



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-15

April 23, 2015

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

Editor:
Helen Billing



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- **The Forum** – More suggestions for the question of two weeks ago; one new question
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Announcements

OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting Monday, April 27th at 7:30pm, at North York Memorial Hall

Out of the Shadows – Imaging the Women of My Family

Bonnie Bell will describe her project to inspire members of her family to become interested in the history of their female ancestors. She has used photographs, personal documents, and family stories and memorabilia, from England, Scotland, and Canada, along with her own vision, to capture, in brief 2-3 page summaries, the essential character of each of the women who define her. The mini-presentation will be by Elayne Lockhart: *How DNA broke through my Irish brick wall and took me back 3 generations – in England!* Visitors are welcome! Click [here](#) for complete information.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Newfoundland censuses 1935, & 1945 added; images and an index. Transcriptions available on [Newfoundland's Grand Banks website](#).
- Nova Scotia Deaths 1890-1955 & 1956-1957: images and an index (350,000 names)
- Additional browse-only records for Indonesia, Peru, and the Philippines

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- UK WWI War Diaries (Gallipoli & Dardanelles) 1914-1916 (in time for ANZAC Day) (33,000 pages)
- UK WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium & Germany) 1914-1920 (400,000 pages)
- US Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Records 1875-1940 Baptisms, Marriages & Burials (nearly three million records)
- UK WWI Service Medal & Award Rolls 1914-1920 – updated to 6.5 million records
- UK Soldiers Died in WWI 1914-1919 – updated to 703,000 records
- New Zealand Teacher & Civil Service Examinations & Licences 1880-1920 (200,000 records)
- New Zealand Sheep Returns, Owners and Officers 1879-1889 (30,000 records)
- Georgia and Texas Passenger Lists updated

FindMyPast has added the following datasets for this Friday's release:

- Yorkshire Baptisms, Banns, Marriages and Burials now contains more than 4.6 million records. This wonderful new addition contains records from the three historic Yorkshire counties - North Riding, East Riding and West Riding.
- Yorkshire Bishop's Transcripts of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials now contains more than 5.5 million records from all three historic counties. (hurrah!)
- Prisoners of War 1914-1920 – 43,000 records with images of prisoners held by the Ottomans.
- Australian Imperial Force, Nominal Roll of the First Railway Section 1917-1920 (435 records)

- New South Wales Returned Soldier Settlement Files 1916-1939 (1,000 records)
- Irish Newspapers – 500,000 new articles

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

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2015/15. England. Property at Death.

My ancestor left a seven-page will in 1833 dividing his estate between his seven children. (I was able to get the original will on microfilm from the Family History Library.) I know that he was a farmer and wonder if any other documents would help me figure out how much property he held and where. He lived in Whitgreave, Staffordshire.

Suggestions.

Q1/2015/13. Canada Census records.

I am searching for info on my great grandfather Francis "Frank" McDonald who was born on the Atlantic Ocean coming from Scotland to Quebec 16 May 1822. I cannot find him again until 28 September 1864 in Ancaster Twp, Wentworth Co. when he marries Margaret Mae Near. He dies in Stratford on 30 Sept. 1902. I have not found him in the 1851, 1861, 1871 Census. Where should I look now?

Cory Lemos sent in some further suggestions: "I did a bit of Googling and found the following information, "During this period Ancaster Township was attached variously to Nassau District, Home District, York County (West Riding) and Halton County. When Halton County and Wentworth County joined temporarily from 1850 to 1854, Ancaster remained permanently attached to Wentworth County, where it remains today in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth".

"May I suggest the researcher do one of two things or both, and that is:

Locate a book titled, Halton Sketches by John McDonald. And/or email John McDonald directly at the email address listed on his website. <http://haltonsketchespublishing.com/book-one/>

"Mr. McDonald has done extensive genealogical research on families who lived in Halton Region and his book has an excellent resource section that lists historical and genealogical societies that may be of some help."

"John McDonald will be presenting at the [Riverdale Historical Society](#) in Toronto on Tuesday, April 28 at 6.00 pm."

Were You Aware...

Half-Price FindMyPast Subscriptions

Peter Calver of LostCousins has announced an extension until the end of April to the offer for half-price FindMyPast World subscriptions for readers of his newsletter. If you are interested, please go to his [Late-April newsletter](#) for further details. While you are there, do sign up for LostCousins and to get his semi-monthly (twice a month) newsletter, which is always a good read.

People of the British Isles Project Summary

John Reid's Anglo-Celtic Connections [blog of April 20th](#) mentioned a good summary of the People of the British Isles Project. This project analysed genetic samples from more than 2,000 rural UK residents whose four grandparents were born within 80 km of each other to determine their similarities and differences. This newsletter about the project is written for a non-academic audience. If you have British ancestry, it is well worth reading. Read it [here](#).

John's blog of April 22nd, [AncestryDNA Looks at People of the British Isles Results](#) should also be read with its link to the [Ancestry blog](#).

ANZAC Day – April 25th

ANZAC stands for the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The day marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces on 25 April 1915 in Gallipoli, Turkey. After the Second World War, Anzac Day became a day on which to commemorate the lives of Australians and New Zealanders lost in all wars. The anniversary is commemorated annually in Australia, New Zealand and in many countries around the world. This year is the 100th anniversary of the start of the action in Gallipoli.

England & Wales – Wills Again

The will mentioned in the question in The Forum has provided the researcher with a huge amount of information. The ancestor whose father wrote the will had been rather elusive for the researcher. The name was not uncommon and the ancestor's census entries were very irritating – no place of birth was mentioned in 1851. The will has given the researcher the names of six other siblings and the names of the husbands of the married female children. From this he hopes to track down the birthplace and date of birth of the ancestor. Wills often help with brick walls. Have you ensured that there are no wills that could help you with yours?

How was this will found? The Toronto Family History Centre has a collection of films that contain indexes to wills in the smaller courts. Random examples of these are the Consistory Court of Chester, the Diocese of Carlisle, the Archdeaconry of Berkshire, the Diocese of Lichfield. An index entry from the correct place of this ancestor was found and then a film containing the original will was ordered from the Family History Library.

Indexes for some wills can be found online at FindMyPast (available at all FHCs); original wills, registered copies of the wills and inventories may also be viewed at FindMyPast (Oxfordshire is particularly good). Prerogative Court of Canterbury wills from 1384 to 1858 can be found and downloaded from the National Archives [here](#) and cost £3.30. After 1858 to more or less the present date, wills can be ordered from the GOV.UK [website](#) at a cost of £10 each. The probate index entries up to the present can be viewed at no cost here. The index entries up to 1967 have a useful amount of information, including exact death dates, addresses, executors and amount of the estate; 1969 to 1996 entries do not have executors and after 1996, the indexes show just the date of death. Ancestry has the indexes online from 1858 to 1966. Wills dated between 1858 and 1925 can be ordered on film from the Family History Catalogue for \$8.

I was pleasantly surprised at the help I recently received from the GOV.UK wills. I wanted to know if my grandfather's will had been probated in 1969, but the relevant pages were missing from the online index. As this is a BETA (test) site, I sent feedback saying that the pages were missing. I was contacted the next day with an offer to look the entry up on the paper index, and to say that the staff responsible for uploading the pages would be told that they were missing. The staff member did the lookup for me.

Volunteers at the Family History Centre would be happy to help you try to find a will index or the will itself.

Films in the week ending April 23rd and due for return about the end of June.

Film Content	Film No
DEU PRU Rheinland Ch. Rec. 1737-	1055357
DEU PRU Taufen, Konf., Heiraten, Tote 1765-1798	1056028
ENG LAN Liverpool Everton Cemetery order books 1897-1901	1594367
ENG Mil Pensions v. 67-68	0852020
ENG SSX Wills 1560-1571	0194563
IRL Probate T.17321-T.17379 (Montgomery presentation)	0496393
RUS Tver Church books 1914-18	2408386

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 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