

In this Bulletin

Announcements

New Family History Online Film Ordering for Canada Starts Today! **PLEASE READ**

FHC Closures

FHC Copy Computer

OGS Toronto Fall Courses

OGS Toronto Workshop – The Women in Our Past

What's New?

FindMyPast adds half a million BMBs for Thames-side and Medway

The Forum

One question about the will indexes

News From The Trenches

The Red Cross and WWI Records

Were You Aware...

Copying Archival Material

Genealogy Software

Announcements

New Family History Online Film Ordering for Canada

The new Family History Online Film Ordering will be up and running today, Thursday, August 19th. All microfilm/fiche must be ordered online by patrons. As of today, no film orders will be taken at the FHC.

Patrons must now go online to <https://film.familysearch.org> and register for an account. After you register, Salt Lake will send a confirmation email. Please check your SPAM folder for this confirmation email, if you do not immediately receive it.

When you register, you will be asked to choose the FHC you want your film/fiche to go to, from a list - it also includes some libraries, like the Toronto Reference Library. This can be changed whenever you want.

All designated film/fiche will still come to the Toronto FHC and remain onsite to be viewed. No film/fiche will be sent to your home or any other site not on the online list. The Family History Centre will still continue to contact you when the film has arrived at the FHC. You will be able to track your order online.

The new prices for film/fiche are as follows:

Microfiche - **\$5.00** (All microfiche are the same price whether there is 1 fiche in the set, or more.

Microfiche remain in the FHC.)

Short-term film loan - **\$6.00** (Patrons will have roughly the same time to view them as they do now. Films can be renewed for an additional charge of \$6.00 and if the film is renewed twice, it remains in the FHC.

Patrons must renew online before film due date.)

Extended film loan - **\$15.00** (Patrons can now order films as an extended loan. If you know you will want to keep a particular film at the FHC indefinitely, this will save you \$3.00.)

All film/fiche orders and renewals must be done online, by you, the patron, with a credit card.

Eventually all the films we (the Toronto FHC) and other FHC's have onsite will be entered into the online system and patrons will be able to check if a particular microfilm/fiche is at an FHC in their area. For now, please check our List of All Resources at the FHC or with the pdf file available on request.

FHC Closures

We will be closed August 21-23 inclusive; and August 31.

On August 19th and 20th, we will have only one computer available for use because of the **One World; One Family Conference** in Brampton. (Have you registered yet? <http://www.oneworldonefamily-theevent.com/>)

See the bottom of the Bulletin for our current hours. Call before you come if you do not have a booking.

FHC Copy Computer

The Toronto FHC has only one computer which will make copies of film or fiche. This computer cannot be booked. When more than one patron wishes to use this computer at a time, each patron will be limited to a one half hour time slot. We hope that patrons help us with this policy and we suggest that you try an alternative method if you wish to copy many pages. I have had good images by taking photographs (see Copying Archival Material below).

OGS Fall Courses

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is offering five courses in the fall:

Basic Genealogy and Family History - 8 Tuesday evenings, starting September 28

Researching British Forces in Canada before 1871 - 2 Saturday afternoons, Sept 25 & Oct 2

Researching Canadian Military Records – Saturday Oct 9

Beyond the Basics – 4 Wednesday evenings, starting Oct 20

Publish Before You Perish – 2 Saturday afternoons, Nov 13 & 20

Please see <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html> for full details.

OGS Workshop – The Women in Our Past

This day-long workshop will be offered on Saturday, November 6th at the North York Central Library. The early-bird special is valid until the end of September. See <http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org/women.html> for all the details of this workshop sponsored by the Toronto Branch of OGS and the Canadian Department of the North York Central Library.

What's New?

FindMyPast

FindMyPast has added a new collection of half a million records of baptisms, marriages and burials for “Thames-side and Medway” records. This is the first part of a collection licensed from Rob Cottrell and will be helpful to those searching in the areas of Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey close to the Thames and Medway Rivers. FindMyPast can be accessed without charge at FHCs through the FHC Portal.

The Forum

Q1/33/2010. England.

In checking the England and Wales Will and Administration Indexes, online at Ancestry.com, mentioned in last week's Bulletin, I have been pleased to find many relevant references to my family, including some of modest means with effects as low as five pounds. But one question is troubling me. Two had Letters of Administration (with the Will annexed). I thought that Wills and Administrations were mutually exclusive - there either was a Will, or not. Can anyone explain this to me, please?

News From The Trenches

The Red Cross and WWI Records

Ellen McCormick wrote to the Bulletin with some good news this week: “Last year a reader wrote to you with details on getting information about WW1 soldiers through the Red Cross. I used the information that she provided and sent off a letter to Geneva in June 2009. To-day I received information in a document detailing the various events leading to the relative's death in a prison camp in Germany just five days before the end of the war on 6 November 1918.” The article Ellen refers to was written by Eileen

Easby. Eileen got a letter with a lot of information about her grandfather, who was a German prisoner in WWI, by writing to the Archivist of the Red Cross in Geneva. She found the address of the Red Cross by doing a Google search. Eileen encouraged every researcher to persevere and go that extra mile – you never know what you will find out.

Were You Aware...

Copying Archival Material

The *New England Historic Genealogical Society eNews Vol 13, #32* had an article written by Michael J. Leclerc that I thought readers may find interesting:

“Research Recommendations: Scanning vs. Photographing

Last week we received an email asking: ‘I anticipate having the opportunity to view some family histories and am planning to make photos of the pages. I’m wondering if there are reasons why one would want the documents scanned vs photographed.’ ...

Creating electronic copies of documents and images is an excellent way to make sure they survive. One must also take care, however, to create the electronic copies in a way that minimizes damage to the original. Scanning is a good way to create a digital image of flat papers and images. However, be aware that the bright light created by the scanner can do damage to originals. Documents that are in fragile condition, with faded writing, should not be scanned. The bright light can cause even more fading. If they must be scanned, you must be certain to scan them as few times as possible. Every time the image is exposed to the bright light, you are causing damage. Sometimes the damage is not visible to the naked eye, but it will eventually show up in the document.

This is why many archives and repositories do not allow scanning of original documents. Often, however, they will allow photographs to be taken with a digital camera, as long as the flash is turned off.

Depending on the lighting in the area where you are taking the photographs, a tripod might be of tremendous use. Excellent images can be taken in darker lighting, but require a longer exposure. Longer exposures are quite difficult to get with a hand-held camera. ...

Scanners and cameras take the same types of digital images (TIFFs, JPEGs, etc.). A scanner is, in reality, just a fancy camera. Editing the properties, indexing, and other image manipulation will be the same no matter which device you use to create the image.

Before going to any repository, check what their policy is for scanning and digital photography.

Remember that when you get home, your first task should be to label all of the images and send copies to your offsite storage as well as other family members. That way you can be certain some copies will survive.”

I have been making some copies of film images at the FHC recently. I tried the FHC’s computer scanner (before it was serviced) and the digital copies were not very good (nor was the film). I then tried a digital SLR camera with the ISO setting at 3200 and used the non-glare pad on the film reader bed and came up with some very decent copies which I was able to manipulate at home to suit my needs.

Genealogy Software

I erred in last week’s Bulletin and Pierce Reid has corrected me. “The Gedcom format is not quite standard. In addition, many genealogical programs store data that does not fit nicely (or at all) in the Gedcom format. So some data is generally lost when transferring data via the Gedcom format. For basic information it is very useful. But computer programs have become more powerful in recent years and the Gedcom standard has not formally been updated in many years. TMG (The Master Genealogist) is probably the best at getting data directly from the databases of other programs, but its Genbridge system covers only the most popular programs, and even it has problems figuring out how to convert some (usually rarely used) data elements of other programs.”

Eve Zuber had this comment: “For many family historians, it is very important to have a software program that can handle all international characters that appear in other than English languages. If the program

cannot do it, it is quite useless to many of us who have ancestors coming from other than English speaking lands. For example, it is not the same when a name is written Grünn [u with two dots over it] and Grunn [no dots]. So, the first thing I check in any program is if it can handle the UTF-8 encoding (this is the standard that covers all extra characters). If not - like for example 'The Legacy' - it does not matter how many other bells and whistles it has, it is useless because it cannot handle the basics (names & places) properly.”

Eve also had some additional software which she thought was worth mentioning:

PAF - even though it has not been developed for ages, it is still, IMHO, the best stand alone program out there. I tried all others from the best-genealogical-software list but despite their fancy features I still return to the humble PAF. There is nothing like covering the basics well. [FREE at www.familysearch.org]

In addition, a few programs which, even though they are meant mainly for the internet and collaborative display/input, can also be run as standalones:

phpGedview - <http://www.phpgedview.net/> . FREE. Excellent, mature program. Probably the most popular on-line genealogical program. Can handle multiple languages at the same time (each user can see the entries in their own language). Multiple users may contribute/edit data (if allowed by the admin). Handles the multimedia & geo-locations. Very large and helpful community.

The Next Generation - <http://lythgoes.net/genealogy/software.php> . \$29.99 US. Excellent, mature. Great charts & reports.

webtrees - <http://www.webtrees.net/> . FREE. A new program similar to the phpGedview. Still in a beta stage but very promising. Worth keeping an eye on.”

As a Mac user, George Tuck had this to say: “I have been using **MacFamilyTree 5** by Synium for some months and find it easy to use, powerful and good at maintaining the structure of the database. Synium has just released version 6.0. Support for MacFamilyTree seems to be better than Reunion. It has the ability to sync a version of the tree onto iPhone or iPad, but I have had some difficulty setting it up. Earlier because of inadequate Mac software I relied on **PAF** (see above), using Family Tree Maker only for printouts.

Currently, an attractive copy of my tree (password protected) is housed on the MacFamilyTree website which is easily browsed on the iPad directly through the internet - this I found very useful and so have others to whom I have just handed the iPad for a quick, easy search or browse. The tree is also linked from RootsWeb WorldConnect where a skeleton tree is viewable.”

Films received in the 8 days ending 19 August 2010 and due for return on 16 September 2010.

Film Content	Film No
DEU BAD Gochsheim Family Book 1678-1764	1192096
DEU BAY Quirnbach Civ Reg 1811-1814	0415639
DEU MEC Peckatel PRs 1697-1787	0069431
DEU MEC Peckatel PRs 1787-1934	0069432
DEU MEC Peckatel Stavenhagen Census 1819	0068903
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1828-1834	1519136
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1834-1839	1519137
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1839-1845	1519138
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1846-1851	1519139
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1851-1856	1519140
ITA Cosenza Luzzi BMD 1856-1861	1539413
PRU Gross Kruschin PR's Births 1832-88	0527152

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. Any patron may renew a film ordered by another patron although the original patron's name will continue to appear on the label. 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 the 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.

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 12 noon

Saturday 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Summer Closures: August 21 to August 24; August 30; August 31; September 4 to 6.

You can request, by email, a copy of a searchable listing of all the films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre. These will be sent to you as a pdf file attachment to an email but are about 2Mb in size and so high-speed internet connection is desirable.

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

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