

In this Bulletin

Announcements – FHC is closed until January 9th, OGS Toronto Announcements – *Great War Workshop* and *For King and Country Database*

What's New – FindMyPast (1911 England & Wales census, 1871 Scottish census), FamilySearch (many more film images to browse), Ancestry (Old Canadian books)

The Forum – No new questions – do you have a brick wall?

Were You Aware ... Brantford Public Library resources

Announcements

The Toronto FHC will remain closed until 9:30am on Monday.

March Workshop in Toronto – Finding Your Great War Ancestors

Registration is now open for what may be the most authoritative Great War workshop during your genealogical lifetime! Don't miss Finding Your Great War Ancestors, a packed full-day workshop to be held in March 2012 in Toronto, co-sponsored by the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society and the Canadiana Department of North York Central Library. Choose one of three concurrent lecture streams – British Research, Canadian Research and "Case Studies and Curios" – or mix and match the topics that interest you the most. Learn from some of the world's leading Great War experts, including Simon Fowler, one of Britain's top family history teachers, writers and researchers, and Canadian War Museum historian and author Tim Cook. Discover new resources and practical research strategies, find out about intriguing projects now underway, experience poignant and sometimes shocking stories, and gain new perspectives on the "war to end war".

Where: North York Memorial Community Hall, 5110 Yonge Street, Toronto (at North York Centre subway station)

When: Saturday 31 March 2012

Early registration rates apply until 22 February 2012, and special discounts are available for OGS members. For full program details, speaker biographies and registration information, visit www.torontofamilyhistory.org/GreatWarWorkshop2012.html.

For King and Country Database – OGS Toronto

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has added almost 3,600 more names to For King and Country, its on-line database of war memorials in Toronto schools. Launched on Remembrance Day 2010, this database includes transcriptions and photographs of school memorials, as well as information about the history of the schools themselves and links to other useful school and community websites. Some of the memorials name only those who died in war, but most include all who enlisted.

The For King and Country database – which can be searched by surname, forename, school or keywords at www.torontofamilyhistory.org/kingandcountry/ – now contains more than 26,000 names from 70 elementary and secondary schools and will continue to grow. The latest additions to the database are: Agincourt Continuation School, Deer Park Public School, Earl Grey School, Midland Avenue School, Morse Street School, Park School, Parkdale Public School, Regal Road School, William Burgess School, and Withrow Avenue School.

For more information about this project and how to contribute, contact: Martha Jackson at kingandcountry@torontofamilyhistory.org.

What's New

FindMyPast removed the redaction of the infirmity column from the 1911 England and Wales census yesterday; so one can now see if your ancestors were deaf, blind or feeble-minded. I have had some trouble accessing the images (probably due to the amount of traffic on the site) but I have yet to find any information in the previously-redacted column. In December FindMyPast added a transcription of the 1871 Scottish census – one can now view Scottish census transcriptions for 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871.

FamilySearch is furiously adding images of films one can browse through – check your country/county/state of interest to see what has been added. There are now 1.5 million Jamaican birth registrations with images available. There is a good selection of Cornwall parish registers available to browse – some are transcriptions, which is helpful. For some time, one has been able to browse through a lot of Norfolk parish registers; now a small but helpful number have been indexed. Great Yarmouth seems to be well represented. One large Canadian collection is the Probate Estate Files of Saskatchewan 1887-1931, which contains the index and images of estate files from Saskatchewan judicial districts. The estate records contain loose papers relating to the settlement of estates including such matters as provision for heirs including minor children as well as distribution of funds, land and property.

Ancestry has been busy since December adding a number of small Canadian databases, most of which are digitized books – unindexed but browsable. One that caught my eye is: *Toronto past and present, historical and descriptive: a memorial volume for the semi-centennial of 1884* by Henry Scadding. It can also be found at the Toronto Reference Library and in the Canadiana Room at the North York Library but this could be a useful resource for out-of-town folk. There are several similar books for Vancouver and BC. Naturalization records for Oregon, Idaho and Washington have been added and an update to the Cayuga County, Ohio marriage database brings the number of records to over 1.8 million.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions. Do you have a brick wall? Perhaps our volunteers and readers can help you.

Were You Aware ...

Local History Online at the Brantford Public Library

This week's spotlight in the New England Genealogical Society Newsletter (The Weekly Genealogist) is on resources available for Brantford from the Brantford Public Library. The Library has indexed births, marriages, and deaths appearing in the Brantford Expositor from 1852. Notices for anniversaries, divorces, birthdays, and naturalizations are also included for some years. The index lists the date of the notice not the date of the event. The actual notice is only available on microfilm at the Main Library. Non-residents can request photocopies of notices as outlined on their website: <http://brantford.library.on.ca/localhistory/>. The data fields in the search results include name, type of notice, date the notice appeared, page number, and notes. The 'page' field includes the newspaper title abbreviation. The 'notes' field contains information such as the name of the deceased's spouse, names of a child's parents, and references to other articles that mention the person about whom the notice was written. There is also a Virtual War Memorial for residents of Brantford and the Six Nations, who were killed in WWII. It has photographs and biographies of the more than 300 who made the ultimate sacrifice. A third resource on this website is "The Digital Archives", a fully searchable database that includes a wealth of digitized books, biographies, newspapers, school yearbooks and pictorial histories. The Archives offer an incredible selection of historical photographs.

No films have been received since December 15, as we have been closed for the holidays.

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 Family History Library 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 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Tuesday 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday 9:30 a.m. to noon; 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed until January 9th.

For a copy of a searchable listing of all the 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

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