



TORONTO TREE

Published by the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society

TORONTO BRANCH MEETINGS

Branch meetings are held at Eglinton St. George's United Church, 35 Lytton Blvd. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Because we will be celebrating the Branch's 50th anniversary at a reception at historic Osgoode Hall on September 25, 2017, there will be no Branch meeting in September. See page 10 for details.

TORONTO'S MASSEY FAMILY: A STORY TOLD THROUGH POSTAL HISTORY

Kathy Hartley
23 October, 2017

Kathy Hartley spent decades researching her own family history before becoming a reference librarian at a philatelic research foundation in Toronto. Once there her patrons were amazed to discover how readily available genealogical sources could tell them who sent, or received, or delivered the mail that carried a favoured stamp, or was part of their postal history collection. This presentation brings Kathy back to her research 'roots' as she shares with Toronto Branch members how she was able to uncover the story of three generations of a famous Canadian philanthropic family by using old envelopes, post cards and other postal materials.

Q & A SESSION: Estate Planning for the Genealogist with a Focus on Digital Assets

Elizabeth Kaegi & Malcolm Kronby

GREAT MOMENTS IN GENEALOGY

27 November, 2017

An annual tradition....for the tenth year in a row, a number of Toronto Branch members will be sharing "great moments" in their genealogical research in a series of short presentations. Special refreshments will be served to celebrate the end of another year. Many members consider this meeting the highlight of the year!

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DNA HELPS WOMAN SOLVE MYSTERY OF HER FATHER'S IDENTITY

Cynthia Reason

There's a painting hanging in [Toronto Branch member] Elizabeth Kaegi's Summerhill home that's reminiscent of a vintage Hollywood movie poster. Fittingly, the reallife wartime story behind it is one many would deem worthy of the silver screen.

From the fleeting romance between a Welsh nurse and American pilot in Burma that conceived Kaegi in the dying days of the Second World War, to her adoption and upbringing in India by missionaries from New Zealand, it's a tale surpassed only by the retired physician's decades-long quest to trace it.

"For years, I spent typically between three and 10 hours a day doing research, building out family trees and writing letters," Kaegi, 71, said of her long and arduous search using genetic genealogy to identify the man depicted in the painting she would later commission and hang with such care: her birth father."

"One of the things I think it's important for people to realize is that just because you use DNA testing and genetic genealogy, that doesn't mean the answers will just fall out of the sky. There is still a hell of a lot of labour involved."

Continued on page 3



**TORONTO BRANCH LEADERSHIP
FOR 2017/18**

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Next Submission Deadline: 15 September 2017 for 25 September 2017 distribution

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The Toronto Branch, established in 1967, is one of 31 branches of the:

ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

2100 Steeles Avenue West, Unit # 202
Concord, ON L4K 2V1

Telephone: 416-489-0734

Toll-free: 855-MYROOTS

Web site: www.ogs.on.ca

The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) is a not-for-profit corporation with almost 5000 members worldwide. Its aim is to encourage, bring together, and assist all those interested in the pursuit of family history.

When you join OGS, you can join any of the 34 branches and special interest groups, for a small additional fee for each.

For Kaegi, that work began upon her discovery at age 14 that, unlike her older sister Rosemary, she wasn't born into the family she was raised by. That news, she said, didn't faze her so much as it piqued her interest.

From the documents provided to her by her adoptive mother, Kaegi learned that her birth mother – whose name was listed in the adoption papers – placed an ad for her adoption in *The Times of India* newspaper in October 1945. Answering that ad, Kaegi's adoptive parents finalized her adoption less than three weeks after her birth on Feb. 14, 1946 at a British army hospital in Poona, India.

Using that information, Kaegi was able to successfully reunite with her birth mother in Wales in 1972. Although the two maintained a warm relationship for 30 years, Kaegi said her birth mother never divulged the identity of her father – a secret she took to the grave.

Undeterred, Kaegi said about tracking her birth father down in earnest upon her retirement in 2002 – a feat made possible only through advances in genetic genealogy and DNA testing.

While early efforts to track down several British candidates called “Leslie” – the first name of her birth mother's rumoured Spitfire pilot boyfriend – led to dead ends when DNA analysis returned “inconclusive, but unlikely” results, Kaegi persisted.

In 2010, when Family Tree DNA introduced its Family Finder test – an autosomal DNA analysis that boasted the ability to reliably match second and third cousins – Kaegi had both herself and her maternal half-siblings tested.

What she found was that her test resulted in many more DNA cousin matches from FTDNA's database – whose testees consist predominantly of North Americans – than those of her half-siblings. While Kaegi's adoption documents reported her father as being British, she was suddenly faced with the prospect that perhaps he was American.

“My matches, especially my closer matches, were all American colonial with deep roots in the U.S. – especially in South Carolina and Georgia. So I suddenly thought, ‘Maybe I'm a southern belle.’” she laughed.

After going back to the war records, Kaegi found that the US Army Air Force indeed had three liaison squadrons working out of her mother's casualty clearing station in Burma around the time of her conception. Armed with that information, she

compiled a list of 300 named of potential candidates.

From there, she used FTDNA's Chromosome Browser, coupled with her maternal half-siblings' results, to sort her paternal and maternal DNA cousins. She then developed family trees for all close paternal DNA cousins in an effort to develop a list of possible ancestral surnames – a list she could then compare to her roster of 300 possible American fathers.

Then on Aug. 26, 2012 at 11 p.m., the breakthrough she had been waiting for.

“I was sitting up in the TV room fiddling with the family tree of a fourth cousin on FTDNA on my iPad, when I spotted an unusual name among his great-great-great grandparents that seemed familiar to me: Pilcher,” Kaegi recalled.

“I checked my list of American candidates and found a Morris Rudolph Pilcher – an officer and a pilot with 155 Liaison Squadron of the 2nd Commandos of the USAAF 10th Air Force, from Panama City, Florida. That's when it all started to come together.”

Kaegi admitted that she didn't sleep at all that night. A search through the war diaries conformed that Pilcher had, indeed, worked in Burma from February to May 1945, so Kaegi began developing a family tree for him using Ancestry.ca

That exercise resulted in the matching of three DNA cousins on their respective trees, so she continued digging.

Pilcher, she sadly learned, had passed away in 1994, so Kaegi emailed the Panama City library for his obituary and got a response within days. Pilcher – who went by the name ‘Pete’ – had two daughters, whom Kaegi tracked with the help of a Florida researcher and wrote to soon after.

“I told them my whole story, sent them photos, and basically said, ‘Here's why I think you're my half-sisters,’” she explained.

“Now, it just so happened that they were at a family do the next day, so they took my letter and photos with them, and I guess everybody said, ‘Oh yes, look she's got Pete's eyes.’ So they were absolutely convinced that I was right.”

Both immediately agreed to DNA testing, which confirmed Kaegi had finally traced her birth father and earned her two new half-sisters. The trio met

for the first time in Florida in November 2012 – a visit that included a trip to Pilcher’s grave and the sharing of photos, war records, and family stories.



Morris Rudolph Pilcher, Kaegi’s birth father

Kaegi believes she was likely the product of a brief romance at a V-E Day celebration party thrown in Magwe, Burma sometime around May 12–14, 1945.

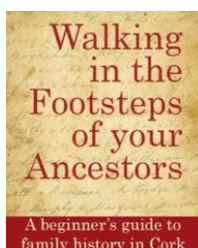
Whether or not her birth parents had any further contact after that remains a mystery to Kaegi and her half-siblings. But when she shared the successful findings of her search for her father with the maternal side of her family, Kaegi recalled her half-sister sharing a telling story about their mother. “You know,” she said, “this all makes sense of the advice Mum used to give us girls as we went off to parties: Be careful with alcohol in social situations... it can make you over-affectionate.”

This article was originally published in the Eto-bicoke Guardian, May 25, 2017, and is reprinted here with permission. Visit the issue online for additional photographs: goo.gl/M3gGMh

DO YOU HAVE CORK ANCESTORS?

The Cork County Library has published a free, downloadable guide to beginning family research in Cork. To download, visit:

<https://goo.gl/7WrAQs>



PHILATELY AND FAMILY HISTORY

Kathy Hartley

Reference Librarian

Harry Sutherland Philatelic

Research Library

As a long time genealogist and a more recent reference librarian at a postal history library, it was my great pleasure to have a display of books available for member’s perusal at the last Toronto Branch meeting of the OGS.

In my experience, postal history is an often unexplored resource for those researching their family history.

Visitors to my table were primarily those who had an ancestor who worked for the Post Office, or those who had inherited a collection of stamps and were requiring information on how to dispose of it. The first were encouraged to send an email to me at our library library@greenefoundation.ca. We have many items on our shelves and in our electronic database that may provide useful information. Those interested in disposing of a collection were invited to contact or visit Ted Wright at Hollywood Canteen, 549 Mt Pleasant Rd in Toronto at 416 486-0322 ted@hcanteen.com

Others delighted in the book about post cards and much conversation took place about their own collections, passed down from family members and containing a lot of personal information. Post cards can also be found that show images of cities and towns that your ancestors may have lived in. The Toronto Post Card Club has an annual show where you are very likely to find such items for a reasonable cost. These will add interesting visuals to your genealogical presentation or book.

Postal histories of small towns and villages in our library also contain information that may be of use in your research. One of your members had family in the town of Deerhurst. Places in Ontario by Nick and Helma Mika (vol. 2 of the *Encyclopedia of Ontario*) describes this as being a “farming community located ... southeast of Barrie [where a] post office was opened in the village in 1863 and the first postmaster whose name was Walker, requested to have it named Walkerville”!

Other places to look for information on your ancestors place of residence or even place of work, is at stamp bourses or at a stamp dealer’s shop. Dealers of postal history have collections divided by place. Supposing your ancestor worked for the Massey Manufacturing Company in Toronto. By

asking to look through a dealer's collection of envelopes, or 'covers' from this city you may turn up something that again, may help to illustrate your history. Many are works of art.



A 'cover' like the one above would make a lovely addition to family historian's story, if an ancestor worked for the company, or lived in that Toronto neighbourhood. Relatives of John Beare would also find it of interest. Armadale is now Markham Rd and Steeles Ave.

Stamp dealers also sell covers sent to and received by ordinary people. While the stamp collector is most interested on the stamp that was used to get the mail through, the postal historian is interested in who the people were that handled it. You just may find a cover sent to or from someone on your tree.

Of course mail wasn't always transported by postal van or air plane and the method of transportation to your ancestor's residence may also help you tell their story. I have a researcher looking in to how mail was carried by steam boat along the Ottawa River. One of your members told me about visiting a place in BC where the mail only arrived when the train did. Our library contains many books that tell these stories.

If you did inherit a stamp collection, your ancestor may have been part of a stamp club. These were very popular at the start of the last century and we have collections of newsletters and journals that contain names and often photographs. For example, the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club is celebrating their 125th anniversary this year, and we have a book written for their centennial that lets the reader discover how many people spent their leisure time. It is a fascinating read.

I have a researcher whose grandfather ran a stamp store on Harbord Street. Grandpa also fought at Vimy and was part of a group of people who returned on a pilgrimage to witness the unveiling of the Vimy Monument in 1936. He recorded his

journey by sending cachets, which he designed, to other collectors. My researcher has assembled many of these and has put an exhibit together. If you had an ancestor at Vimy, you would surely be interested in something like this.

I invite members of the Toronto branch of the OGS to consider how postal history may be of use to your research. Send me an email or let's work together on scheduling a group visit to our small but mighty – mighty great library.

Email: library@greenefoundation.ca

In response to the request for stories about ancestors who settled in the Toronto area in or before 1867, Toronto Tree has been sent the following. Your editor hopes for many more responses!

SAMUEL REED
Doris Bourrie

Samuel Reed was born c1819 in the parish of Great Amwell, near the town of Ware, County Hertfordshire, England. He enlisted in the 38th Regiment of Foot at Hertford, January 11th, 1837. His discharge papers indicate that he served in the West Indies for two years, one month; in the Mediterranean for five years, five months; in North America for one year, five months and then was transferred to the Royal Newfoundland Companies for seven years, eight months.

Samuel married Sarah Elizabeth Green, daughter of William and Mary Green, on August 3, 1855 in the Congregational Church, St. John's, Newfoundland. They had one child, Mary, born in Newfoundland in 1856. Samuel was discharged from military service January 12, 1858, having served 21 years, two months and having been awarded four Good Conduct Badges during these years.

After his discharge the family moved to Toronto, where they had more children: Sarah born 1859; Rebecca born 1863; Susan, born 1865; Louisa, born 1866 and William George, born 1870. The children were baptized in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Toronto.

Samuel Reed died July 3, 1877, aged 58, of asthma, and is buried in St. James cemetery, Toronto. Elizabeth then married William Frederick Ford, son of James and Mary Ford, and widower of Eliza Webb, on September 21, 1880. Elizabeth Reed Ford died February 16, 1908, and is also buried in St. James cemetery, Toronto.

JOHN BUSBY FAMILY *Jerri Grimley*

Little is known of John Busby (1819–1899) before he came to Canada. The census records indicate he was born in Scotland about 1819 and his death certificate gives Edinboro (Edinburgh) as his place of birth. He married Ellen Fitzgerald (1840–1907) about 1862, as their first son, John, was born in November 1862 in York, Ontario. I have not found him in the 1861 Census, nor have I found a marriage record for John and Ellen. His occupation varied from Labourer to Shoemaker to Railway Employee. He was listed as a Protestant, but his children were raised as Roman Catholics.

The first recorded entry mentioning John Busby is his son's baptism at St. Paul's Basilica, Power Street on 7 June 1865. John and Ellen Busby had at least ten children that I have located and possibly they had 13 children, as family history indicates. The children included: John born 1862, Catherine and Mary (twins) born 1865, Ellen born 1866, Agnes born 1870, Martha Ann born 1872, Matilda (Elizabeth) born 1875, Bertha born 1878, William born 1881 and Gerald Fitzgerald born 1884. Seven of the children were baptised at St. Paul's Basilica in Toronto and only two of the children's births were registered.

In the 1871 census, the family was listed as living in Toronto East, St. Lawrence Ward, bounded by Queen, Yonge, lakefront and McGee Street (east of Broadview Avenue). When the 1881 census was taken in April, the family was living in York East. Some of the 1891 census records are missing for York East, but the Toronto directories indicate that from 1884–1891 the family lived in Norway Village and John Busby was a tenant of Concession 1, Lot 6. This land was owned by his father-in-law, Maurice Fitzgerald. The 1892–1899 directories show the family living in Little York at Coleman Corners, where John and his wife Ellen ran a boarding house for railway employees.

John Busby died 30 September 1899 after being struck by a train. The *Globe & Mail* of 2 October 1899, carried the following headline: **KILLED BY AN ENGINE – JOHN BUSBY, AN AGED RESIDENT OF COLEMAN, STRUCK BY A TRAIN AND DIED IN A FEW HOURS.** The following is a partial transcription: "The Grand Trunk express from the west struck John Busby, an aged resident of Coleman, who was walking on the tracks near York station on Saturday morning and six hours later Mr. Busby died in the General Hospital... The train was immediately stopped and Busby was taken from under the engine and car

ried to the station... and Busby was then placed on the first train for the city... He was 79 years of age and was a well-known resident of Coleman..."

John is buried in St. John Norway Cemetery alongside his wife, Ellen Fitzgerald Busby, who died on 8 February 1907. They are buried in the Old Plan of the cemetery at Plot 68, along with other Busby family members.

In 1936, when his daughter, Mary Busby Bell (1865-1936), died, an article appeared in the *Toronto Star* about her death. The headline of the article was DAUGHTER OF PIONEER MRS. A. BELL PASSES. The article indicates that John Busby was born in Edinburgh, Scotland the same day as Queen Victoria was born in 1819 (May 24, 1819 – Queen Victoria's Birthday). It also states that John Busby was "a veteran of the gold rush of '49 and a sheriff in California. He knew Buffalo Bill, Kit Carson, General Sherman and General Grant of civil war fame and President Lincoln." Whether any of this information is true is still an unanswered question and he remains John Busby, man of mystery.

Three certificates were presented to Toronto Branch at this year's OGS Conference in Ottawa. Ron Junkin and Diane Clendenan (not shown) received 40-year membership certificates and Valerie O'Brien accepted, on behalf of Toronto Branch, a certificate commemorating our 50 years of existence.



**PAUL JONES – 2016/2017
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**



Paul Jones, a long-standing member of Toronto Branch was presented with the 2016/2017 Volunteer of the Year Award at our May 29, 2017 Annual General Meeting by Chair, Connie Culbertson (pictured above). This award recognized Paul's major contribution as the Chair of the Steering Committee of the highly successful 2016 OGS Conference. It also recognized Paul's prior volunteer contributions to the Branch, including his term as Chair.

Paul is well-known to many members as an award-winning writer and a family history enthusiast. In 2004 he retired from corporate life after more than 30 years at Maclean Hunter, later Rogers, where he had been a Senior Vice-President and publisher of a group of national magazines.

An alumnus of University of Toronto and of the Senior Executive Programme at London Business School in the UK, Paul has chaired a number of volunteer organizations, in addition to Toronto Branch. He recently concluded his term as a Director of Canada's History Society. He is one of only three people ever to have received lifetime-achievement awards from both the magazine and advertising industries.

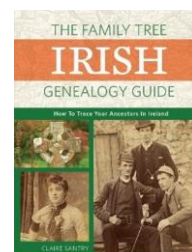
Paul was in the first graduating class in English Studies from the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. He co-founded the Toronto History Lecture and contributes the "Roots" column to *Canada's History* magazine. He loves speaking about genealogy, especially at Toronto Branch meetings and educational events!

History remembers only the celebrated, genealogy remembers them all.

Lawrence Overmire.

NEW MEMBERS

Shelly Battram	Toronto, ON
Cindy Bednat	Toronto, ON
Carey Bertlesen	Guelph, ON
Robert Bowering	Toronto, ON
Mary Brock	Toronto, ON
Joseph E. Carroll	Victoria, MN
Martha Courtright	Toronto, ON
Tony Courtright	Toronto, ON
Jocelyn Currie	Scarborough, ON
Susan Drake	Toronto, ON
Keith Evans	Newmarket, ON
Heather Garrett-Turner	Burlington, ON
Anne Geddes-Atwell	Cooperstown, NY
Dale Halliday	Toronto, ON
Sonja Johnston	Toronto, ON
Kevin Lamb	Etobicoke, ON
Irena Lewycka	Toronto, ON
Paula Masterton	Toronto, ON
Terry Maurice	Guelph, ON
John McCleary	Toronto, ON
Candice McDonald	Lindsay, ON
Robin McLeod	Toronto, ON
Kim McTague	London, ON
Theresa McVean	Toronto, ON
Marianne Mullan	Carleton Place, ON
Aili Newstead	Gravenhurst, ON
Grace Peacock	Brampton, ON
Susan Plewes	Alliston, ON
Ruth Procope	Pickering, ON
Christena Reed	Walkerton, ON
Ian Robson	Toronto, ON
Louise Ross	North York, ON
Susan Samuels	Toronto, ON
Audra Townsend	Toronto, ON
Michael Turnbull	Manassas, VA
Teresa Van Schaik	Woodville, ON
Salvatore Vinci	Gravenhurst, ON
Edie Walker	Ottawa, ON
Elizabeth Wilson	Peterborough, ON
Valerie Winters	Toronto, ON



Irish genealogy news blogger, Claire Santry, has just published her guide to Irish family research.

Available from:

Amazon or <http://www.shopfamilytree.com>

MEET THE 2017/2018 TORONTO BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Results of the elections at the Branch's Annual General Meeting held on May 29, 2017 were as follows:

Connie Culbertson – Chair
Ann Brown – Vice-Chair
Beth-Lynn Adams – Secretary
Valerie O'Brien – Treasurer
David Corkill – Member-at-Large
Ann Rexe – Member-at-Large
Carol Ufford – Member-at-Large

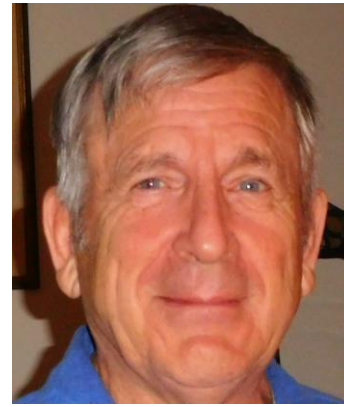
New member, Beth-Lynn Adams has been a Toronto-area teacher for 27 years, most of them in a Special Education role, and most of them at inner city schools. Beth-Lynn has three sons and early on volunteered as secretary for the Parent Council of their elementary school. She has been involved as a Scouter with 14 to 26 year old youths for the past 15 years, holding a number of scouting leadership roles at the national, provincial and local levels during that period. Beth-Lynn has been a Toronto Branch member since 1999. A keen family historian, her areas of research interest include Toronto, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New England, England, Scotland and Ireland.



Beth Adams

New member, David Corkill joined the Branch in 2014. He is the third generation to graduate as a Mining Engineer from Queen's University in Kingston. He worked at various mines in Ontario including Wawa and Red Lake. He found the small towns a great place for him and his wife to raise their two girls. His career culminated in a regulatory role in workers' health and safety in Ottawa. Using his experience in mine radiation safety, he taught workshops to other engineers in Canada and in various countries under the direction of a UN agency. He has a long-held interest in geology and the history of mining and currently teaches a course in Introductory Geology for the Life Institute at Ryerson University. He is now very actively

involved in family history research.



David Corkill

New member, Carol Ufford graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master of Library Science Degree. She recently retired after holding numerous positions in local public library systems and with the City of Toronto. She has been researching family history for both her family and her husband's for many years. Her areas of interest include early Ontario (Frontenac, Leeds, Stormont, and Middlesex counties), early Quebec (on her husband's side), and Scotland. She has been a Branch member for the last four years. She is the current secretary of the OGS British Home Child SIG and past Obituary Project monthly coordinator of the London and Middlesex Branch, OGS. She is an active member of the Scarborough Camera Club where she presently serves as Recording Secretary. Past volunteer involvements include serving on the Sir Wilfred Laurier CI Parent Council and as an event services host with the 2015 Toronto Pan AM and Parapan AM Games. She continues to volunteer with the Toronto Public Library as a Leading to Reading tutor.



Carol Ufford

FALL 2017 COURSES

Introduction to Genetic Genealogy

Instructor: Linda Reid

Dates: Fridays – November 10, 17 & 24

Time: 6:15pm to 8:15pm

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Learning Centre 1

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Cost: OGS Members – \$55; Non-members – \$65

Participants must bring autosomal DNA results from one of the major companies to get value from this course. The focus is on interpreting autosomal DNA. We also cover the types of DNA tests and the companies that offer them, as well as GEDmatch, a third-party website where researchers can compare their data with others who have tested at a different company.

Hands-On Ancestry.ca Library Edition

Instructor: Carol Nichols

Dates: Thursdays – September 7, 14 & 21

Time: 2:00pm to 4:00pm

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Learning Centre 1

Level: Beginner

Cost: OGS Members – \$55; Non-members – \$65

This three-week course will show you how to use one of the largest databases of Canadian and international records. Discover how to search the complete collection or narrow your focus to just one census. Learn how to evaluate results, look for clues for further searches and build your tree.

Basic Genealogy and Family History

Instructor: Jane E. MacNamara

Dates: Eight Tuesdays – October 3 to November 21

Time: 6:15pm to 8:15pm

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Learning Centre 1

Level: Beginner/Intermediate

Cost: OGS Members – \$170; Non-members – \$190

This eight-week course is designed for those starting to research or looking to upgrade their skills. We will cover terminology, types of sources, on-line resources, libraries and archives including LDS Family History Centres and record-keeping – to help you “think like a genealogist.”

Toronto Reference Library Tour

- **Genealogy Collection, 2nd Floor**

Date: Saturday, September 30

Time: 10:00am to 11:00am

Location: Toronto Reference Library, 2nd Floor

Cost: Free, but registration is required

Discover one of the largest genealogy collections in Canada. Explore maps, city directories, passenger

lists, historical atlases, newspapers and more. After the tour, research your family history with the assistance of staff.

Toronto Reference Library Tour Special Collections, 5th Floor

Date: Saturday, December 9

Time: 11:00am to noon

Location: Toronto Reference Library, 5th Floor

Cost: Free, but registration is required

Learn how to explore the Baldwin Collection of Canadiana which includes books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, paintings and photographs.

FALL 2017 WORKSHOPS

Researching Scottish Family History from the GTA: New Directions

Date: Saturday, October 28

Time: 9:00am to 4:30am

Location: Toronto Reference Library, Beeton Hall

Level: Intermediate/Advanced

Cost: By September 30: \$75 (\$65 for OGS members)

After September 30: \$85 (\$75 for OGS members)

Designed for those who have some experience of Scottish genealogy, this one-day event will show you newly available and upcoming resources for Scottish family history research, as well as under-appreciated resources in the GTA. Re-invigorate your research with new ideas and new strategies.

Kanata to Canada – A Journey Through Time

Dates: Saturday, November 18

Time: 9:00am to 4:00pm

Location: Eglinton St. Georges Church

Level: All

Cost: By October 21: \$80 (\$70 for OGS members)

After October 21: \$90 (\$80 for OGS members)

Catered Lunch: \$15 additional

Explore the legacy of records our young country has created over time. Learn how to trace First Nations ancestors. Hear about the experiences of early Irish settlers in Douro Township and the stories of the men who created our Confederation and our constitution. Learn how to navigate the ever expanding Library and Archives website. Uncover when and where your ancestors came to Canada and extract every morsel of information from census records. Discover the documents of Franco-Ontariennes. Witness the historical transformation of the Township of Etobicoke through photographs. Gain access to over 200 years of free digitized records from Ontario's past.

WHAT'S ON IN GENEALOGY

OGS BRANCH MEETINGS:

OGS Toronto Branch

Date:– 23 October, 2017 see page 1

Date:– 27 November, 2017 see page 1

OGS York Region Branch

york.ogs.on.ca

Date: 13 September, 2017

Speaker: Linda Reid

Topic: DNA Tests: What are the Options?

OGS Halton-Peel Branch

haltonpeel.ogs.on.ca

Date: 24 September, 2017

Speaker: Ruth Blair

Topic: New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Research from Afar

OGS Simcoe County Branch

www.simcoe.ogs.com

Date: 9 September, 2017

Speaker: Major John Fisher, Grey & Simcoe Foresters

Topic: TBA

TORONTO HISTORY LECTURE SERIES

*City of Toronto Archives, 255 Spadina Road
Admission is free, but registration is required*

Wednesday 9 August, 7:30 pm

Reconstructing a Lost World From a Photograph: Agnes and Terauley, ca 1910

Bill Gladstone

Wednesday 16 August, 7:30 pm

Forgetting and Remembering the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital Cemetery

Gregory Klages

Wednesday 23 August, 7:30 pm

Yorkville through a House's Eyes

Joyce Munro

The 2017 Toronto History Lectures are dedicated to the memory of **Jack and Jeannette Tyson**, who made significant contributions to genealogy and family history as committed volunteers on Branch cemetery projects over many years.

For more information and to register:
torontofamilyhistory.org

50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of Toronto Branch—the very first Branch created by the Ontario Genealogical Society. Please join us for an evening of celebration and of fellowship with current and past members. Enjoy savoury finger food and cash bar at 6:15 pm. A sweet table and coffee and tea will be served after the keynote address.

Monday September 25, 2017

6:15 pm to 9:30 pm

Osgoode Hall (Convocation Hall, 2nd floor)

130 Queen Street West

Toronto, ON M5H 2N6

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The World War I Letters of George Gallie Nasmith: A Challenging Moment in Genealogy

About 20 years ago, a box of letters was purchased at an auction sale. The letters were to and from Lieutenant Colonel George Gallie Nasmith of Toronto, who went overseas in 1914 with the Headquarters staff of the First Canadian Contingent as the “Water Specialist.” This collection of approximately 275 letters covers the period of August 1914 to September 1916 and provides a wealth of information not only of one man’s first-hand view of the war, but also about events in the City of Toronto at that time—and even more specifically the everyday lives of friends and family. Our speaker will describe her adventures in reading and transcribing the Nasmith letters, and identifying and researching the letter writers and the events and people mentioned. Her final challenge was in deciding how best to share the contents of the letters. Therein lay the rub and a hard lesson learned—for any genealogist

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Patty McGregor, PLCGS, instructor for NIGS and author, has been researching her family for over 25 years. A resident of Ottawa, she is the author of *Don't Forget to Write: A Look at the Canadian YMCA Through Historical Postcards* and *Researching Canadian Immigration Records*.

TICKETS:

OGS Members \$20

Non members \$35

To purchase tickets: **(no tickets at door)**

torontofamilyhistory.org/toronto-branch/our-history