

Many thanks to Gwen Armstrong for filling in as editor for the last three weeks and covering extra volunteer shifts.

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Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed for our Christmas Break from December 19th to January 8th inclusive.

Toronto OGS Meeting – Monday, November 28th at 7:30pm

This month's meeting looks to be a basket of delights. Ten Toronto Branch members will share "great moments" in their genealogical research with the audience. With titles like *I'll get to that one day...*; *Sex, Lies, and Family History: the Story of Janet Forbes Morren*; *On the Trail of a Skunk - A case of Frontier Divorce*; and *Five dollars ruined his career*, I am sure it will be an entertaining and informative evening. For more information, go to

<http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/meetings.html> .

Last Week to fill in the Canadian Genealogical Survey

Two professors at the University of Carleton are conducting a survey about genealogy/family history projects. To date more than 2,000 people have completed the survey and they are closing the survey at the end of November. It seeks to understand this surge of interest and secure accurate information concerning the resources engaged with by family historians/genealogists. Please go to <http://www.cusurveycentre.ca/gensurvey/> to complete this survey – remember more participants result in a more accurate survey. This survey is not limited to Canadians.

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

One New Book - DEU SAC Sachsen II - Map of Guide to German Parish Registers for Sachsen, Prussia

This book is part of a series which will help identify what church records to search if a specific town is known. It may also help identify what church parishes can be found if a general area is known. There are maps for each area/county and FHL film numbers containing church records are listed if they are available. As this is one of a large series, we would like to know if other books in the series would be useful. Feedback would be appreciated.

What's New

Ancestry has updated its London, England records; there are now nearly 9 million records for BMBs 1538-1812 and 7.5 million marriages 1754-1921. UK Prison Hulk Registers and Letter Books was also updated. There is a new database of nearly 900,000 records of those who received the Silver War Badge (see Were You Aware...). A lot of small Acadian and Quebec collections have been added. UK Navy Lists for 1908 and 1914 are now available and are helpful for researching the careers of officers in the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Queen Alexandra's Royal Nursing Service, Coast Guard, and other naval entities.

FindMyPast has added a selection of Cheshire databases numbering 10 million records, which span the period 1538-1910: Bishop's Transcripts of the Parish Registers 1576-1905, Church of England Parish Registers 1538-1910, Electoral Registers 1842-1900, Marriage Licence Bonds and Allegations 1663-1905, Non-Conformist and Roman Catholic Records 1671-1910, Workhouse Registers 1781-1910. Chester Wills and Probate records and Land Tax Records will soon be added. Several small databases of military nursing sisters were added earlier this month: Army Nursing Service: 238 nurses of often quite genteel origin, born in the 19th century; Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service:

783 nurses, born between 1859 and 1904; Royal Hospital Chelsea Nurses: records of 165 largely untrained nurses, born between 1839 and 1876, who served between 1856 and 1910; Scottish Women's Hospital: records of 1,575 women (and men) who were stationed in continental Europe during WWI; and WWII Military Nurses: details of 1,244 nurses who served in France with either Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, or Queen Alexandra's Reserve, or the Territorial Army Nursing Service, during WWII.

FamilySearch has added a significant collection for one of our regular patrons: Isle of Man Parish Registers 1598-1950 – 400,000 indexed records. Apparently images can be viewed at family history centres. Both Warwickshire (indexes) and Norfolk (images only) parish record collections have been updated. An index to the 1851 UK census has been added; all census transcriptions from 1841 to 1911 are available free at www.familysearch.org. FamilySearch is gradually adding images of Italian civil registration; check the website to see if images of your town are available yet (there are currently some in the province of Naples). As well FamilySearch is rapidly adding records for the US – Texas birth and death indexes have recently been added, as an example.

TheGenealogist.co.uk has indexed 23 counties or more than 15 million records for the 1911 census and the images attached are twice the resolution of others available. A number of new military record databases have been added. This website is well worth exploring and is available at no charge at Family History Centres.

The National Archives (UK) has published online more than 15,000 First World War nursing service records, providing a glimpse into the life stories of the women who dedicated their lives to their profession. This is a much larger database than the one on FindMyPast (above) and these records can be downloaded from DocumentsOnline for £3.50 each. Go to <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/> to begin your search.

Library and Archives Canada has a new searchable database – the Royal Canadian Navy Ledger Sheets (1910-1941). This database provides access to 16,788 references to individuals who served in the Royal Canadian Navy and the Naval Reserve between 1910 and 1918 and it includes some records for those who enlisted between 1919 and 1941. Go to <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/navyledgersheet/index-e.html> for more information.

The Forum

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/44/2011. Canada.

I have an album full of photographs that was owned by my great-grandmother, who gave it to my great-aunt. I've scanned all of them. Many of the photos were taken in Toronto with the address of the photographer on the bottom right hand corner. It's terribly upsetting that no names appear in the album - as I suppose my great grandmother didn't think anyone would ever forget these people. I would say, since I know the immigration dates, that the pictures date from 1860. Given the knowledge I have of my tree, I can make assumptions about who some of the people are, but I was wondering if there was any way to track old photographs?

Jane Watts writes: "As to the photo album with the dates and names of the photographer, there are 2 books entitled Ontario Photographers List 1851-1900 and 1901-1925. That would at least narrow down the dates that the photos were taken." While we do not have copies of these books in our library, they are available for reference at the North York Central Library (6th floor) and at the Toronto Reference Library. Another way to narrow the date is to find the photographers in Toronto City Directories or in censuses. Internet Archive - <http://www.archive.org/details/texts> - has 20 years of city directories for the early 20th century. The Toronto Public Library has many other city directories.

Other ways to date photos are to examine the type of mounting and the size of the photo and the fashions of the people in them. FindMyPast (an English website) ran a series of blogs by Jayne Shrimpton on family photographs earlier this year and you can read them all here <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/category/family-photos/>. The May 24th blog, *What Are They Wearing?* and the April 26th blog, *What Style of Mount*, may be particularly useful. Fashion in "*The Provinces*" may be a little behind that in England. Wedding photos can provide a date and a list of suspects.

As to who the pictures are of, I wish you good luck. If you have an online tree, you may wish to post the photos there. Contact with first, second or third cousins could prove very helpful. As you have already scanned the photos (a great idea!), you could post them on Flickr or Facebook as an easy way for those cousins to look at them. I met a third cousin through an Ancestry online tree and was able to help her identify my great grandfather in a wedding photo she had.

News from the Trenches

A Visit to the Colindale Newspaper Library

With two days in London on the way home last weekend, we decided to visit the British Newspaper Library in London before it closed and decamped to northern parts. I was interested in seeing if I could find anything about or written by my uncle who wrote for *The Universe* (a weekly Catholic newspaper) and who died in WWII, some years before I was born. My husband emailed the library before we left and they replied within a few hours! With their help we were able to reserve eight years worth of this newspaper to read last Saturday. On arrival a small army of workers were waiting to bring the reserved volumes out to us. With two pieces of documentation (one has to have your address on it – eg. Driver's licence), we quickly got our reader's cards. We spent five hours looking at original copies of the paper and being distracted by the myriad of interesting articles, quite a few about Canada, and by the ads, many of which were for food supplements (bear in mind the strict rationing in place during the war). Unfortunately while we found references and a picture of my uncle after he went missing in action, we were unable to determine which articles he wrote because there were no by-lines. The references did mention what he had been writing about before he signed up but those articles gave no clue about his character. I was aware that my uncle had gone to Germany in September 1938 to cover Hitler's Nuremberg march-past and I have pictures that he took then but none of them made it into *The Universe*. The only downside was the officious coat check person who felt that my husband's very light-weight knit "sweater" was a rambler's jacket and therefore, not allowed in the chilly reading room, although my heavier fleece jacket was.

Were You Aware ...

Silver War Badges

While the British Empire lost more than 700,000 service personnel killed in World War 1, even more were discharged because of wounds or illness. In September 1916, King George V authorized the Silver War Badge (SWB) to honour all military personnel who had served at home or overseas since 4 August 1914 and who had been discharged because of wounds or illness. The SWB was a small, circular badge made of sterling silver, bearing the king's initials, a crown, and the inscriptions 'For King and Empire' and 'Services Rendered'. The SWB also served a practical purpose. At the time, men of military age who were not obviously in the service were sometimes accosted or insulted by civilians presenting them with white feathers — a symbol of cowardice — for shirking their patriotic duty. The badge served as an outward symbol that the wearer's duty to country had been honourably fulfilled. Almost half of the 2 million military personnel discharged from the armed forces during the war for illness or injury (including those who left before the award was instituted in 1916) applied to wear the SWB. Servicemen (or women) from anywhere in the Empire were entitled to it. Any British ancestor who served in the Great War, survived, but was discharged from the forces before 31 December 1919 may well be on the rolls of the SWB contained in this database. If a service record has been lost, a record of the Silver War Badge may be the only remaining evidence of service. These records include rank, regimental number, unit, dates of enlistment and discharge, and reason for discharge. My grandmother received a brass badge, stating "*On War Service*" when she worked at the Woolwich Arsenal making 303 rifle cartridges during WWI for a similar reason – the men working there would not be "white-feathered".

Films received in the 7 days ending 24 November 2011 and due for return on 22 December 2011.

Films Received Table	
Film Content	Film No
DEU BAD Käfertal PRs 1758-1925	1192225
DEU BAD Neckarau PRs 1704-1904	1192229
DEU MEC Biendorf Taufen, Heiraten, Tote 1776-1875 Konf 1821-1875	0068998
DEU MEC Diedrichshagen PRs 1780-1921	0069067
ENG LIN 3 Parish PRs 1560-1998	1541933
ENG WOR Bromsgrove Baptisms, burials, 1774-1815	0321126
IRL WEM Longford PRs 1816-1880	0926027
ITA COS Marzi/Mendicino Civil Reg 1864-1865/1809-1819	1546604
JAM Westmoreland Civ Reg Death Reg 1884-1885	1523515
JAM Westmoreland Civ Reg Marrs 1897-1914	1563131
JAM Westmoreland Civ Reg Marrs 1905-1916	1523662
POL WPRU Groß Tromnau Marienwerder Births 1816-1846	0286031
POL WPRU Groß Tromnau Marienwerder Births 1847-1902	0286032
POL WPRU Groß Tromnau Marienwerder Marr 1812-1913	0286035
PRU WPRU Nieder Zehren PRs Taufen 1856-1875	1198388
PRU WRO Siedlęcin Heiraten 1766-1870 Tote 1749-1775	0890789

Films Received Table	
Film Content	Film No
PRU WRO Siedlęcin Taufen 1819-1839	0890787
PRU WRO Siedlęcin Taufen 1840-1873	0890788

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 from December 19th to January 8th inclusive.

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

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