



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-24

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

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Announcements

Toronto FHC Closed for Canada Day and during Pan-Am Games

The Toronto FHC will be closed next Wednesday, July 1st for Canada Day. Happy 148th Birthday, Canada!

Due to probable traffic congestion during the Pan-Am Games, our directors believe that it is prudent to close the FHC during the Games. Those of you with films that are due to be returned at about that time will be given a couple of extra weeks to view those films.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Illinois County Marriages 1810-1934 – updated to contain over 1.5 million records
- Additional browse-only records for Italy, Spain, Peru, and Brazil
- Index to Ireland Petty Sessions Court Registers 1828-1912 – images are available on FindMyPast, which is free at Family History Centres

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Nevada Naturalization Petitions 1956-1991 (16,000 records)

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

- About 4,000 records have been added to the transcribed baptism, marriage & burial records from the North West Kent parish of Southfleet
- Irish Newspapers – 300,000 articles added, bringing the total to over 9.1 million articles and 72 different titles. (Not available at Family History Centres)

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

DeceasedOnline has added another London cemetery to their fabulous and growing collection. This week it is Nunhead Cemetery in Southwark with its 274,000 burials in 46,000 graves. This 50-acre cemetery was opened in 1840 but now much of it is designated as a Nature reserve. All the records are available from 1840 to 2011 and are scans of original registers, index registers, grave details indicating all those buried in one grave, and maps of the square in the cemetery where the graves are. The [DeceasedOnline blog](#) says: "Amidst this beautiful setting lie the bodies of thousands of South London's poor. Unlike those who lie beneath gothic stone monuments, many of the working classes were laid to rest in common graves." A quick and exciting search this morning led me to many of my working class (read: poor) ancestors! There are now 60 burial and cremation sites in London with records on DeceasedOnline with over three million names and 7.5 million records.

The Forum:

Questions.

Q1/2015/24. Egyptian Records.

I would like to trace my wife's family, who immigrated to Canada from Egypt in the 1970s. I have talked to older relatives to collect as much information as I can but do not know where to go from here. The family has been Christian for as long as anyone can remember. Where could I find records for this family in Egypt?

Suggestions.

Q1/2015/23. English Burial Records.

I was looking at the London burial records on Ancestry this week and found two burial records for one relative. The first was a perfectly normal burial record for the late 1700s but the second record was more interesting:

Burials in the Month of February: 1785

			£	s	d
2 Sarah Hall	C: D:D	6	GPB1	8	26
3 Ann Williams	W: S:D	16	GPB1	2	1
4 Jane Ward	W: N:D	-	-	-	-
5 Ambrose Gifford	M: D:D	6	GPB1	8	26
5 Rec of Mr Jones	- S:D	-	GPB2	2	-
6 Susannah Overall	C: S:D	1	LPB2	16	6
9 Mary Robins	W: S:D	16	GPB2	3	1
9 Rebecca Collibine	C: S:D	1	LPB1	1	6
10 Sarah Salmon	W: S:D	16	GPB1	2	1
11 Thomas Plan	M: S:D	16	GPB1	2	1
13 James Mason	M: S:D	16	GPB2	3	1
13 Charlotte Smith	W: S:D	16	NPB	1	1
15 Robert Billing D:S:	C: S:D	6	LPB2	16	26

I have managed to decipher most of the codes but I am still puzzled about the D:S: after Robert Billing's name. (At that time ":" meant abbreviation.) The front of one of the burial books from St. Mary, Newington was helpful and the columns are divided as described in the first two rows below:

DAY	Name (+DS)	M/W/C	DUES	RECTOR	BELLS	WARDEN	CLERK
		man.woman.child	SD, ND, DD	Amount paid (£, s, d)	LB1, LB2, GB1, GB2	Amount Paid	Amount Paid
			Standard Dues, No Dues, Double? Dues		Little Bells, Great Bells		

Does anyone have any suggestions what the D:S: after the name means or what the abbreviations for the dues are? If S:D: in the dues column means standard dues, the amounts are not standard among those people. And the D:D: dues are not double the amounts. Any suggestions here?

James Thomson has written the following suggestions for the researcher:

“Subject to the views of other readers, my guess is that we should interpret “D:S” in the second column as meaning “Desk Service”. My untutored understanding has been that this was a liturgical service in the church or a chapel, read from a desk or lectern (the pulpit being reserved for sermons) – and that the parish clerk may have read the responses. But I would be really grateful for such greater insights as other readers can contribute.

“In considering this interpretation of “D:S”, we can derive encouragement from an 1840 guide written by John Cauch and entitled (in part!) The Funeral Guide; or, A Correct List of the Burial Fees, &c., of the Various Parish and Private Grounds, in the Metropolis, & Five Miles Round. Here is the entry (on Page 40) for St. Mary, Newington:

ST. MARY, NEWINGTON.				
	Parishioners.		Non-Parish.	
Common Ground.....	£.0	15 0	2 2 0	
Under 12 years	0	8 0	1 11 6	
Ditto, with Desk Service.....	1	5 6	2 8 0	
Under 12 years	0	18 6	2 2 6	
Best Ground	1	3 6	2 7 0	
Ditto, with Desk Service	1	13 6	3 7 0	
Ditto, under 12 years	1	3 0	2 0 0	
Ditto, with Desk Service.....	1	13 0	3 0 0	
Vault under Vestry, exclusive of Dues	5	0 0		
Middle Aisle.....	10	0 0		

Bury at 1, 2, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 on Week-days, and $\frac{1}{2}$ -past 2 o'Clock on Sundays.

Mrs. MASON, Sextoness, in the Church Yard.

“In addition to the references to Desk Service, the entry tells us that in 1840 there were different dues for Parishioners and Non-Parishioners; that there were reduced dues for the burial of children under 12; and that the dues further depended upon the burial location – whether in the “Common Ground”, the “Best Ground”, or the church itself.

“Assuming that the scale of dues in the 1785 entries may have depended upon much the same variables, even though the amounts were different, perhaps we can guess that the references to “S:D” in the fourth (Dues) column indicate that the deceased was a parishioner (Helen's excellent hypothesis being that “S:D” may have meant “Standard Dues” - or perhaps “Single Dues”), while “D:D” may have attached to the burial of a non-parishioner. (Many parishes imposed double dues on non-parishioners, although the St. Mary, Newington rates seem to have used a slightly different formula.) “N:D” reasonably can be interpreted as “No Dues”, as indeed no dues were recorded in the later columns; these may have been pauper burials.

“If this analysis holds water, the dues payable to the Rector (in the fifth column) seem to have been 1 shilling for children who were parishioners; 1 shilling and 6 pence for men or women who were parishioners; 6 shillings for parishioners (whether adult or child) for whom a Desk Service was conducted; and 6 shillings for non-parishioners (whether adult or child). The amounts in the last two columns may have depended on bell ringing choices, burial location (and perhaps depth), whether the deceased was parishioner or non-parishioner, and other things.”

A number of other readers had good suggestions. Christine in Hertfordshire said: “I was intrigued by the burial register question and wondered whether SD & DD referred to single and double depth burials.” Steve Low wondered if I had considered that D.S. could be D.I. of deceased infant or perhaps what the person died from. David Morgan suggested “died single” (but Robert was only 4 years old) or “documents signed”. [RootsWeb has an interesting list of genealogical abbreviations [here](#).]

Were You Aware...

Canadian Online Indexes

Elizabeth LaPointe in her [Genealogy Canada blog](#) on Tuesday discussed [Canadian Online Indexes](#). She referred to Ontario indexes that Jane MacNamara mentioned in her *Where the story takes me* blog: [Big indexes to consider for every Ontario ancestor](#). Elizabeth herself has blogged about Canadian indexes at [Family History Daily](#) blog. Her blog is called: [10 Free Canadian Genealogy Websites](#). If you have Canadian ancestors, you will find these indexes very helpful.

The NEW FreeREG for England, Scotland and Wales

[FreeREG](#) is a companion to [FreeBMD](#) (which is a database of the GRO birth, marriage and death indexes from 1837 for England & Wales) and [FreeCEN](#) (which is a database of census information for England, Scotland and Wales). It provides free Internet searches of baptism, marriage, and burial records, which have been extracted from parish registers and non-conformist church records in the UK after 1538. They have recently announced that a new version of this website is ready for searching at [FreeREG2](#), using the same set of records as the original [FreeREG](#). You will find that it has some new search options and it works slightly differently, so do not expect exactly the same search result. It is quite fast and you may even find something new (I did that: it was not found on the original version). There are nearly 33 million transcribed parish register records and 10,000 are being added daily. Note that there are a number of Scottish records. If you would like to see what is available for a parish you are interested in, click [here](#) to get the number of records transcribed and the dates covered for each parish.

Irish Catholic Parish Registers – Coming Soon!

[National Library of Ireland](#) will launch its new **FREE** website of digitized Catholic parish registers on July 8th. There will be nearly 400,000 images of the microfilm reels on which the parish registers are recorded. Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover 1,091 parishes throughout Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records. Check this space (**What's New**) in two weeks for the actual new website where the records will be available. Or check the National Library of Ireland [blog](#) on July 8th.

Listing of New Films at the Toronto FHC has been discontinued.

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

CLOSED July 1st for Canada Day. CLOSED JULY 14th to 23rd for the Pan-Am Games.

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](#)

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