



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-03

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



Editor:
Helen Billing



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Announcements

All Resources List - The list of all the holdings at the Toronto Family History Centre has been updated to include recent additions. To download a pdf version of this list, click [List of All Resources](#).

OGS Toronto Branch Meeting, January 26th at 7:30pm

A Personal Journey through Canada's Earliest Mental Health Facilities

Victoria Fenner discovered that her great great grandmother was a patient in three of Canada's earliest asylums. She is digging through archives, old newspapers and writings between 1858 and 1901 to find out what life was like in these asylums, the people who lived there, the staff who took care of them, and how the politics and social life of the day affected the treatment of people with mental health challenges. The mini-presentation will be by Donna Di Lello - **Writing Your Memoirs: It's Hard to do After You are Dead.**

RootsTech Conference Broadcasts on February 28th

The annual RootsTech Conference, hosted by FamilySearch, is a global conference celebrating families across generations, where people of all ages are inspired to discover and share their memories and connections. This annual event has become the largest of its kind in the world, attracting tens of thousands of participants worldwide. It will be held this year February 12 to 14 in Salt Lake City.

On Saturday, February 28th, 2015, from 10 am to 3 pm, the Brampton ON Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints will broadcast some of our favourite workshops from the 2015 Salt Lake City Conference at the stake centre at 10062 Bovaird Drive in Brampton. We will include Donny Osmond's address to the conference. A light lunch will be served.

There is no charge. If you would like to join us, please register at <http://tinyurl.com/RFHW2015> so that we will know how much lunch to prepare.

Contact: helenwarner@sympatico.ca

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Boston Passenger Lists 1848-1891 (1.2 million records)
- Records of the New York State National Guard 1906-1954 (724,500 records)
- US Muster Rolls of the Marine Corps 1798-1892 (1.7 million records)
- El Salvador Civil Registration 1704-1977 (655,000 records)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- New Death Index for England & Wales 2007-2013 with name, gender, postcode, date of birth or age at death, and date of death (1.5 million records)
- New Scotland and Northern Ireland Death Index 1989-2013 giving name, gender, postcode, date of birth or age at death, and date of death. (400,000 records)
- New UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects 1901-1929 usually detailing the money owed to soldiers who died with next of kin and address (872,000 records)
- New US Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast 1704-1930 – very limited selection (800,000 records)
- Updated London England Land Tax Records 1692-1932 (nearly 13 million records)

FindMyPast has added or updated the following datasets:

- New Clare Electoral Registers 1858-1989 (311,000 records) – This lists the details of individuals who owned or leased property worth at least £10. Male owners or leaseholders of property worth at least £12 a year were entitled to vote in parliamentary elections, while female property holders of the same value could vote in local elections.
- Ireland Poverty Relief Fund Loans 1821-1874 (700,000 records) - The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund was a micro credit scheme set up in 1824 to provide small loans to the 'industrious poor' which were administered by local associations and committees. The majority of the records cover the years 1824 to 1846 across ten counties in Munster and Connaught.
- Ireland Marriages 1619-1898 (852,000 marriages) – a small subset of all Irish marriages
- Ireland 1911 Census – has been on the [National Archives of Ireland](#) for years

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

The Forum:

Questions: No questions were received this week.

Were You Aware...

The Lazarus Tool – “Resurrecting” Your Ancestors Using GEDmatch by Linda Reid

Have you ever thought that you would like to "resurrect" some of your ancestors? In a certain sense you can-- to the extent that you can identify what some of their DNA would have been.

Three companies test autosomal DNA: Family Tree DNA, 23andMe and Ancestry DNA (AncestryDNA is not yet available in Canada). Keen genealogists who have tested at one of these companies can load their data to the site of a 3rd party utility called GEDmatch where they can make comparisons with those who have tested at the other companies. GEDmatch has recently released some software called **Lazarus** that is available to those who have made a donation to this otherwise free site.

It is essential that some descendants of the person you wish to “resurrect” have tested as well as some other relatives, and that their results have been loaded to GEDmatch. The process is simple: you list the kit numbers of the descendants in group 1 and the kit numbers of other relatives in group 2. The computer does a quick calculation.

The GEDmatch website explains that the purpose of Lazarus is to:

Generate 'pseudo-DNA kits' based on segments in common with your matches. These 'pseudo-DNA kits' can then be used as a surrogate for a common ancestor in other tests on this site. Segments are included for every combination where a match occurs between a kit in group1 and group2. The resulting matches are combined to create the final pseudo-kit. In order to create this pseudo-kit the process has to identify at least 1500 cMs out of a possible 6770 cMs.

I have been able to create Lazarus kits for my father and both grandfathers.

How Many People Have Taken a DNA Test?

Debbie Kennett, who writes the Cruwys News blog has an interesting article this week about the number of people who have taken a DNA test. She analyzes the numbers given by each company and also the type of test taken. Some of the numbers are estimates: for example, FamilyTreeDNA says they “have 711,104 records -- the largest ancestry DNA

database in the world!" But they do not disclose how many are autosomal tests – perhaps as few as 120,000. Do read Debbie's blog at <http://cruwys.blogspot.ca/>.

GenealogyInTime Magazine - 100 Top Websites of 2015

GenealogyInTime Magazine has released its list of the top [100 websites of the year](#) and the complete article can be read [here](#). I found it interesting that the top ten genealogy websites receive 42% of the traffic. Ancestry dominates the market but FamilySearch comes second in the list of 100 websites.

UK Army Registers of Soldiers' Effects & War Gratuity

I looked for a couple of people in my database who had died in WWI to see what extra information I could find out about them. The father of an Uncle Ernest received two payments. Six months after Ernest was killed he received £11 16s 10d; 7s 4d went to RP Hounslow. [I think RP Hounslow is part of the army as many of the records have a "recharge" to RP Hounslow, RP Woolwich or RP Upper Thames.] The total of £12 4s 2d is listed under credits and appears to be pay he did not receive. Then in December of 1919 Ernest's father received £15 10s for "War Gratuity". What was War Gratuity? War Service qualifying for Gratuity was for service between 2 August 1914 and 1 Aug 1919; it was calculated as £5 for the first year and then 10s a month or £6 a year thereafter. Ernest's father received £15 10s which suggests that he served for two years and nine months before being killed in action on September 18, 1918. He must have attested in late 1915 but unfortunately his service records must be part of the "Burnt Records" as I cannot find them. Ancestry says that the majority of the beneficiaries of the Soldiers' Effects are mothers but I have seen at least as many fathers with a few wives as well as specific amounts allotted to children.

Films received in the week ending January 22nd, and due for return about the end of March.

Film Content	Film No
ENG CHS Register copy of wills v. 11 1840-1841	0090081
ENG LIN A-Y 1769	0199048
ENG LIN A-Y 1771	0199050
ENG LIN V.284 H-W 1801	0199092
ENG Wills M Jan. 1885 (Winchester) to Sep. York	1472184

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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Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3V 3V4 Phone: 416-422-5480 Ext. 111

Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca