

This is the last Bulletin for this year. The 2011 volunteers wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas, a healthy and Happy New Year, and hope that 2012 produces many family history successes.

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Announcements

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

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

We have a new book: *Canadians at War 1914-1919 - A Research Guide to War Service Records* (1 red dot) by Glenn Wright. This book identifies which records survive for those who served during World War One, where those records are, and how to access them. The author provides many helpful tips on how to interpret them.

What's New

FamilySearch now has indexes to more than 8.5 million German marriages 1558-1929 online. They continue to update the indexes to many US state births, marriages and deaths.

The Forum

Questions:

Q1/48/2011. Genealogy Software.

I am looking to create a digital genealogy of my family history. I have about 1000 names to include. Could you recommend genealogy software that would do an excellent job with such a large family database?

I decided to tackle this question the week it was asked in case the researcher wishes to put a genealogy program on his Christmas list! Any genealogy program can handle a database of 1,000 names. The "excellent" job that the reader wants depends entirely on the quality of information that is entered. If one takes the time to not only enter data, but to record the source for each item and how dependable the source is, one will end up with an excellent result. If one just enters the data, someone looking at it in 50 years (or perhaps even yourself next year) will wonder how you knew this item and whether that particular piece of information is reliable. Entering 1,000 names with citations will be time-consuming but rewarding. It will also likely lead to the researcher questioning some pieces of information, which usually leads to more avenues to research.

Having got that off my chest, I will turn to the subject of genealogy programs. **Any** of these programs will produce good ancestor charts, ancestor narrative reports, and printed family trees or charts, and allow one to keep track of each person. Most allow you to link photographs and other images. For example, you may have a photograph of your grandmother and also her birth, marriage and death certificates. If these are all scanned, they can be linked to the information about your grandmother.

I looked on the internet for genealogy reviews and found *TopTenReviews* (<http://genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com/>), which rated PC genealogy programs that you pay for. The top three (for PCs), in order, are *Family Tree Maker*, *Legacy* and *RootsMagic*. *Family Tree Maker* is probably the most popular genealogy program currently and Ancestry has recently launched *TreeSync*, which will allow an online Ancestry Tree to be sync'd with your *Family Tree* tree (not that I would recommend that you do that). *Family Tree Maker* is also available in a Mac version; *Reunion* and *MacFamilyTree* are two other genealogy programs written for Mac's. Having said that, a lot of software written for PCs can run on Mac's using a Windows emulator. Such is the case for *The Master Genealogist*, which I use.

There are also a number of genealogy programs that are available to download without charge - reviewed at Gizmo's Freeware. The LDS Church has Personal Ancestral File (PAF) available for download here: <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/paf/>. It is rather basic by today's standards - no bookmarks, back button or HTML capability. Other free software programs are *Legacy Standard* (which will probably remind you what you are missing that you would get if you paid), *Gramps* (never heard of this one), *Family Tree Legends*, *MyHeritage Family Tree Builder*, and *RootsMagic Essentials* (again will likely remind of advantages of paid version). Volunteer, Harold Lane, waxes poetical about *Brother's Keeper*, which he has used for years.

Other things to consider when choosing a program now may be whether you wish or may wish, in the future, to use your genealogy software on your iPhone, iPad, smart phone, etc. Are compatible applications available for those items? A suggestion for doing this is *MobileFamily Tree*.

Global Genealogy has genealogy software available on their website at <http://globalgenealogy.com/software/index.htm> and I have had orders arrive at my house in Toronto in two or three days. So there may still be time to get that genealogy program for Christmas.

News from the Trenches

A Bulletin reader from England who used to visit our Family History Centre in Toronto, Janet King, wrote to update us on her progress with her family history (and to pass on her Christmas Greetings). She wrote: "Gwen, I found my nun! She spent 12 years at the Bartestree Convent in Herefordshire (found by Joe). It was then a difficult task to find her as, in her lifetime, she used 4 different Christian names.....Sophia, Jane, Josephine and Agnes (the last one, Agnes, was the one used by the nuns and the one she used for 60 years). She ended up in Eastbourne and married 3 times, outlasting all her husbands, the last one only by a few months. I think she married for security rather than anything else as none of her husbands had any money. The interesting thing is that when she died, her death certificate showed the name she was originally given by her parents." Our volunteers are always delighted to hear of progress made by our patrons, especially if we have been of some help.

Were You Aware .

Canadian Military Records

Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy has written an article *Online and Traditional Resources for Researching Canadian Military Service Records and History*. It is available here: <http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazrr/gazrr268.htm>. It has an excellent set of links to online databases and a number of good books, which can be purchased from Global Genealogy.

1911 UK Census cont'd

Last week I noted that there were now three different transcriptions of the 1911 England and Wales Census available (although the Ancestry one is not yet complete). Christine wrote to remind me that "the original 1911 Census site (<http://www.1911census.co.uk/>), has different search options from some of the other sites, especially if you go for the full person search, using the advanced options. The 1911 site is now under the aegis of Brightsolid; so is a sister site to FindMyPast, like GenesReunited, which also has 1911. In fact, you can play off the different sites against each other to pull up a great deal of info without ever paying! You wouldn't get the images, of course, and would have to rely on the transcriptions, which are of variable quality."

Films received in the 7 days ending 15 December 2011 and due for return on 26 January 2012.

Film Content	Film No
CAN ON 6 Parishes PRs 1844-1920	2032235
POL Kielce Opatów Akta urodzeń 1865-1872	1808844
POL Kielce Opatów Akta urodzeń, małżeństw, zgonów 1843-1855	0809164

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.

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