

Five battles were fought in Ypres, Belgium during the First World War. The first in the fall of 1914; the second in the spring of 1915; the third, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, summer and fall of 1917; the fourth known as the Battle of the Lys or Battle of Estaires in the spring of 1918; the fifth during the fall of 1918.

It was during the second battle, that poison gas was used on a large scale on the Western Front. Major John McCrae, a surgeon from Guelph, Ontario, attached to the 1st Field Artillery Brigade spent 17 days treating injured men in the second battle of Ypres. In his own words:

"I wish I could embody on paper some of the varied sensations of that seventeen days... Seventeen days of Hades! At the end of the first day if anyone had told us we had to spend seventeen days there, we would have folded our hands and said it could not have been done."

Within the space of just 48 hours there were over 6000 Canadian casualties. One of those who died was a friend, Lt. Alexis Helmer. Major McCrae witnessed his death and later, in the absence of a chaplain, presided over the funeral.

The next day found McCrae north of Ypres. As he sat on the back of an ambulance during a rare break he pondered the poppies growing wild in a nearby cemetery. It was at this time he penned the famous poem, **In Flanders Fields**.

A soldier watching him, later wrote, *"The poem was exactly an exact description of the scene in front of us both. He used the word blow in that line because the poppies actually were being blown that morning by a gentle east wind... It seemed to me just an exact description of the scene."*

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.

John McCrae

In this Bulletin

Announcements

Military records free this weekend at Ancestry.com
Friends of the Toronto Public Library Book Sale

What's New

New military records at Ancestry.com

Additions to our Permanent Collection

Military books

The Forum

An answer for last week's question

Were You Aware...

Online military indexes

Announcements

Ancestry.com has military records free this weekend - November 11 to 14. www.ancestry.com

The Friends of Toronto Public Library, South Chapter, are having a sale of used books etc. in the Beeton Auditorium, Toronto Reference Library, Yonge St., Friday, Nov 19th, 1-5 pm and Saturday, Nov 20th. 9am to 5pm. This sale will include a very large number of good genealogy books etc. that we have acquired over the last year or so. Priced from \$1 to \$5

What's New

Ancestry www.ancestry.com has added some new military records and if you read the announcements above, you will know you can search them free this weekend.

Canada

WW1 Canadian Expeditionary Force Burial Registers 1914-1919

WW1 Commonwealth War Graves Registers 1914-1919

United Kingdom

Military Campaign Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1949

Naval Medal and Award Rolls 1793-1972

Citations of the Distinguished Conduct Medal 1914-1920

United States

WW2 Draft Registration Cards, 1942

Military and Naval Academies, Cadet Records and Applications 1805-1908

WW2 Prisoners of the Japanese 1941-1945

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

The following books have been donated by Judy Bizley. They were published by the National Archives, England.

Family History in the Wars How your ancestors served their country by William Spencer

Published by the National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop/details.aspx?titleId=240>

Medals The Researcher's Guide by William Spencer

An excellent book to use to trace the origins of those war medals you inherited from great grand-dad.

Covers over 200 years of awards, orders, decorations and medals from conflicts and awards across the world.

Army Records A guide for family historians by William Spencer

Published by the National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop/details.aspx?titleId=376>

First World War Army Service Records A guide for family historians by William Spencer

Published by the National Archives <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop/details.aspx?titleId=561>

Look for these books to be catalogued and placed on the book shelves in the main room in the next couple of weeks. If you would like to look at them sooner, just ask one of the volunteers at the desk.

The Forum

Questions:

No new questions were received this week. Keep them coming. We love solving mysteries.

Answers:

Q2/44/2010. Denmark/USA/Canada.

Birthe Jensen, the oldest child (born December 3, 1832) was my great great grandmother. She was married in Denmark, had four children, and then in 1880 the 6 of them came to live in Ontario. I always assumed that the brothers and sisters of Birthe stayed in Denmark. However, I came across an old photograph which dates from 1900 – 1910 (I estimate) that says on the back "Birthe's sister – Mrs. Christopherson, Duluth". It would seem that one of Birthe's sisters came to North America and was living in Duluth and married a man by the name of Christopherson. Which sister? There were several sisters in the family. When did she come? Have you any suggestions on how next to proceed?

Mary Crandall has found some interesting information on the Jensen and Christopherson families:

Rasmus Jensen, b. abt 1854 in Denmark, to Canada via England on 4 June 1910 (ancestry.ca, border crossing from Canada to US) He was a shoemaker, age 56, with his wife Anna Sofie age 40 and 3 children, Lillie Bertha age 16, Rosa Viola age 11 & Kaja Margratha age 9. Next of kin given as Karen Jensen of Iyveloe, Sjøtland, Denmark. They were headed to Weston Idaho. Contact was cousin, Mr. Jens Larsen of Logan Idaho and friend Hans Hansen of Weston Idaho. His place of birth given as Knushop? Denmark, 2 older kids born in Copenhagen, the youngest born in Monkabjerbz? Arrived in Canada on S.S. Laurentic (sailed from Liverpool on 28 May 1910)

Ancestry.com has marriages in Denmark 1631-1900 (transcriptions only)

Peder Christoffersen, age 21 years

Karen Marie Jensen, age 21 years
Married: 7 Feb 1864, Roholte, Praesto, Denmark

Is this our Mrs. Christopherson, Duluth? More research is needed to verify but the indexes are available on Ancestry and through the *FamilySearch* record search pilot <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#start> which has baptisms 1618-1923, burials 1640-1917 and marriages 1635-1916.

News From the Trenches - Do you have an interesting story to share? Eileen Easby sent the following:

I first wrote [the Toronto FHC] on this subject around September 2009, asking you to look at the Irish Civil Registration Indexes. You did me the favour of looking for me and came up with two names and dates, which did not seem to be quite correct. I was in Belfast this past August and I had the chance to go to the Registry office for the day and use their computer system to bring up their records. I went through as many as I could for Mary Jane Coulter's death and came up with nothing. I decided to have a closer look at the two names you had provided for me and "Viola!" I now know when my Gr Gr. Grandmother Mary Jane died. The second name you found, Mary Ann Coulter, was the correct one, but a neighbour, who had been present at her death, gave the wrong middle name and she became Mary Ann Coulter for the record. The Registry office people have the original books right there and brought the book out for me to see and I knew instantly, that I had the correct record, as it was from Ballymacilroy, which is a small Townland and all my Coulters are from there.

Were You Aware...

There are some really good military databases available online. I have listed a few favourites below. For a more detailed list, check out the links on Cyndi's List <http://www.cyndislist.com/milres.htm>

Australia

WW1 Service Records <http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/explore/defence/service-records/army-wwi.aspx>

WW2 Nominal Roll <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/>

Canada

Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/> Search the register for the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars.

Canadian War Brides <http://www.canadianwarbrides.com/> History and information about the War Brides of WW2

Soldiers of the First World War <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/index-e.html>

Attestation papers.

WW2 Service Files - War Dead <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/war-dead/index-e.html>

New Zealand

New Zealand and WW1

http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/NZ%20And%20WWIFrame1Source1.htm?cj=1&o_xid=0000584978&o_lid=0000584978

United Kingdom

Commonwealth War Graves Commission <http://www.cwgc.org/> Search the register for the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died during the two world wars.

Chelsea Pensioners British Army Service Records 1760-1913 – Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk (available free of charge at your local Family History Centre)

Ireland's Memorial Records of the Great War – Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk (available free of charge at your local Family History Centre)

WW2 Prisoners of War – Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk (available free of charge at your local Family History Centre)

The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 Records – Find My Past www.findmypast.co.uk (available free of charge at your local Family History Centre)

United States

WW1 Draft Registration Cards on ancestry.com (free this weekend!)

http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6482&cj=1&o_xid=0000584978&o_lid=0000584978

Veterans Affairs Burial Search http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

No new films were received this week.

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another patron should check first with staff. The patron who ordered the film will always have priority. The description of the film given above may not be a full description. A film number search in the Family History Library Catalog will reveal the full content of the film. The geographical abbreviations used above are based on 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 12 noon and 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

Friday 9.30 a.m. to 4pm

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Closures: Christmas, Dec 18th to January 2 inclusive. Saturday, January 15th.

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.

Should 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

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3C 3V4 Phone: 416 422 5480 Ext. 111.

Email: Toronto_FHC "at" bellnet dot ca