



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-12

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

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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 Announcements

#### Genealogy Summer Camp – Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>

Genealogy Summer Camp is back! The Toronto Branch of OGS is inviting out-of-town researchers to Toronto for a full week of concentrated family history research at Toronto's wonderful libraries and archives, under the guidance of local experts. Local residents are welcome too, and may choose to stay with the group or attend as "day-campers". Full details can be found [here](#).

#### Call for Speakers for Atlantic Canada Genealogy Workshop

The Toronto Branch of OGS and the Canadiana Department of North York Central Library will be co-sponsoring a one-day workshop on Atlantic Canada Genealogy on 17 October 2015. The keynote speaker for this event will be Dr. Terrence M. Punch of Halifax, Nova Scotia. They are looking for other speakers who would like to be part of this workshop. The deadline for submission of proposals is 16 May 2015. The Call for Speakers can be found [here](#).

### News From the Trenches

#### DNA Matches by Linda Reid

Helen Billing wrote last week about the joy of finding a 3rd cousin with whom she had corresponded for a number of years on her list of Family Finder (autosomal DNA) matches. Outcomes are not always so happy. There are of course the inevitable NPEs (variously defined as non-paternal event, non-parental event or not parent expected). But even when the relationship is valid, people may not always appear on each other's match list. That is because, since DNA is recombined in each generation, the odds of having matching pieces of DNA decline. Second cousins have a 99+% chance of matching each other on the Family Finder test, 3rd cousins a 90% chance and 4th cousins only 50%. Helen and her 3rd cousin were in the 90%, but they might not have been.

During Family Tree DNA's pre-Christmas sale I encouraged the genealogists with whom I had corresponded over the years to take a Family Finder test, or better still, test their relatives of the oldest generation on the line related to me. One woman tested her grandfather, now age 90, and my mother's 3rd cousin. He had four paper-trail 3rd cousins already tested and he matched three of them (as well as my brother and me who are 3rd cousins once removed). The one he didn't match did match the others appropriately. So I am now very confident of my family tree back to a set of 3xgreat-grandparents born in

Scotland in the 1790s, Mary Gowans and John Methven. Mary converted to the LDS faith in 1851 and emigrated in 1853. She is my matrilineal ancestor from whom I inherited my mitochondrial DNA.

So a non-match to a 3rd or 4th cousin doesn't mean that the relationship isn't valid. It just means that you have to test more people to prove it. Maybe a sibling or one of your first or second cousins will match this 3rd or 4th cousin.

At Family Finder people have to reach a matching threshold to show as a match: 20 cM total in common and the longest block at least 7.7 cM. If you load your data on GEDMATCH ([www.gedmatch.com](http://www.gedmatch.com)), a third-party utility, you can look for matches at a lower level.

### What's New

**FamilySearch** has updated or added to the following collections:

- England Westminster Rate Books 1634-1900 (10 million records) Index entry gives address; access to actual images at FHCs only
- United Kingdom WWI Service Records 1914-1920 (4.3 million records) Index gives full name, birth place, company & regiment. Images at FHCs only.
- England Derbyshire PRs (1.4 million records) Transcription gives name, event, date, spouse or father's name, and parish. FHL film number given for further research.
- New Zealand Probate Records 1843-1998 (now includes 160,000 wills that can be viewed at home)
- Tennessee Deaths 1914-1955 (1.3 million records)
- Massachusetts Marriages 1695-1910 (2 million records)
- Czech Censuses & School Registers (browse only)
- Philippines Civil Registration updated (browse only)
- Mexico Civil Registration updated (indexing begun)

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

- Australia Electoral Rolls 1903-1980 (updated to 100 million records)
- Australia Imperial Forces at Gallipoli 1915 (7,254 records)
- North Carolina Marriages 1741-2011 (nearly 11 million records)
- North Dakota Censuses 1885, 1915 & 1925 (1.4 million records)

**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets:

- England & Wales, National School Admission Registers & Log Books 1870-1914 (second release) (two million more records from more than 1850 schools in 14 new counties)
- Australia, New South Wales Cemetery records for Dubbo & Newcastle (11,000 records)
- De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour – better images, new search engine
- South Africa Roll of Honour 1914-1918
- Britain School & University Memorial Rolls 1914-1918 (58,000 records)
- United States Army Enlistments 1798-1914 (1.3 million records)

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

### The Forum:

**Questions: No questions received this week.**

### Suggestions:

#### **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?

Paul Jones wrote the following suggestions for this researcher: "It seems that the researcher has identified several female ancestors of about the right vintage, any one of whom could have been the one-armed knitter. What about establishing

their approximate death dates through Free BMD, then searching for probate records and newspaper death notices for these women? While not guaranteed of success, this approach might yield information about an infirmity, and it would not depend on the needle-in-a-haystack fluke of finding a newspaper account of an accident befalling an unknown person in an unknown place at an unknown time--although one might later look for such an account if and when the identity and location of the one-armed woman has been established. A will might recognize someone who has been particularly helpful to the deceased in her disability; an obituary might discreetly allude to her situation."

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

#### **Corrections to FamilySearch Indexed Records**

Cory Lemos received the response below after requesting a change to a record where he had noticed a keyboarding error. He thought that readers would be interested in this upcoming change. Hopefully FamilySearch will let us know when we can make corrections to records like this.

*"Thank you for the URLs for this correction. There have been some new rules implemented in regard to the correction of errors in familysearch records. There will no longer be a team responsible for this work. We are working at developing a program whereby the Patron will have the ability to request corrections directly on familysearch. If we are not able to correct this error, you will be able to correct it yourself once the program is available to use. Keep your information and keep checking back periodically to see if the changes have been made, and perhaps you will be able to make the changes yourself before too long."*

#### **Australian Electoral Rolls by Linda Reid**

[Ancestry has updated this important collection and Linda writes about how they have helped her research.]

Since the Australian authorities have destroyed census returns for privacy reasons, the electoral rolls are an important substitute. According to family lore one of my grandfather's older brothers went to Tasmania after the Great War but no one knew anything more. Years ago I searched the electoral rolls in the Australian National Library and discovered that he married and had children and I eventually tracked down his youngest daughter and met her on a subsequent trip.

On another line I traced down as far as the obituary for a man who died in 1996. It named his son, daughter-in-law and 2 grandsons. The Australian telephone directories just give initials for given names but the electoral rolls give full names. On the hypothesis that the family would still be in NSW (where the earlier two generations had lived), I contacted the State Library for New South Wales and asked them if they would do a look-up in a recent electoral roll for me. They did and found the family. The man I was seeking even had his grandfather's names as middle names! He was the key to a breakthrough on an Irish line.

#### **Records for Kent, England**

Last week **Ancestry** uploaded some records for parishes in the London Borough of Bexley. (These records were not included on the Ancestry London baptism, marriage and burial records.) I was delighted, hoping to find more records for one branch of my family tree. I found a few useful records but checking the coverage of each group of the Bexley records was instructive – there are only four parishes covered for the period before 1812 and 7 parishes for burials for the period after 1812. The record collections of baptisms after 1812 and marriages after 1754 contained 17 and 16 parishes respectively. Now I want more (even though a few years ago I had spent many happy hours trolling through films). What else is available for Kent? **FindMyPast** has a lot of transcribed Kent records – 498,000 baptisms from 99 parishes, 345,000 marriages from 128 parishes, 355,000 burials from 92 parishes, and 120,000 burials in 300 East Kent parishes. Don't forget the good old **IGI (International Genealogical Index)**! Archer Software has links to parishes that were on the transcribed (ie reliable) IGI. The list for the large number of Kent parishes can be found [here](#). Choosing your parish by clicking on *Baptisms* or *Marriages* listed under that parish name allows you to enter a surname into the search field and you can quickly find if you have ancestors in that parish. (There are very few burials in the IGI.) The IGI and the transcripts on FindMyPast allow one to tap into the next amazing resource – **FamilySearch records** for Kent. Looking under [England](#) in the Historical Record Collections of FamilySearch, you will find these resources listed: Parish Registers (only some have been indexed), Bishop's Transcripts, Wills and Probate, Register of Electors (3 million indexed), Workhouse Records, Land Tax Assessments, etc. These records are copies of the parish registers, bishop's transcripts, etc. While the images can only be downloaded while at Family History Centres, these resources are so wonderful that they are really worth the trip. If you find a will, that could be a goldmine of ancestors. The last resource I have used for Kent are the Monumental Inscriptions at the [Kent Archaeological Society website](#). Here you will find transcripts of the monumental inscriptions made by several people but notably by Leland L. Duncan from the 1880s to 1923 of literally 100s of churchyards. If you click on the parish that you have ancestors in, you can easily find out if there was a monument to them. It is here that I found a transcription of the gravestone of my great-great grandmother and her parents. While the gravestone may still be in the churchyard at Woolwich, it would be unreadable and stacked up against the graveyard wall. People with Kent ancestors have lots of resources to use, but, of course, it would be nice to have more!

## Parish Registers – The Real Deal

I enjoy looking at parish registers – not just for ancestors. They can give you a glimpse into life of the place and time that your ancestor lived. The horrifying number of small pox deaths in the 1770s reminds us that the small pox vaccine was not invented by Edward Jenner until 1798 and that the death rate from small pox was 35%. The language describing children born to single women (bastard child of, misbegotten son of) can bring home how hard it must have been for those single mothers. But parish registers give you details that you will never find in a transcription; they might be important. Here are a few burial records from St Mary Cray, Kent found at the FHC:

*1758 Dec 8 A poor travelling woman*

*1779 Nov 10 John Archer, an old man, a carpenter who died at the Five Bells in Cray*

*1782 April 7 Eliz: Saunders, age 74, funeral sermon, cancer in her face*

*1782 May 15 John Waghorn, age 26, hung himself in London and was brought here because he had lived here and his wife was still here.*

*1783 Oct 17 Rich<sup>d</sup> Mandy, age 32, a cooper of St M Cray Street, fell into a tub of hot water at Mr. Rush's Chislehurst and survived the accident about a week.*

I was very interested in a meeting that was noted in the burial register: *At a vestry held the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1768 it was agreed to permit Mr. Richard Wright of Rotherhithe to make a vault in the churchyard of this parish ten feet & half long, & nine feet & half broad, & to erect a tombstone over said vault, paying to the Rev. Mr. Fawkes Vicar the sum of five guineas for such permission and to bury the dead of his family in the said vault as occasion shall require, paying on the burying each dead person as aforesaid to the Minister five shillings as a burying fee, & to the overseers of the Poor of this Parish half a guinea for the use of the Poor.* Signed by 10 male church members. Mr. Wright's wife had been buried in the previous year; she was the sister of a person of interest to me. I then found records of a number of his family members documented on the Kent Archaeological Society website.

## Films in the week ending April 2<sup>nd</sup> and due for return about the beginning of June.

Film Content	Film No
ENG KEN Cons. & Arch. reg. wills, v. 6, 1478-1513	0188782
ENG LAN Liverpool Everton Cemetery burials 1889-1903	1564510
ENG LAN Liverpool Everton Cemetery burials 1903-1918, 1936-1942	1564511
IRE ANT Belfast Archives Catalogue T1-T307D	1551234

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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