



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-02

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



Editor:
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- **The Forum** – No new questions but suggestions for previous Bulletin's questions
- **Were You Aware...** – Peter Calver's Masterclass: Tracking down pre-1837 baptisms and marriage, Global Family Reunion, Morrison Shelters in WWII

Announcements

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

Registration and complete details for the courses listed below and in last week's Bulletin are available online and the [website](#) has been reactivated:

Publish Before You Perish, Saturday, 21 February

Welcome to Our World: A Day with Top Toronto Genealogists and Family Historians, Saturday, 21 February

Using Digital Newspapers for Genealogy Research, Wednesdays, 4, 11 and 18 March

Introduction to Genealogy and Family History, Saturday, 28 March 2015

Hands-On Early Ontario Land Records, Tuesdays, 31 March, 7 and 14 April 2015

Details for all courses can be found at [Toronto OGS Courses](#).

Additions to our Permanent Collection

We have added a new book this week: *Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends* by Richard Hite. This book explains "how to avoid the traps many family historians can fall into. Whether it is a proud family legend, a venerable publication or the claims of an Internet family tree, the unsubstantiated genealogical source is like a house of sticks before the Big Bad Wolf – it won't stand up... Many are the oral traditions that have fallen by the wayside under the lens of careful research in primary sources and more recently, DNA testing."

The second new book, *NextGen Genealogy: The DNA Connection* by David R. Powell, "covers this fast-growing application of genetics, empowering genealogists to apply this information to further their research. It will also enable general readers to understand how genetic information can be applied to verify or refute documentary research—and to break down frustrating walls that block the discovery of ancestors." It describes testing for Y-DNA (following male line only), mtDNA (maternal line) and autosomal DNA (for recent genealogical connections).

What's New

FamilySearch has added Newfoundland census images for 1921, 1935 and 1945. These collections can be browsed by location only but there are less than 10,000 images in each collection. I was surprised at the number of people in the 1935 census could neither read nor write. The Toronto Trust Cemeteries 1826-1989 database (indexing done by OGS Toronto Branch) has been updated; the Toronto cemeteries included are York General Burying Ground (Potter's Field), Necropolis Cemetery, Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Prospect Cemetery. A large number of browse-only images for civil registration in Guatemala after 1877 have been added.

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Gelderland Province, Netherlands, Civil Registration 1811-1950 (400,000 records)

- South Africa, City and Area Directories 1813-1962 (312,000 records)
- Linz, Austria, Miscellaneous City Records 1485-1894 (20,711 records)
- US, Published Quaker Histories 1845-1920 (17,950 records)
- New Zealand Bankruptcy Notices 1893-1904 (10,000 records)

FindMyPast has added or updated the following datasets:

- British Newspapers – 2.5 million new articles
- Derby Railway Servants' Orphanage Registers 1875-1912 – Children of railway employees who died in the course of their work were admitted between the ages of 6-12 to 15. The children came from railway companies all over Britain and were classified as orphans even if their mother was still alive.
- London Docklands & East End Marriages 1558-1859 – This is a transcript of 92,000 original parish records. (Many of the images of the original records are available at Ancestry.)
- British Army Bond of Sacrifice: Officers Who Died in the Great 1914-1916 – Biographies of 2,600 officers who died in the first years of WWI.
- Utah Deaths & Burials – 144,000 records from before civil registration was mandatory in 1887 and before Utah became a state in 1896. The records may include parents' names.

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

Library and Archives Canada has blogged about the progress of digitizing the Canadian Expeditionary Force Personnel Service Records; there are currently 110,260 of 640,000 files available online at their ***Soldiers of the First World War*** [database](#).

The Forum:

Questions: No questions were received this week.

Suggestions:

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 Göttingen, 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 locate 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?

There is lots of information about the Gudewills online but unfortunately no marriage. Emma and her daughter, Emma, applied for US passports/naturalization in Berlin in 1893. Emma states that she was born in Göttingen on April 14, 1830 and that she lived continuously in the US from 1844 (when she was only 14) to 1892. Herman was born in Bremen on January 4, 1829 and immigrated to the States in 1849. On his passport application on 21 March 1855, he is married to Emma and states that that he has lived in the US continuously since 1849.

The Gudewills appear in two censuses and many other records, like city directories and tax records, living in Hoboken, New Jersey. The marriage records for New Jersey were searched for a marriage of Herman Gudewills and Emma ?, with no success. The first census in 1860 may provide the only clue currently available for a maiden name of Emma. Living with Herman and Emma and their first two children are two other adults who are not servants. The first is Ida Brown and the second is George Gudewills, Herman's youngest brother (ascertained from his name and age). Could Ida Brown be Emma's sister? If she is, then Emma would be Emma Julia Brown, born either in Göttingen (1893 passport application) or in Hanover (1860 US census).

To my colleague, Leslie Dorschell, Emma Julia and Ida seem rather British names, not German. So we looked for marriages and births of these two ladies in British consular births and marriages and in the Bishop of London: International Memoranda (available at the Toronto FHC). We found nothing useful. The baptisms of Herman(n) Gudewill and his ten siblings in Bremen are available online at FamilySearch but there do not, yet, appear to be baptisms for churches in Hanover or Göttingen. There are too many possible churches in those two cities to consider ordering church books to find a birth.

While no New Jersey marriage was found for Herman and Emma, the baptism of the children may well give the mother's maiden name. It may be fairly easy to determine a church where the family worshipped from the addresses given in the census and on other records and addresses in Hoboken, usually Ward 2. The FamilySearch catalog has films available for 57 area churches. Because of the area in Germany where they originated, they are more likely to be Protestant than Catholic (but that is a very rough generalization).

Q2/2014/46. England.

I am trying to locate parents and family of my great grandmother Eliza Murdock.

What this researcher had found was in last week's Bulletin. As the George Murdock in the Naval records and newspaper's appeared to be another ship's engineer with the same name, we went back to the drawing board. When Jane Murdock, Eliza's mother, died in 1902, her status was listed as widow of George Murdock, a ship's engineer.

Christine from Hertfordshire suggested that we not so quickly dismiss the George Murdock found in the naval records, just because his daughter says that he was deceased at the time of her marriage. They could have been estranged or she may have said that for other reasons. The researcher should follow this suggestion up but I think that that George Murdock may have had a wife and children living in the Portsmouth area, judging from the records there.

In 1891, Jane appears in the Woolwich Union infirmary. There she is listed as a pensioner, Scottish Widows' Fund. Could this be the clue to find the right George Murdock? Do any readers know of the existence of records for this Scottish Widow's Pension fund? The Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society paid out £5 million pounds in the seven years between 1887 and 1894. [The Scottish Widows Fund was sold to Lloyds TSB for £7 billion in 1999.] Were these records kept?

Were You Aware...

Peter Calver's Masterclass: Tracking down pre-1837 baptisms and marriages [England & Wales]

Peter Calver of [Lost Cousins](#) has written an article in his latest [newsletter](#) which I think should be required reading for anyone researching ancestors in England and Wales before 1900. It has a short breakdown of where to find online records for particular counties that could be very helpful. I find Peter's newsletter informative and he produces it every two weeks.

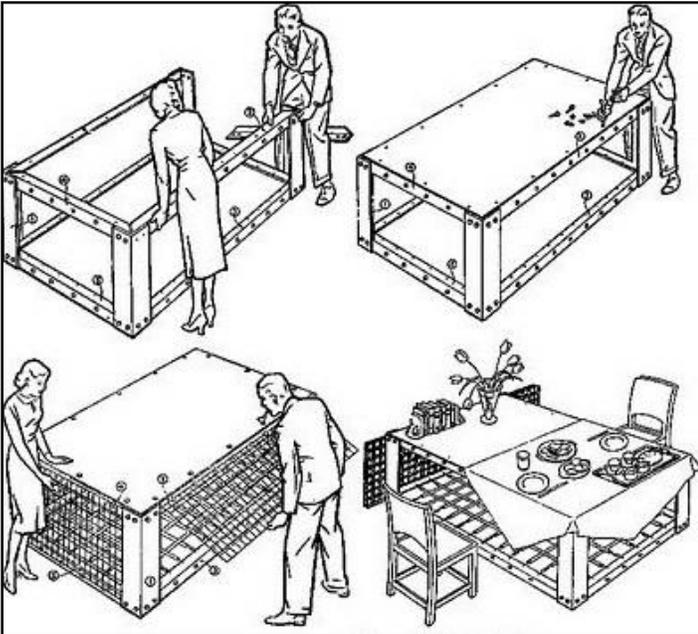
Global Family Reunion

Marcia Cuthbert thought that readers might be interested in the [Global Family Reunion](#), which will take place in New York City with 'branch parties' planned for all over the world, on June 6th 2015. A J Jacobs is the instigator for the Global Family Reunion and his TED Talk discussing it is available [here](#).

Morrison Shelters in WWII

Last week I wrote about my book publishing experience after writing a book of memoirs and family history about my father-in-law, who lived mainly in London, England. When my brother-in-law and sister-in-law read the book, they spotted several (many?) errors in my recollections. In one place writing about an incident that occurred during WWII, I had written that my father-in-law had put his wife and son to bed in an Anderson shelter. My brother-in-law recalls being put to bed under the dining room table and not outside in an Anderson shelter. I could not understand what was meant by this.

What I found was a Morrison Shelter, officially called the Table (Morrison) Indoor Shelter. These were indoor shelters that were about 6'6" long, 4' wide and 2'6" high. The top was a solid 1/8" steel plate; the sides were welded mesh; and the



bottom was a metal lath floor. And indeed, families slept in the cage underneath the solid metal plate. Reading some of the descriptions online, it sounds rather uncomfortable. Diagrams of the assembly process show how to put together the kits containing 359 parts and 3 tools.

Morrison Shelter

600,000 Morrison shelters were distributed during the

war; 3.6 million Anderson shelters were built. While neither shelter provided protection from a direct hit, they would protect the occupants from falling or flying debris. Anderson shelters were provided free to those earning less than £250 a year; Morrison shelters were free to those with an annual income of up to £400 per year. Morrison shelters were good for those who had damp gardens and for those who had no surrounding garden. Anderson shelters were buried four feet into the ground and covered with a couple of feet of soil; they could become quite cold, nasty and damp.



Excavated Anderson Shelter

Films received in the week ending January 15th, and due for return about the end of March.

Film Content	Film No
ROM Cahul Tochila-Raducani Civ. Reg.	2423314

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, 2nd & 4th 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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