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### Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Christmas from December 20<sup>th</sup> to January 6<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

### Toronto OGS Monthly Meeting – November 26, 7:30pm, Burgundy Room, North York Centre Great Moments in Genealogy.

Ten members have volunteered to give a five minute talk on an interesting discovery in their history. For the titles of the talks (which look really interesting) and location information, please go to

<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/meetings.html>. Non-members are welcome - \$5 entrance.

### Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Book – *A Table of Church of Ireland Parochial Records and Copies* – This is a list of all the Church of Ireland parishes, their diocese and county, which records (baptisms, marriages and burials) are available, and where they can be found. This edition has updates to 2010.

These two CDs will be available next Thursday:

CD – **Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858** is a comprehensive index to the Testamentary Records in the National Archives of Ireland. This CD contains over 100,000 names in over 70,000 individual records and is a valuable resource for early records.

CD – **Burials index of South Westmorland** – This CD has an index to the burials in 32 parishes with the extra details in the records. There are more than 40,000 burial records on this CD.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has updated their collection of Dorset parish records – births & baptism 1813-1906, marriages & banns 1813-1921 and deaths & burials 1813-2001, and the UK and Ireland records of masters & mates certificates 1850-1927.

**FamilySearch** has digitized a huge collection of municipal records for 19 Spanish provinces, dating from the 1500s. These collections are only available to browse. The Ontario birth indexes 1869-1912 have been updated.

**FindMyPast.com** has added Byrne's Irish Times Abstracts; these extracts cover the City of Dublin and its southern suburbs from 1859 to 1901.

**DeceasedOnline** has added another cemetery to their Bolton Council collection. The data for the Heaton Cemetery features nearly 95,000 burials from December 1879 until June 2012. There are now over 200,000 Bolton burial records online. They have also added 25,000 memorial inscriptions for 13 Scottish cemeteries in various locations.

**Origins.net** Is offering free access to its collection of 169,000 burial indexes and 140,000 baptism indexes until Saturday at midnight GMT.

**New York National Guard Soldiers – WWII** – Dick Eastman's blog of November 16<sup>th</sup> mentioned an interesting database, which contains data for nearly 29,000 New York National Guard soldiers who signed up for Active Military Service in 1940. Available at the New State Military museum <http://dmna.ny.gov/historic/mil-hist.htm>, the database is called **27<sup>th</sup> Division Men who were Federalized in 1940**. Data taken from cards includes name, birth date and place, home city, regiment, enlistment date, rank and whether he was wounded or died.

## **The Forum:**

### **Question:**

#### **Q1/42/2012. Yorkshire.**

I am searching for the parents of my ggg grandmother, Martha Drake, born in West Yorkshire about 1801. She married Thomas Speight (b. 28 December 1801 in Bingley, Yorkshire) on 29 Jul 1822 in Bradford, Yorkshire. Their first child, John, was born 15 December 1822 and baptized in Bingley, followed by Samuel Drake (b. ca. 1824) and Alice (b. ca. 8 January 1827). Martha and Thomas and the three children emigrated around 1828 and by 1837 they had settled in Markham, Ontario where seven more children were born. According to obituaries for Thomas (28 February 1875 in Markham, Ontario) and Martha (30 April 1882 in Markham, Ontario) they were Wesleyan Methodists. I can find no record of Martha's birth or baptism in Bingley or Bradford; however a search of Ancestry finds a record in the West Yorkshire Non-Conformist Records 1646-1985 of the birth of Matty Drake born 9 August 1801 at Shipley in the parish of Bradford to Samuel Drake and Alec Drake. Might "Matty" be a "nickname" for Martha? There is also a WY Non-Conformist Record for Hannah Drake born 3 December 1803 to Samuel and Alec Drake and given that Martha and Thomas Speight named their youngest daughter Martha Hannah, is it reasonable to think that I may have found the names Martha's parents? I would also welcome suggestions for finding baptismal records for Samuel Drake Speight and Alice Speight – searches of Ancestry, Find My Past and Family Search have not been successful.

There are many records with indexes for West Yorkshire online now on Ancestry, FindMyPast and FamilySearch. However, these records are not complete. While it is likely that Martha was born in West Yorkshire, the researcher needs to be confident that is the case. There are more complete non-conformist records online at TheGenealogist.co.uk, which is available at FHCs. A search of these records yielded a candidate for the baptism of Martha Drake in 1800, daughter of Thomas and Hannah Drake, born in Thornhill, baptised in Ossett Independent Green Chapel, Ossett, Dewsbury. It is less likely that Martha would have been christened as Matty or Hannah. But many records await transcription, indexing, and digitization and others have been lost. The problem is if you select the wrong Martha Drake, all the research from her back will be incorrect. A baptism at the right time and place should not mean acceptance; more proof is necessary. Matty, Hannah and Martha may all be wrong.

In looking for the baptisms of the next two children, Samuel Drake Speight and Alice Speight, does the researcher know that they were born in West Yorkshire or just England (from the Canadian censuses)? If the family were moving to Canada for economic reasons, maybe the children were born en route, as it were, in another county in England.

Lastly, in checking Ancestry public trees, there are several trees containing these people but no concrete evidence of Martha Drake's parents or birth places of Samuel and Alice. As an aside, many families, like our volunteer Harold Lane, would like to trace their ancestry directly back to Sir Francis Drake. However, Sir Francis had no legitimate heirs.

## **News From the Trenches**

**My Favourite Ancestor** – No submissions this week

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

### **Family Tree DNA Sale by Linda Reid**

Until December 31st [Family Tree DNA](#) (FTDNA) has a sale on a number of its products including the Y-chromosome test (males only) and the Family Finder test. I have made extensive use of the Family Finder test which identifies relatives on all sides of your family for several generations.

We inherit our autosomal DNA (what the Family Finder tests) half from each parent, in a random mix. That means that my mother and her sister, who are identified by the test as having shared DNA in the range of full siblings, only share two-thirds of their matches. The test will identify all second cousins but a declining percentage of more distant cousins, because the test subjects may not have enough matching DNA.

The FTDNA computer compares your results with those of others who have been tested by the company, determines matches, and posts them on your account on their website. I now have 142 "matches", half that of my mother. Apart from the people I already know, I have one match at the 3rd cousin level and the rest at 4th, 5th or 5th to remote level. Most of

the family trees of my matches relate to ancestors in the United States. So far I have not made any breakthroughs in discovering new distant cousins to whom I can connect.

What I have accomplished is the confirmation that many of the people on my family tree are indeed my ancestors. I have done this by comparing known relatives. My matches were meaningless to me until my first cousin was tested. My matches in common with her indicate which ones are on my Dad's side and also confirm (since we tested at the first cousin range) that our grandparents are the people we believe them to be. We then tested our mothers and then branched out to parental cousins (people in their late 80s or 90s). Matches that my mother has in common with a first cousin would relate to their common grandparents and confirm a set of great-grandparents on my tree. I now feel confident that 3 of my 4 sets of great-grandparents and one set of 2xgreat-grandparents (based on the test results of my mother's second cousin) are my ancestors at the appropriate level.

Many families have non-parental events (illegitimacies, informal adoptions). Family Finder is a tool that can confirm that you have correctly identified your ancestors (at least for a few generations). I know two people who discovered in the last few months that someone they thought was an ancestor, was not.

The test isn't cheap, even at the sale price of \$199 US. Your results will be most useful to you if you can persuade a cousin to test as well to compare results. If your budget permits, it is valuable to test the older generation. The printed and electronic records will still be here in five years but your older relatives may not be. All my aunts' "matches" are my relatives too, even if I didn't inherit the pieces of DNA to prove it. It is by our matches to previously identified relatives that we confirm that we have correctly identified some of our ancestors.

I am hopeful that as more people of recent British ancestry are tested I will make some interesting connections and perhaps breakthroughs. In the meantime I am happy to know that most of the great-grandparents I am researching are my ancestors.

I will be happy to show my online results to those visiting the Toronto FHC on Tuesday mornings.

### **UK County Resources – Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, next week Bedfordshire**

This week we have some suggestions for Cambridgeshire and a few more for Norfolk. If you have a resource that you find particularly useful for Cambridgeshire and/or , please send it/them to the Bulletin.

[If you have not tracked any English or Welsh ancestors back to the start of civil registration in 1837, you should start by using the civil registration index at [FreeBMD](#) and census information for 1841 to 1911. If you need some help to do this, please come to any Family History Centre where volunteers will be happy to help.]

#### **Norfolk:**

George Tuck sent the Bulletin some good links for Norfolk.

The Norfolk County Council has put several different historic maps online at <http://www.historic-maps.norfolk.gov.uk/maps.aspx> .

Enclosure maps date from the late-eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. They may often provide the earliest detailed survey of a parish.

The Norfolk Historical Map Explorer includes nearly 700 tithe maps, which cover about 85% of Norfolk. They were created between 1836 and about 1850.

Norfolk was first surveyed between 1879 and 1886 at the six-inch to the mile scale resulting in the First Edition Ordnance Survey Maps.

Norfolk Record Office - <http://www.archives.norfolk.gov.uk/index.htm>

Easy access from Market Square – about 15 minute walk (uphill) or take the 100 City Link bus which runs every 20 minutes.

They have a good website which outlines available records and access to them.

No individual records or index online except for holdings.

[https://familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=localitydetails&subject=18291&subject\\_disp=England,+Norfolk,+Northwold&columns=\\*,0,0](https://familysearch.org/eng/library/fhlcatalog/supermainframeset.asp?display=localitydetails&subject=18291&subject_disp=England,+Norfolk,+Northwold&columns=*,0,0)

Some records to be found online at FamilySearch including property, lands, workhouses, schools

Genuki – Norfolk - <http://www.origins.org.uk/genuki/NFK/>

A good place to start for background genealogy information and many links.

Norfolk Rootsweb Mailing List

<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/ENG/NORFOLK.html>

A good place to ask genealogy related questions specific to Norfolk including surname searches, place searches and links to other sources of data.

<http://www.genealogylinks.net/uk/england/norfolk/> - A healthy list of links to other Norfolk Genealogy sites.

<http://www.genealogy.doun.org/transcriptions/> - This site had quite a few individuals from my father's family, transcribed parish records that led me to verify more information.

#### **Cambridgeshire:**

[Cambridgeshire Churches](#) has a very nice description of each church with accompanying pictures for 199 churches.

The Cambridgeshire Family History Society has a new website: <http://www.cfhs.org.uk/index.cfm?tag=1> . Their new "super search" allows one to enter a name; this will bring up a list of where the name occurs with a link to a CD of parish registers available to purchase.

FindMyPast has some Cambridgeshire parish record transcriptions online.

The Cambridgeshire County Council with the help of the CFHS have indexed the Birth, Marriage, Civil Partnerships and Death Records within Cambridgeshire since 1837. This website is [CAMDEX](#). The index is available to review free of charge: copies of BMD certificates can be ordered and paid for on-line from the CCC Registration Service. It can help identify the spouse in a marriage (a specific spouse is listed) and is an independent source of information separate from, for example, FreeBMD.

The Cambridge County Record Office for both Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire has put many of its records online at the [A2A](#) (Access to Archives) website. There are many genealogically interesting records here: apprenticeship records, settlement records, bastardy examinations, land transfers, etc.

#### **No films were received in the week ending November 22, 2012.**

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. The ordering patron will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description but a search in the FamilySearch catalog 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.)**

Monday 9:30 am to 2 pm

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm, and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 4 pm

Thursday 9:30 am to 12 noon and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Friday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Saturday 9:30 am to 12 noon

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed for Christmas from December 20th to January 6th inclusive.

**For a copy of a searchable listing of all films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre in pdf format, go to the Toronto FHC Website at <http://torontofhc.blogspot.com/> and look for it under Resources.**

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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 Est. 111

Email: Toronto\_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca