

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Toronto Family History Centre



From our directors and volunteers:

Doug Armstrong
Ann Behan
Diana Davies
Joe Mounsey
Ron Scott

Gwen Armstrong
Helen Billing
Harold Lane
Linda Reid

Our best wishes for 2013!

I am sorry to announce that my Wednesday afternoon partner, Harold Lane, is leaving the Toronto Family History Centre to retire to greener pastures in Burlington. We all wish him well in his new home.

In This Bulletin

Announcements – Now closed until January 7th; no longer open on Thursday mornings.

What's New – FamilySearch (Indexes of Germans, Russians & Italians to America), Ancestry (US Postmasters), FindMyPast.co.uk (50 free credits), DeceasedOnline (Two more Bolton cemeteries, 39,000 SMIs for Fife); LostCousins (free until December 31)

The Forum – No new questions

News From the Trenches - An unusual census entry; FHC volunteers – our most valuable resource

Were You Aware ... UK County Resources – on hold

Announcements

The Toronto FHC is now closed until January 7th. After the Christmas Break we will no longer be open on Thursday mornings. Also starting in the new year, we will close 15 minutes earlier on Wednesday afternoons to allow patrons to get a head start on the traffic (actually it is for the volunteer). We will also be closed on the Tuesday mornings of January 15th and the 22nd for staff holidays.

The picture below was found at the Toronto FHC some time ago. If this is your photograph, please email us and we will put it in a safe place for you. The original is about 2" wide and 1¼" high – not much bigger than pictured here.



What's New

[FamilySearch](#) has reached a milestone – this week they added several historical record collections and now have more than 1400 collections available online without charge. Some of these are indexed, while others are available for browsing. Several large sets of indexes new this week were created by the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, Centre for Immigration Research and contain millions of names – Germans to America, Italians to America and Russians to America from about 1850 to 1900. FamilySearch is always looking for volunteers to index images – if you have some time to help with these projects, just click on the Indexing tab on the FamilySearch home page.

[Ancestry](#) has added records of 1.5 million US postmasters appointed between 1832 and 1971. They have also updated the number of fields which have been indexed on the 1940 US Census. This means that you can now narrow your search by occupation, industry, education, etc. A lot of US state records of naturalizations have been added or updated recently. The non-conformist registers for West Yorkshire have been updated and now contains 650,000 records.

[FindMyPast.co.uk](#) is offering 50 free credits to get you started on your family tree between December 26 and January 1. Go to their home page and you will find the 50 free credits offer on the right hand side.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added two more cemeteries to complete its Bolton collection. Westhoughton Cemetery has 16,736 burials between May 1858 and August 2008. Horwich (aka Ridgmont) Cemetery is a small cemetery contain 6,025 burials from March 1928 until August 2006. The burial register scans have approximately 20 entries per scanned page; the grave details provide information on all those buried in the grave and the grave reference, and cemetery maps show the section where the grave is located. DeceasedOnline has also added about 39,000 more Scottish Memorial Inscriptions for 13 more burial grounds in Fife, Scotland. There are also associated photographs of the headstones. It is interesting to note that relatives and friends, who are not buried in that grave, are often mentioned and that a married woman is often recorded by her maiden name.

[LostCousins](#) will be completely FREE from now until the end of December; this means that you can make contact with the members you're matched with through your My Ancestors page even if you're not a subscriber. LostCousins matches census details that you have entered for your family with details entered by others and Peter Calver maintains that it is extremely accurate. The matches can be done on the following censuses (information to be entered is indicated):

England & Wales 1841: Piece, Book, Folio, Page

England & Wales 1881: Piece, Folio, Page

England & Wales 1911: RG14 Piece number, Schedule number

Scotland 1881: Volume (or Registration number), Enumeration District, Page

United States 1880: NA Film number (or Roll), Page

Canada 1881: District, Sub-District (if any), Division (if any), Page, Household number

Ireland 1911: National Archives of Ireland film number (prefixed by 'nai')

The Forum:

Question: No new questions this week.

News From the Trenches

Gwen Armstrong sent me a census entry that she thought was funny this week. She said "Check out Ellen Maria Bradley's birth date – 30 Feb 1845". It took me few seconds to clue in. Here is the entry:

Tida Grand	7	White	daughter	S	July 25 th	1892	8	Ont - R		Irish
Bradley, Fredericka	10	White	Isaac	M	July 24 th	1846	61	Ont - R		English
Ellen Maria	7	White	wife	M	Feb 30 th	1845	55	Ont - R		" "
John George Scott	10	White	son	S	April 14 th	1894	14	Ont - R		Irish

The volunteers and former volunteers in the Toronto Family History Centre had a get-together yesterday. I have the least experience of all the volunteers, being a volunteer only since 2002. Alan & Sheila Smith who retired earlier this year had been volunteers since about 1997. Linda Reid, Ann Behan and Harold Lane joined the team shortly after that. Gwen Armstrong was bitten by the genealogy bug at the age of ten and has helped patrons for many years. Joe Mounsey and Diana Davies have also been volunteers for years. These volunteers collectively have over 100 years experience in helping patrons – quite a remarkable group! I encourage you to use our most valuable resource – our volunteers.

Were You Aware ...

UK County Resources – column on hold

[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.]

No films received in the week ending December 20, 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 (closed Jan 15th and 22nd) and 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm

Thursday 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 until January 7th.

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.

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

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