



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-05

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Announcements

Finding Your Upper Canada Ancestors Workshop

Saturday, 11 April, 9:30am – 4pm, North York Central Library

OGS Toronto Branch and the Canadiana Department of North York Central Library are presenting a day-long workshop on the social and economic lives of the people who settled in Old Ontario before 1867. The workshop will explore the various kinds of social records about the people of this province between the 1790s and the 1860s as well as some of the relevant economic and social history. Expert speakers will address a number of topics, including using old maps to understand how the colony and province changed and how to use the maps for genealogy; using the records of early surveyors-general, who played important roles in early Ontario society; finding land and church records; using the records of petitions submitted to government authorities; understanding the key role of transportation systems in the development of the local economy and communities; finding records about the widows of the War of 1812; and using the records associated with the administration of justice in Upper Canada. Early-bird registration is only \$40 for non-members. Click [here](#) for the complete details and to register.

RootsTech Family History Workshops 2015 – Rebroadcast at the Brampton ON LDS Stake, 10am-3pm

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. Registration is free [here](#).

OGS 2015 Conference Registration – Tracks Through Time

May 29-31, Georgian College Campus, Barrie ON

"The conference theme "Tracks through Time" originates from the 130th Anniversary of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway across Canada. Many family historians have their roots in the immigrant laborers who built this railway across our vast country. Other ancestors were tempted by the transportation routes and migration opportunities allowed by its completion. Still others worked for the railway company itself over the years to follow. As researchers, we "track" our family history through time in many ways, always attempting to ensure we are "tracking" the right people from the right line." For all the conference details and registration information, click [here](#).

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- US Muster Rolls of the Marine Corps 1798-1937 (1.7 million indexed images)
- Philippines Manila Civil Registration 1899-1994 (millions of browse-only images)
- Japanese Genealogies, Village and Census Records (browse-only collections)
- Crew lists for Eastport ME, Rouses Point and Waddington NY, Boston MA, Erie PA (browse-only collections)
- Illinois Cook County Deaths 1878-1939, 1955-1994 (2.4 million indexed images)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Gloucestershire Parish Registers – Birth/Marriage/Burials 1538-1812 (1 million indexed images), Baptisms 1813-1913 (643,000 records), Marriages 1754-1938 (850,000 records), Burials 1813-1988 (500,000 records)
- London England Rate Books – updated
- New York – Abstracts of National Guard Service in WWI 1917-1919 (66,224 records)
- South Africa Immigration Index 1858-1986 (nearly 200,000 records)
- South Africa Estates Death Index 1999-2014 (1.4 million records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets:

- Gloucestershire, Bristol Baptism, Marriage & Burial indexes about 1650-1915 (861,000 indexes)
- Warwickshire Baptism, Marriage & Burial indexes 1538-1900 (nearly 800,000 indexes)
- Essex Baptism, Marriage & Burial indexes 1538-1900 (nearly 600,000 indexes)
- Dorset Baptism, Marriage & Burial indexes (nearly 540,000 indexes)
- British Merchant Navy WWI Medal Index Cards 1914-1925 (157,000 records)
- Australian New South Wales Will Books 1800-1952 (more than 415,000 records)
- US Immigration and travel records (75 million records) (free at FamilySearch)
- US Vital Records/Life Events (13.6 million records) (probably free at FamilySearch)
- US Military Records (1.1 million records) (probably free at FamilySearch)
- US Census & Substitutes (11.5 million records) (probably free at FamilySearch)
- PERSI Update (12,000 images added)

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

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2015/05. England Court Records.

I have a birth certificate for Elizabeth Ellen Hughes born 26 Dec. 1871 in Walton Gaol, West Derby & Toxteth Park, Lancashire, daughter of Elizabeth Hughes. I am not entirely sure this person is 'my' Nellie Hughes but the time and place seem right. I have ordered the film from the LDS for her christening record (28 Feb. 1872) which is from St. Peter's, Liverpool.

I have also written to the Lancashire Archives and the Lancashire Record Office. Neither has records from that time period for Walton jail but they suggested checking the Quarter Session Rolls. The Archives pulled up this record: "Bill of costs of prosecution of Elizabeth Hughes for larceny" (QSP/3879/46) dated 1871. You can see this reference on our online catalogue LANCAT: <http://archivecat.lancashire.gov.uk/calmview>." This mentions a town called Kirkdale and Michaelmas 1871. As neither place has access to the Quarter Session rolls I wondered if it would be somewhere in the LDS catalogue. I have looked around but have not found anything. Could there be an 'old catalogue'?

Q2/2015/05. Deaths at Sea.

I am trying to locate Elijah Stone born about 1837 in Portland, Dorset who travelled to Australia in May 1875 on the S.S. Nubia. There is no evidence of arrival or death in the Victorian Records in Melbourne. He had a severe chest complaint and a trip to Australia was suggested by his Doctor. A note in his Church in Dorset states he might have died at sea or on arrival in Australia. I have searched and cannot locate a Passenger List for this particular ship. He and his children are listed under Baptisms and Marriages on FamilySearch.org but his death is a complete mystery. Any advice would be welcome. Does FamilySearch have deaths at sea?

Q3/2015/5. Scotland. Births.

My grandfather, George Redpath Percy Walker, was born 19 September 1870 in Plumstead, Woolwich Kent to George Walker and Matilda Williamson. His first cousin, John Redpath Percy Walker, was born 7 May 1877 in Plumstead to William Walker and Eliza Murdock. Their paternal grandparents were George Walker and Eliza Duthie from Scotland.

ScotlandsPeople has two marriages for George Walker and Eliza Duthie - one in North Berwick, East Lothian and one in Old Machar Aberdeen. As George says that he was born in Aberdeen, I think that the Lothian marriage is more likely. Is it? [I think the other one is more likely.] Secondly, with both grandchildren having the same middle names, I thought that these names may have a family connection but I cannot find one. Can anyone suggest a reason for the Redpath Percy middle names?

Were You Aware...

Was Does Michaelmas 1871 Mean?

I must confess that when my husband talked about Michaelmas (pronounced mikkelmess) term when he was at university, I had no idea what he meant. The researcher in question 1 above has mentioned Michaelmas 1871 to do with court records. Michaelmas, the Feast of Michael and All Angels, is celebrated on the 29th of September every year and starts one of the *quarters* of the year. [Historic UK](#) says: "There are traditionally four "quarter days" in a year (Lady Day (25th March), Midsummer (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas (25th December)). They are spaced three months apart, on religious festivals, usually close to the solstices or equinoxes. They were the four dates on which servants were hired, rents due or leases begun. It used to be said that harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas, almost like the marking of the end of the productive season and the beginning of the new cycle of farming... This is how it came to be for Michaelmas to be the time for electing magistrates and also the beginning of legal and university terms." Quarter Sessions are court records that are divided into the four quarters mentioned. So in question 1, Michaelmas 1871 would refer to court records in the fall of 1871.

Free Online Magazines for Ireland

The Irish Family History Foundation has put their January issue of *Clann* online [here](#). *Irish Lives Remembered* has published their January/February issue, which is available [here](#). It has articles on County Down Ancestors, The Irish in Pennsylvania, and the Irish in New Zealand. I think that this magazine has more interesting articles than *Clann*, which seems to be a vehicle for advertising the IFHF online subscription records.

Three-Parent Families?

George Tuck wrote to ask us how future genealogists will record the three parent families that may result from a change in legislation in the UK. The UK House of Commons voted earlier this month to allow women whose mitochondrial DNA has serious defects to give birth to healthy children by using an egg of a woman with healthy DNA. Only a tiny amount of the child's total DNA will come from that donor and the number of children born this way will be very small. One reproductive ethicist said that, while this is being described as a three-parent IVF (in vitro fertilization), it is actually a 2.001-parent IVF. The donor will not be recorded on the birth certificate and will not be identifiable because one particular strain of mtDNA is shared by many people. For the BBC article, click [here](#).

LostCousins Newsletter – Masterclass: Finding Birth Certificates

Peter Calver's LostCousins Newsletter for [February](#) has one of his "Masterclasses" and this month it is on finding birth certificates. While this is specifically aimed at England and Wales, his tips are general and can be used by anyone. Perhaps reading this article may help you think about alternatives that will bring success. From the February link, you can read previous newsletters.

Films received in the week ending February 12th, and due for return about the end of April.

Film Content	Film No
AUT Bukowina Istengetits Births 1932-	2423315
AUT Bukowina Istensegits Chr. 1885 etc.	0722487
CAN PEI Land Registry Records Indexes	1630089
CAN PEI Land Registry Records Indexes	1630088
CAN PEI Land Registry Records Indexes	1630087
CAN PEI Land Registry Records Indexes	1630090
DEU MEC Wismar Sankt Georg MBs 1796-1868	0069650
ENG LAN Liverpool St.Peters Christenings 1869-1872	0093895
ENG LIN Wills 239-240 1717-1717	0198985

Film Content	Film No
ENG LIN Wills A - W, 1766	0199045
ENG WAR Solihull Ch. Rec. 1538-	0234504
ENG YKS Scarborough Burials 1689-1907	1850192
ENG YKS Stonegrave Ch. Rec.	0990864
HUN Torontal Katalinfalva Ch. Rec.	1190306
HUN Torontal Negejesca Ch. Rec.	0858387
IRL LOG Templemichael & Ballymacormack PRs 1802-1923	1279219
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Matrimoniali 1812-50	1799767
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Matrimoniali 1851 etc.	1799768
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Matrimoniali 1859-65	1799769
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Morti 1879	2164071
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Nati 1811-1848	1799693
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Nati 1849-	1799766
ITA Catanzaro Castelsilano Nati 1866	1848942

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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