



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-11

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Announcements

OGS Toronto Branch – Genetic Genealogy Workshop

June 6th, 9:30am-4:45pm, North York Central Library

OGS Toronto is hosting a full-day workshop of interesting lectures about the main types of DNA testing and how genealogists are using the test results to extend their research and break down brick walls. The opening plenary lecture, by Dr. Maurice Gleeson, will give an overview of genetic genealogy and what we can look forward to as the field develops. Concurrent sessions will be given on the two most common tests (autosomal DNA and Y-DNA), how to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the tests, the analytical tools available and what inferences can be drawn from the DNA evidence acquired. Speakers will talk about how to organize DNA projects and how best to combine customary genealogical research techniques with DNA analysis. The workshop also has three general lectures that will be of interest to everyone. The workshop concludes with a plenary lecture on adoptions and illegitimacy, and how the latest DNA analysis and research techniques can help to solve family mysteries. Details about the day's program and the invited speakers can be found [here](#).

OGS Toronto – Finding Your Upper Canada Ancestors

April 11th, 9:30am-4:45pm, North York Central Library

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. For the full description of the program, please go to <http://torontofamilyhistory.org/learn/workshops/upper-canada-workshop/>.

News From the Trenches

***She Is My Cousin!* (Most Probably)**

In February I met two paper-trail third cousins for lunch in Vancouver. We had corresponded for several years and this was the first time we had met. We were all born in England (London and Birmingham), and now live in Toronto, Victoria and Seattle. We chatted about general genealogical discoveries and I mentioned that I had had my DNA tested. The other two cousins decided that they would get their autosomal DNA tested with a FamilyFinder test at [FamilyTreeDNA](#) and we could compare results. Yesterday one cousin popped up on the top of my list of matches at the 2nd to 4th cousin level – wonderful! I am now more confident that the paper trail that we have connecting us all to common great-great grandparents is correct. I am looking forward to the other cousin appearing in my list of matches shortly. Now I am searching for other cousins to try to verify other great or great-great grandparents.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Newfoundland 1921 Census (220,000 names)
- Italy Caltanissetta Civil Registration 1820-1935 (half a million browse-only records)
- Italy Taranto Civil Registration 1809-1926 (half a million browse-only records)
- New York City birth, marriage & death records updated (10 million records)
- New York & San Francisco passenger lists updated
- Texas and Ohio County Marriage records updated

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- England - Bexley Kent Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Cemetery records 1558-1925+ (260,000 records)
- Hungary Civil Registration 1895-1980 (472,000 records)
- Texas County Tax Rolls 1846-1910 updated (nearly 4 million records)
- Additional WWII Jewish records from JewishGen (6,000 records)
- South Dakota School Records 1879-1970 (nearly 200,000 records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets:

- US Civil War Pension Files Index 1861-1934 (1.3 million indexed pension application cards)
- British Army Royal Artillery Officer Deaths 1850-2011 (17,000 deaths)
- British Army Royal Artillery War Commemoration Book 1914-1918 (3,505 officers)
- British Army Royal Artillery Officers 1716-1899 (7,400 records)
- British Army Royal Artillery 80th Field Regiment WWII (records of 978 men)
- British Mariners Trinity House Calendars 1787-1854 (Petitions for aid from Trinity House)
- London, Bethlem Hospital Patient Admission Registers and Casebooks 1683-1932 (250,000 records)
- Ireland 1901 Census (4 million transcribed records) – different search engine with images from <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>
- Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds Indexes 1623-1866 (218,000 records)
- Ireland Diocesan and Prerogative Wills & Administrations Indexes 1595-1858 (364,000 records)
- Essex Clacton Roll of Honour 1914-1918 (1,100 records)

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

The Forum:

Questions: No questions received this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2015/10. 1842 Canadian census. Unidentified area.

I am attaching an image from Family Search showing a page of the 1842 Canadian census which is shown as "unidentified locality". I would very much like to identify the location and was wondering if any newsletter readers might recognize some of the names. I have tried searching for some of the names in the 1851 census but have not found enough consistency to be satisfied I have the right township and county. It is in Upper Canada.

Daniel Parkinson suggested searching "for each of the names on that page on the 1851-1852 Ontario Census and compare the results. One would hope that most residents had not moved on and a consensus of addresses from the later census might provide the answer the reader is seeking." Steve Low suggested a family who lived in Bruce County in the late 1800s might fit the bill but that seemed rather late to find a connection. Leslie Dorschell looked at the names including Walker, Applebee and Dynes and suggested an area west of Toronto – Walkers Line, Appleby Line, Dynes Road are in Burlington.

Please note that the 1842 Census for Canada West (Ontario) is **not** available at Ancestry but can be found at [Library & Archives Canada](#) and [FamilySearch](#). Firstly, we tried to find a few names in the 1851 census that matched but could not find good matches with a number of names. A second thought was to see who might have died after 1869. We know that these are heads of households in 1842, so they were probably all older than 25. Francis Huston died 1 Feb 1873, 70 years old, farmer, widow Jane, Halton County, Esquesing Township. Francis was a possibility and so the 1861 census for Francis in Esquesing Twp, Halton was found; he was aged 56 and had wife, Jane. The following pages were checked and there were a few names that corresponded: Allan McPherson, some Howson's with a child named Leonard – possible grandson of Leonard.

Why could these people not be found in the 1851 Census? There are sections missing from each census and the best place to find what is missing is to look at the Library & Archives Canada [census website](#). The information about 1851 Canada West census districts can be found [here](#) and it shows that in Halton District, the census records for two subdistricts, Esquesing #116 and Nassagaweya #118 have not survived.

1861 census has an agricultural census as well as a people census. Francis Huston is listed – he is in Esquesing Twp. His concession number is 7 and his lot number is 11 (he has half of this lot). This is the same concession and lot number as in the 1842 census. This looks hopeful.

We looked through the agricultural census for other names, concession numbers and lot numbers to match with the 1842 census. The easiest way we found to do this was by scrolling back and forth from Francis Huston. Same names and lots were found: Allan McPherson Concession 10 Lot 13, John Graham Concession 7 Lot 12, Widow Thompson Concession 7 Lot 13 has become Henry Thompson, William Applebee Concession 8 Lot 16 has become Pearse Applebe. With four matches of names to concession and lot number, I think that we can be fairly clear that this is the area they lived.

Where were these concessions and lots? The [historical maps online](#) at McGill show a Captain William P Applebee, farmer, on Concession 8 lot 16 in Esquesing North, the same lot as William in 1842 and Pearse in 1861. Similarly, Richard Howson is a farmer in Esquesing south on Concession 8, lot 5 the same as Leonard Howson in the 1842 census. These maps are from 1877, well after 1861 and certainly long after 1842 but I conclude that the 1842 census was Esquesing Township of Halton County. Name searches can be done at the McGill website using the county and township. Leslie Dorschell notes that concession numbers are marked on old aerial photographs from 1954 available [online](#) at the University of Toronto.

Q2/2015/10. Handicapped Lady in England.

My mother once told me that my aunt, a few years older than her, could recall a family member, a woman, who had only one arm and could knit with one of her knitting needles tucked under her stump. I don't know if this was one of my great grandmothers or perhaps a great aunt. I haven't noticed any mention of amputees in the census records and am wondering if anyone knows where that kind of information might turn up so I could identify her. They lived in the Bath and Keynsham area, in Somerset but had connections in Bristol and the Isle of Wight. My aunt was born in 1925, so the woman in question must have been alive into, say, the 1930s for her to remember her. My maternal great-grandmother, Kate Helen (Creeth) Burridge, was born on the Isle of Wight and died in 1929 in Bath, so it's just possible that it was her and made an impression even though she was only 4 (her paternal grandmother died before my aunt was born). But it might have been one of her aunts or a great aunt on the Isle of Wight side. Does anyone have an idea on how to find her?

The censuses from 1851 to 1911 in England 1851 all have a column for infirmity but these only include whether the person was blind, deaf & dumb, imbecile or idiot, lunatic or feebleminded. There is no information about handicaps such as an arm that is only a stump. The only suggestion is to search for newspaper accounts for a child losing an arm in an accident, like in a piece of farm machinery. To follow this through the researcher will need a good idea of where to look for such an accident. They will have more luck looking in a more rural area than in a city, I would think.

Q3/2015/10. How Can I Find a Mormon Ancestor?

Do you know whether the LDS church keeps conversion records? If so, are the records open to the public at least in respect of deceased individuals? I have come to a dead end in my genealogical research for one of my mother's first cousins. There is a family story about members of our family joining the LDS church in Blackburn, England in the early 20th century. Conceivably, the person, for whom I am searching, might have converted and emigrated to the USA.

Our directors, Don & Roberta Harris, had the following suggestions: "We have in our Centre 6 rolls of microfilm on emigration records of LDS members from European Missions which would include England. We also have a great book here in the Centre: "My Ancestor Was A Mormon" which details which records to check and lists microfilms by number according to each church congregation. For example, film number 86982 has records of members of Blackburn Lancashire from 1837-1948.

"There are also records on the European Emigration Card Index, comprising films from 0298431-0298439 which have most but not all LDS Church members coming to the U.S. with names, ages, name of ship etc. Also the Early Church Information File is an alphabetical index on microfilms 1750655-1750729 which covers sources from 1830 to the mid 1900's comprising membership records, births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, family histories, cemetery records and many other records."

Linda Reid writes: "For LDS "conversion" records, people should look in the FHLC [[Family History Library Catalogue](#)] in the usual manner: place name and then Church records. You would be surprised how many places have "Record of members" as one of the church records. I found my 3xgreat-grandmother in Glasgow that way. It was called "re-baptism". The record gave her date and place of birth as Arbroath. That was a huge breakthrough as the 1851 census had listed her as born in Dundee." See the highlighted item below.

Parish registers for Barony, 1672-1854
Author: Church of Scotland. Parish Church of Barony (Glasgow, Lanarkshire)
Parish registers for Gorbals, 1771-1855
Author: Church of Scotland. Parish Church of Gorbals (Lanarkshire)
Presbytery sessional minutes, 1808-1812, 1828-1829, 1837, 1841
Author: Free Church of Scotland. Consttional Associate Presbytery of Glasgow
Record of members : 1857-1862
Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Calton Branch (Lanarkshire)
Record of members, 1840-1854
Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Glasgow Branch (Lanarkshire)
Record of members, 1857-1861
Author: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Gorbals Branch (Lanarkshire)

Were You Aware...

Convicts Transported to Van Dieman's Land from Canada

Because I have a convict gggg-grandfather, I was interested in a book on sale from the National Archives, Kew. From recent reading I was aware that many of the rebels from the Mackenzie Rebellion in 1837 had been transported for life to Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania), rather than being hanged. My newly purchased book, "*Bound for Australia*", has a chapter on the records that can be found in Colonial Office Correspondence (CO 42) at the National Archives for these Canadians. Seventy eight of the rebels were sent to Tasmania on the ship HMS Buffalo in 1840 for life for "piratical invasion of Upper Canada". Some of these men who were from the US had invaded Upper Canada. The provincial secretary in 1839, R. A. Tucker, has added a note to the list of convicts stating that of the 78 brigands in the list, the cases of 17 warranted special "indulgences". Aaron Dresser, for example, was the son of a respected Kingston citizen and petitions from other citizens indicated that a free pardon may have been granted had it not been apparent that he was one of the leaders. I looked up Aaron Dresser on the Australian convict databases on Ancestry and found that he was granted a ticket of leave in 1843 for "meritorious conduct by which the capture of two bushrangers and murderers Jeffs and Conway was affected [*sic*]". [Bushrangers were usually escaped convicts.] In 1846 Aaron Dresser was given a free pardon. Did he return to Canada?

Also on the *Buffalo* were 58 French Canadians who were transported to New South Wales. An interesting blog, *Raiders and Rebels*, gives a lot more information about these "19th century raiders, rebels and pirates in the 1,000 Islands and along the Canada-US border". This blog, [Hunter & Patriot Prisoners Sent to Tasmania](#), has lots more information about this transport ship. A [Naval Database website](#) has the *Buffalo* leaving Quebec on September 26, 1839 and arriving in Hobart on February 12, 1840 and in Sydney later. It was due to return to England with New Zealand timber but it was wrecked in Mercury Bay, NZ.

Films in the week ending March 26th and due for return about the beginning of May.

Film Content	Film No
ENG WOR Halesowen PRs 1652-1762`	0886632

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](#)

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[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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