



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-16

April 30, 2015

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

Editor:  
Helen Billing



### In This Bulletin

- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Saskatchewan Cemetery Transcripts, North Dakota 1915 & 1925 Censuses); Ancestry (Update of 1891 Canadian Census, Update for Pennsylvania Church Records); FindMyPast (England & Wales Quaker records, Surrey Southwark St George the Martyr Workhouse Records, NSW Soldiers' Records, Queensland Wills Index); DeceasedOnline (Sandwell Borough council records)
- **The Forum** – Some suggestions for last week's question; no new questions
- **Were You Aware...** – Irish Catholic Parish Registers to go online on July 8th

### What's New

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

- Saskatchewan Cemetery Transcripts 1850-1994 (164,737 records); a small number of records.
- North Dakota 1915 & 1925 Censuses
- Updates to Civil Registration in Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, & Philippines
- Updates to Croatia Church Books 1516-1994 (nearly 3 million indexed records)
- Additional browse-only records for Indonesia, Peru, and the Philippines

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

- 1891 Canadian Census – Updated (4.8 million records)
- Pennsylvania Church Records for Adams, Berks, and Lancaster Counties 1729-1881 - Updated

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

- England & Wales, Society of Friends (Quaker) Births, Marriages & Burials 1578-1841 (over half a million records)
- Surrey, Southwark, St George the Martyr Workhouse Records 1729-1826 (over 21,000 guardian minutes and records of overseer's payments)
- New South Wales, Returned Soldiers Settlement Loan Files 1906-1960 (7,000 files)
- New South Wales, Closer Settlement and Returned Soldiers Transfer Files 1907-1936 & 1951 (4,500 records)
- Queensland Wills Index 1857-1940 (514,000 records)

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

**DeceasedOnline** has started to add burial records for the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, an area to the east of Birmingham, in the heart of England's Black Country. Records for eleven cemeteries and crematoria are being added. There are currently about 150,000 records available for Heath Lane Cemetery, Oldbury Cemetery and Tipton Cemetery. Records at DeceasedOnline can be searched without charge but downloading the original registers and maps require a modest payment.

### 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.

There are several places to look for more information about your ancestor, including death duty records, tithe maps and historical directories.

## Death Duty Records - 1797 – 1857

Starting in 1796, various duties were imposed on estates with a value of over £20. While only about 25% of wills and admsons were recorded in the death duty registers up to 1805, after 1815 nearly all estates were. FindMyPast has the indexes for death duties between 1796 and 1857 online. [The Toronto FHC also has them on film.] The index entry gives the name of the deceased, the executor, the town, the Court (in this case the Bishop of Lichfield), the folio number and the ledger number. Armed with this information, one can search for the appropriate film after 1812, which has the complete information on your ancestor's estate, from the Family History Catalogue at Family Search [here](#). This is a collection of 1249 microfilms; if you have trouble figuring out which film to order, please ask FHC volunteers. For the death duty register for wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1796-1811; and administrations, 1796-1857 and indexes, look at the FHL catalogue [here](#).

FamilySearch Wiki has an article on Estate Duty Registers in England and Wales [here](#) and it starts "The Estate or Death Duty registers are among the most important genealogical records in England and Wales. They are little known and often overlooked as a source for locating information about people."

## Tithe Maps and Apportionments

The Tithe Commutation Act of 1836 converted the old method of paying tithes into an annual tithe rent on land. (By this time the whole tithe system was confused and was causing resentment. It also discouraged farming improvements; as farmers grew more crops, they had to pay more of them as a tithe.) Under the new law, each field or titheable plot had to be valued. Land surveys or the tithe apportionment maps were prepared for most parishes between 1836 and 1854. These tithe maps survive for about three quarters of the land in England and Wales. These maps are incredibly detailed showing each building, field, wood, stream, etc. and can be very helpful in locating exactly where your ancestor lived. Every plot on the tithe map has a number on it, that matches the entry in the apportionment. The apportionment gives the name of the owner, the name of the occupier, the name of the field or piece of land, the type of cultivation, the acreage and its tithe valuation.

While the maps date from slightly after the death of this ancestor, one of the children may have taken over his estate. Unfortunately, digitisation of the tithe maps for Staffordshire is too expensive for the Staffordshire Record Office and they are looking for donations to help. Digitising Whitgreave will cost £60. Friends of the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Archive Service (FoSSA) are indexing the apportionments and the indexes will be put online at the Staffordshire name Indexes [website](#) when complete.

The Norfolk County council has put all their tithes maps online (covering about 85% of Norfolk) and one can view them [here](#). Various different maps, like the 1851 Ordnance Survey maps, can be viewed side by side on your computer screen.

## Historical Directories

Historical directories can provide a snapshot of the village and its inhabitants at the time. The University of Leicester has placed [online](#) digital copies of many historical directories from all over England and Wales. The site can be slow and time-consuming to search but it can still be worth the time. There are 24 directories containing information on Staffordshire, dating from 1810 to 1919. The White's Directory of Staffordshire, 1834, has the following entry for Whitgreave.

### ST. MARY'S PARISH.

143

TILLINGTON, 1½ mile N. of Stafford, is a small township, consisting of only three farms, one of which belongs to William Locker, Esq., of *Tillington-House*; and the other two are occupied by Joseph Henshaw, and Thomas Lycett.

WHITGREAVE, or *Whitgrove*, is a small township with several scattered houses and a small village, lying in a pleasant valley, 4 miles N.N.W. of Stafford, belonging chiefly to William Haddersich, Esq., of Rickerscote. The common was enclosed in 1774. The toll-bar house here is partly in Marston township. The principal inhabitants of Whitgreave are, Joseph Webb, gent., Wm. Hart, butcher and beer-house; J. Spencer, blacksmith; Samuel Platt, bar-keeper; and the following FARMERS, viz., Wm. Beardmore, Edw. Gaunt, George Lees, Joseph Limer, Elizabeth and W. Perkins, and John Till.

## Were You Aware...

### Irish Catholic Parish Registers to go online on July 8th

The National Library of Ireland [NLI] has announced that its entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms will be made available online for free from July 8<sup>th</sup>. These records consist primarily of baptism and marriage records for 1,091 parishes and date from the 1740s to the 1880s. The digital images of the registers will be searchable by parish location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed by the NLI. However the NLI notes that "the nationwide network of local family history centres holds indexes and transcripts of parish registers for their local areas."

### Films in the week ending April 30<sup>th</sup> and due for return about the middle of July.

Film Content	Film No
ENG SSX Wills 1577-1585	0194564
ENG STS Stafford St Mary PRs 1560-1801	1040876
ENG STS Stafford St Mary PRs 1801-1856	1040877
ENG WOR Calendar of Wills 1661-1749	0496715
HUN Fejer Zamoly Ch. Rec. 1833-	0630296
HUN Fejer Zamoly Ch. Rec.1783-	0622597

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](#)

*If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, reply to this email with the word "**Delete**" in the subject line.*

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