

## **News From the Trenches**

### **Everything Old is New Again, Submitted by Paul Branson**

The theme of my research lately seems to be "everything old is new again". Sources I have neglected for years re-appear with new and important information and features.

The latest are the WW-1 Canadian Expeditionary Force service records on the "Library and Archives Canada" Website. I did a lookup for a friend and got a nice surprise. Previously you could search for a name online but only see the Attestation. You then had to send away for copies of the full record which cost money and took forever. They are now in the process of scanning the full service records for each person which can be downloaded FOR FREE !! The scanning is not yet complete and they release a new batch every two weeks. I just finished downloading files for surnames ending in A, B and C. The file for another relative whose name starts with H was not yet available so I guess they are currently between "D's" and "H's". I already have these records as B&W copies but the scans are in full colour which really brings the old documents to life and I'm sure there are some little slips and backsides of forms that were not included in the sets previously sent to me. The quality of the scans is much clearer than the original copies so well worth a second look for anyone with ancestors in the CEF.

[The December 15<sup>th</sup> blog from Library and Archives Canada says that there are now over 100,000 records available, up from the 78,000 reported in the Bulletin on November 20<sup>th</sup>.]

## **What's New**

**FamilySearch** has updated and added records for many countries in the last couple of weeks, including: Belgium, Mexico, Spain, Indonesia, Germany, Russia and Italy. The Honolulu Passenger Lists 1900-1953 now has 1.4 million records, while the New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891 has over 13 million records.

**Ancestry's** updates or additions include:

New Zealand Death Index 1848-1964 (1.1 million records) and Birth Index 1840-1950 (one million records)  
Updated

South Africa, Birth and Baptism Records, 1700s-1900s (378,000 records): This collection of birth and baptism details has been extracted from birth and baptismal records from institutions throughout South Africa, including more than one hundred churches. Most of the events in this collection took place in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries

Australia, New South Wales Land Records 1856-1859 (2,600 records)

South Africa, Voter Indexes, 1719-1996 (220,000 records): This index contains a wide variety of details on voters in South Africa. Along with name and residence, the index may provide spouse, maiden name, occupation, employer, gender, qualifications to vote, race, maiden name, date of birth, age, even weapons or numbers of pigs owned.

Naturalization records for California 1940-1991 (750,000 records) and Arizona 1912-1972 (4,000 records)

**FindMyPast** has added or updated the following datasets:

Nottinghamshire Baptisms 1538-1980 (847,000 records), Marriages 1528-1929 (689,000 records) & Burials 1539-1905 (240,000 records) – Transcriptions of original parish registers  
Sussex, The Eastbourne Gazette 1858-1931 newspaper notices  
Mid-Norfolk Monumental Inscriptions 1471-2012 – now has 9500 records  
British Army Officer Promotions, 1800-1815  
Isle of Man Births & Baptisms 1821-1911, Marriages 1849-1911 and Deaths & Burials 1844-1911  
Channel Islands Births and Baptisms 1820-1907  
Lanarkshire, the people of New Lanark 1785-1953 (a collection sourced from church records (including baptisms, marriages, communion lists, irregular marriages and cases of fornication), Sheriff Court and High Court records - small debt and minor & major crime, and the Lanark prison register)  
Yorkshire, Sheffield Cathedral Church of St Peter & St Paul Burial Index 1767-1812 (45,000 records)  
Yorkshire, Sheffield Quarter Sessions 1880-1912  
South Yorkshire Asylum admission records 1872-1910 (17,000 records)  
Devon Social & Institutional Records - 60,000 records from 127 separate sources  
Additional Irish newspapers 884,000 new articles and nine new titles  
Australia, New South Wales Births 1788-1914, Marriages 1788-1888, Deaths 1788-1888  
US Revolutionary War Pensions 90,000 records

See [FindMyPast Record Sets](#) for the complete description of the new records

[ScotlandsPeople](#) has updated its statutory registration records by one more year to include birth records from 1914, marriages from 1939 and deaths from 1964, in line with its closure period policy.

#### **The Forum:**

##### **Questions:**

###### **Q1/2015/01. Germany.**

I am trying to locate the maiden surname and family members, prior to marriage, of Emma Julia Gudewill, born February 14, 1830 in Gottingen, Germany. This information is according to her application for US naturalization in 1893. Her husband's name was Hermann Gudewill, born 1829. I've been able to located information while she and her husband lived in the States but have not been able to locate information on her side of the family. Have you any suggestions?

##### **Suggestions:**

###### **Q1/2014/46. Y-DNA Test Question.**

I have had my DNA tested by FTDNA: both my YDNA (37 marker) and autosomal DNA (Family Finder). My direct ancestors for at least 6 generations appear to have all been English. The results have been quite limited, most particularly for the YDNA. I have no matches at all, for any number of markers (37, 25 and 12). Is this low level of matching unusual?

**Linda Reid** writes about Y-Matches: How many Y-chromosome matches a man gets depends on a number of factors including the size of the database of men who have tested, how many men from his place of origin have tested and how many potential matching candidates there are on his particular family tree. (Ed. Note: This researcher knows there are only three male-line descendants of his generation from his great-grandfather, resulting in few potential candidates.)

I manage or have access to 6 Y-chromosome kits at Family Tree DNA (FTDNA), all tested to 37 or 67 markers. Five of the six are for men of British ancestry and one is for a line that came to the United States in the 17th century. Because most of the men who have tested at FTDNA are in the United States and the Wedge family has roots in colonial America, we tested my husband's Wedge cousin immediately to 67 markers and he only got 2 matches at the 12-marker level (and not to names anything like Wedge). From a genealogical standpoint that is completely useless. But then I thought about where the potential matches would be. The Wedge first cousin is the only living male descendant of that surname from 2xGreat-grandfather Wedge born in 1802. A man would be much more likely to get matches in a family where every son has at least four or five sons in each generation and the generations are shorter.

In my Brown line my Dad has matches with men of the Brown surname at 12 markers but not at 25 markers and no matches at all at 37 markers. His father came from Sheffield, England and going back on the Brown line there, my brother and one male cousin are the only males of the Brown surname in my generation who descend from 2xgreat-grandfather Brown born ca1815. So despite the common name (which probably has many origins), my Brown family is from an area where not a lot of men have tested and from a family where many branches "daughters-out".

Most men get a declining number of matches as they increase the number of markers tested. But sometimes the opposite can happen and new names can appear. That is because a man must match on all 12 markers to show on the match list at the 12-marker level (although it drops to 11 if he is part of a surname project). At 25 markers men only have to match on 23 of the 25 markers to appear on the match list. My Polley cousin has 21 matches at the 12-marker level, only one at the 25-marker level (someone not at 12 markers) and two new names at the 37-marker level. That is because the genetic distance of 4 (i.e. matching on 33 of the 37 markers) is acceptable to appear on the match list for 37 markers. It is only when you get close matches to men of the same surname at 37 markers or greater that you really have much hope of figuring out a paper trail.

So the short-term solution to getting matches is to hunt for men of the same surname and the same geographic origins as your paternal family line and try to persuade them to test. The long-term solution is to be patient until Y-chromosome testing becomes more popular in other parts of the world. That may be a long time if your paternal line hails from France where it is presently prohibited by law as it is believed that discovering non-paternity could disturb family harmony.

#### **Q2/2014/46. England.**

I am trying to locate parents and family of my great grandmother Eliza Murdock; here is what I have found to date:

- a) first noted on the 1851 English census living as a visitor with George Walker (my GG Grandfather). Census stated 6 months old born in Plumstead England. I hired a genealogist in England and she could not find any record of birth registration or baptism in the churches in the area.
- b) on the 1861 census she is listed as adopted by George Walker. (I don't think there was an adoption)
- c) Eliza Murdock married William Walker (George's son) Dec 18, 1869 at Civil Registry Office, Woolwich, England. She listed her father as George Murdock, ship's engineer, deceased
- d) on the 1871 census her mother Jane Murdock was living with Eliza and William
- e) I have located a George Murdock a Ship Engineer who served in the Royal Navy, first served Jan 11, 1838 aboard the Victory and last served Dec. 31, 1854 aboard the Sanspareil (Sanspareil?)
- f) the mother Jane Murdock died Plumstead England June 3, 1902

What I am trying to find is:

- 1) The maiden name of Jane Murdock (the fact that Eliza was first living with George Walker the maiden name could be Walker or Duthie (maiden name of George's wife) and further family details
- 2) Is the George Murdock I have located the father of Eliza Murdock and other family details birth, marriage, naval service, death etc.

Any help or suggestions as to how I may proceed would be appreciated. [Murdock spellings vary.]

The Bulletin found two references to George Murdock, ship's engineer, in the online [Naval records](#) at the National Archives UK and suggested that the researcher download them at a cost of £3.30 each. This he did and the first was rather interesting. This George Murdock had apprenticed with R. Napier of Glasgow (a famous Clyde shipbuilding company), where he "made" engineer. He joined the navy in 1838. [This probably indicates that George was Scottish; this was also suggested by the 1871 census of his wife and son-in-law who were both born in Scotland.]

The last entry on this first document says that he was appointed to First Engineer to the "Penelope" upon the recommendation of M... Seaward to observe the construction of the engines, etc. No census, marriage or death entry could be found for George but a search of newspapers online at FindMyPast seemed more productive. There are many entries for George Murdock, ship's engineer. His promotions and movements between ships are chronicled. By 1857 he is "inspector of machinery afloat" and references about this George Murdock continue regularly until March 4, 1870. This was discouraging as George was listed as being deceased when his daughter married in 1869. Oh dear, back to the drawing board. Could there be two ship's engineers named George Murdock?

The search will continue for the right George Murdock/h. If readers have any further suggestions, please let us know.

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

##### **Griffith's Valuation for Irish Researchers**

FindMyPast published a very good blog about Griffith's Valuation here: <http://blog.findmypast.com/2014/an-expert-guide-to-the-griffiths-valuation/> is a detailed record of Irish landholding surveyed from 1846, and published between 1847 and 1864. Ancestry has 1,338,000 records in its Griffith's Valuation records. FindMyPast claims to have a complete version of Griffith's Valuation and that no other website has a complete set of data. Try it at any FHC to find out.

## Irish Lives Remembered Magazine

A new edition of Irish Lives Remembered is available to download or read [here](#). This edition focuses on County Down in 17 of the magazine's 76 pages.

## Book Publishing at the Toronto Reference Library

As mentioned in a previous Bulletin, you can now print your book at the Toronto Reference Library Digital Innovation Hub. On Thursday, January 22 at 2pm, the library will be holding an hour-long **Asquith Press Information Session**, where you will learn about the library's new book printing service, Asquith Press, and see a live demo of their book printer in action. Online registration is required for this FREE workshop (with a library card) and space is limited. To reserve a ticket, click [here](#) and follow the link. The Reference Library also has a FREE two-hour course on preparing your book for publication: [Prepare Your Book for Publication](#). For more information about the Digital Innovation Hub, please call 416-393-7007 (their direct number).

## My Book Publishing Experience

When I read about the Asquith Press printing service as I was adding OGS Toronto Branch events in the Bulletin several months ago, I thought about all the bits and pieces of important family history sitting on my computer. I have memories from my father-in-law, which I had transcribed from various taped conversations with him that occurred before 2000, and many old family photos of him as he was growing up. As these are mainly black and white photographs, I thought that I could perhaps combine the memoirs, photos, historical context, and my memories of him into a book about him for his grandchildren.

The first problem was the quality of the old photos. The Digital Innovation Hub has several computers equipped with up-to-date PhotoShop programs (and free programs to train you in their use). I took a number of photos down one evening and was shown how to improve the quality enough to publish them. I then spent many hours formatting photos, editing text and then inserting the photos in the text in Word. Although Word is not the easiest publishing program, it worked for me, with only a couple of screaming fits. The Asquith Press guide available to download from the library was invaluable in getting me started with the correct Word format for the size of book I wanted. The cover was also created using their guide – just a picture and title on the front and a picture on the back. The cover is printed in full colour on high quality (glossy or matte) paper.

After I had the text and cover in a format I was happy with, I made an appointment with the staff at the Digital Innovation Hub and we went through the document before creating a pdf suitable for Asquith Press. A proof copy was printed for me right then and there. At 130 pages, it took less than 10 minutes to print and bind. I took that copy home and made a few changes, trying (unsuccessfully) to catch all those inevitable errors. A week later I went back with my final copy and six more books were printed.

The staff in the Digital Innovation Hub, especially Dawn and Tony, were extremely helpful. The cost is very reasonable (even cheap!) and I think that the product looks better and more professional than the spiral bound books one can do at places like Staples. There are only two other Asquith Press printing presses in Ontario – one at the U of T bookstore and the other at the library in Windsor. I have left the draft copy in the admin desk at the FHC if anyone would like to have a look at a sample book. There are also a number of samples to view at the Reference library.

With OGS Toronto's course, *Publish Before You Perish*, and the mini-presentation at their next meeting, *Writing Your Memoirs: It's Hard to Do After You are Dead*, perhaps it is time for you, too, to visit the Digital Innovation Hub. Perhaps it is also time for me to continue with these publishing ideas.

## Films received in the week ending January 8<sup>th</sup>, and due for return about the end of March.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Damm Ch. Rec.	0069055
DEU MEC Frauenmark Taufen 1751-1831	0069091
DEU MEC Pau Taufen 1816-1851	0069447
ENG CHS Wills 1840	0090080
ENG HEF Wills 1541-1567	0091633
ENG HEF Wills 1567-	0091634

Film Content	Film No
ENG HEF Wills 1591-1614	0091635
ENG HEF Wills 1612-1636.	0091651
HUN Arva, Aslo-Kubin Úmrtia 1868-1895	1923110
IND Goa Candolim Óbitos 1914-1930	1493632
IND Goa Divar Óbitos 1951-1981	1997312
IND Goa Pernem Batismos 1914-1932 etc	1508008
IND Goa Pernem Outra filmagem, 1986	1357984

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)

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> of each month, 10am to 1pm (Grace & Charlene) For Chinese research

**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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Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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