

REGISTRATION FORM

Register early as the workshop is expected to sell out.

Mail completed form to:

Finding Your Great War Ancestors Workshop
c/o Ann Rexe, 508-17 Lascelles Blvd., Toronto, ON M4V 2B6

If registering after February 22, please check the workshop website at www.torontofamilyhistory.org to see if space is still available. A fillable registration form is also available there.

NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY	
PROV/STATE	POSTAL CODE
E-MAIL	
PHONE	

FEE

Early bird registration postmarked by February 22

- \$45 Members of the Ontario Genealogical Society
 \$55 Non-members

Registration Fee postmarked after February 22 (late registration, space permitting)

- \$55 Members of the Ontario Genealogical Society
 \$65 Non-members

Optional Expense

- \$12.50 Box Lunch (Please refer to order form below)

CHEQUE ENCLOSED (PAYABLE TO TORONTO BRANCH OGS)

CREDIT CARD VISA MASTERCARD

CARD NUMBER
EXPIRY DATE (MM/YY):
SIGNATURE

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Please indicate the concurrent sessions you wish to attend (only one for each time slot):

10:15 - 11:15

- B1 B2 B3

11:30 - 12:30

- C1 C2 C3

1:30 - 2:30

- D1 D2 D3

2:45 - 3:45

- E1 E2 E3

BOX LUNCH ORDER FORM (\$12.50)

Each box contains one sandwich, fresh veggie sticks, apple, decadent cookie and a beverage

Please indicate your choices:

- Bread choice plain white whole wheat
Filling choice egg salad tuna salad veggie
Beverage choice orange juice diet cola ginger ale

How to get to the workshop

By public transit: North York Memorial Community Hall is connected directly to the North York Centre subway station, on the Yonge line. Inter-city trains and buses link with the subway at Union, Dundas, or York Mills stations. Allow at least 35 minutes from Union or Dundas, or 15 minutes from York Mills, to get to North York Centre.

By car: North York Memorial Community Hall is at 5110 Yonge Street, Toronto M2N 5N9, on the west side at Park Home Avenue (about halfway between Sheppard and Finch.) From Highway 401, exit northbound at Yonge Street; proceed north to Park Home Avenue (6th or 7th traffic light) and turn left. The most convenient parking (\$6 per day on Saturdays) is under the building—enter from Novotel on Park Home, or from Beecroft Road (parallel to and west of Yonge Street.)

Lunch Break

Registrants wishing to have ample time to relax and/or to browse the book sales tables during the lunch break are encouraged to bring their own lunch or to pre-order a box lunch (details on the registration form).

Accommodation

Novotel Toronto North York Hotel is located adjacent to the North York Memorial Community Hall. For reservations received on or before March 9, 2012, a group rate is being offered which does not require pre-payment, and bookings are flexible for changes until 4 PM the day of arrival. Call in-house reservations at 416-733-2929 #2 and refer to booking #16469 or "Finding Your Great War Ancestors Workshop". Long-distance registrants may e-mail the hotel at h0910-re5@accor.com and request a return call. Reservation requests received after March 9, 2012 will be accepted at the sole discretion of Novotel Toronto North York Hotel on a space and rate availability basis.

Accessibility

This brochure is available in alternative formats (large print, e-mail) on request. The venues for this workshop are wheelchair accessible with easy elevator access between floors. If you are a person with a disability and you need a support person to accompany you to this workshop, he or she is welcome at no extra charge (except for the optional cost of pre-ordered lunch). Please contact us if you wish to register a support person or if you have any other accessibility questions or concerns.

Contact Information

E-mail us at registrar@torontofamilyhistory.org or call 416-733-2608 (voice mail)

Co-Sponsorship

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Canadiana Department of North York Central Library, part of the Toronto Public Library System. Along with Canadiana's own extensive resources for Ontario and Canadian family history, the Department also houses the collections of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Société franco-ontarienne d'histoire et de généalogie, Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada, and the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants. Visit www.torontopubliclibrary.ca and www.torontofamilyhistory.org for more information.



TORONTO
BRANCH
ONTARIO
GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY



A WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY

TORONTO BRANCH OF THE
ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
AND THE CANADIANA DEPARTMENT OF
NORTH YORK CENTRAL LIBRARY

Finding Your Great War Ancestors

Spend a full day with some of Canada and the world's top Great War experts! Discover new resources, practical strategies to crack research conundrums, and shocking truths about the "war to end war".



Saturday March 31, 2012
North York Memorial Community Hall
Concourse Level
5110 Yonge Street, Toronto
(North York Centre subway station)

PROGRAM

8:00 - 9:00 AM **Registration and Coffee**

9:00-10:00 AM **Opening Plenary**

Welcome, Introductions & Session A

One Day in the Trenches: The experience of soldiers in France and Flanders at the front and behind the lines on March 31, 1917

This plenary session will set the scene for a full day of Great War exploration with a journey back to the events of a single day in time, as portrayed in the letters and diaries of the British and Canadian servicemen who were there.

Speaker: Simon Fowler

10:15-11:15 AM

Concurrent Sessions. There are three streams of lectures--Canadian Research, British Research and "Case Studies and Curios"--presented below in that order in each time slot. You may follow one stream in its entirety; or mix and match sessions from different streams. A tabular schedule of the day's program is available at the Branch website.

Session B1. Canadians at War, 1914-1919

Part 1: The basics of researching a Canadian soldier, a nursing sister or a sailor

This session will provide an introduction to the key records and other resources available to document the service of Canadians in the Great War – on land, at sea and those caring for the ill and wounded.

Speaker: Glenn Wright

Session B2. They Also Served:

Researching British seamen (both Naval and Merchant) of WWI
This session focuses on records and resources for researching those who served at sea in the Great War – in the Navy and as merchant seamen.

Speaker: Simon Fowler

Session B3. Shot at Dawn: The tragic story of William Alexander

William Alexander, the speaker's great-uncle, lost his life in the Great War in 1917 when he was one of the soldiers "Shot at Dawn" by the British Army under whom the Canadians were serving. There are many fascinating threads to this sad case study, including the effects of shell shock, the importance of winning the war, the fight of the families for a pardon, and the implications for Canada of fighting under British command.

Speaker: Carol Nichols (30 min.)

No Ordinary Jo: A mysterious Canadian in the Balkan campaign

This case study unravels the intriguing tale of a young Canadian woman who turned up at a field hospital in the Balkans, and of her identification using a genealogist's toolkit.

Speakers: Dr. Marianne Fedunkiw & James F.S. Thomson (30 min.)

11:30 AM-12:30 PM

Session C1. Canadians at War, 1914-1919

Part 2: Advanced research - beyond the service file

This advanced-level session will explore some of the lesser known sources for military research that may prove invaluable to a family historian in fleshing out the stories of soldiers and nursing sisters in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during the Great War.

Speaker: Glenn Wright

<p>Session C2. British Army Research Part 1: Researching Tommies - How to find out about ancestors who served in the British Army This session provides an introduction to British Army research – how to track down information about your Army ancestor’s service in the Great War. Learn what records survive, how to access them, and how to use them to build up a detailed portrait of individual service men and women and their experiences of “the war to end war”. Speaker: Simon Fowler</p>
<p>Session C3. Charlotte Susan Wood and Her “Five Sons Killed in WWI”: The real story revealed This is a Great War case study about a Manitoba mother and her five sons. It is also a story of two researchers, the speaker and one from the extended family, who sought the truth behind the legend of a family tragedy. A story can become accepted as history through its retelling – even if it is not entirely true. Speaker: Susan Evans Shaw (30 min.)</p> <p>An Irishman in the Australian Navy and the Australian Army: A case study This case study is of an Irishman who deserted the Australian Navy to join the Australian Army under an alias, and served at Gallipoli and in Western Europe. The speaker has traced his story with the help of a range of resources (some now freely available online), including attestation papers and service records, naval records, a request for pardon, family correspondence, and the records of some fellow soldiers. Speaker: Linda Reid (30 min.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:30-1:30 PM</p> <p>Lunch Break: You can pre-order a box lunch when registering. There is a food court in the adjacent mall and restaurants nearby on Yonge Street. Or feel free to bring your own lunch.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1:30-2:30 PM</p> <p>Session D1. Canadian Airmen of the First World War Except for the short-lived three-man Canadian Aviation Corps of 1914-1915, Canada did not have an official air arm until after the war’s Armistice. However, as many as 20,000 Canadians are believed to have served in the Great War with one of the British Imperial air forces – the Royal Flying Corps or Royal Naval Air Service, and later the Royal Air Force. This session introduces the key archival and electronic records for documenting the wartime service of Canadian airmen of the First World War. Since this is largely a guide to British records, it will also apply to aviators from Britain and the other Dominions within these forces. Speaker: Timothy Dubé</p>
<p>Session D2. British Army Research Part 2: Advanced research - When service records are not extant (and other conundrums) This session, tailored for Toronto-based British Army researchers, introduces a number of advanced-level sources and strategies. These may be of special interest when service records cannot be found, or when the researcher encounters another conundrum Speaker: James F.S. Thomson</p>
<p>Session D3. The “Far From Home” Project <i>Far From Home</i> is a not-for-profit project undertaken by Diana Beaupré and Adrian Watkinson, two researchers in southeast England. The aim of the project is to locate and photograph all of the First World War Canadian graves and memorials throughout the United Kingdom – and create profiles for each of the nearly 4,000 men and women in whose memory they stand. Speaker: Glenn Wright (30 min.)</p>

<p>The “For King and Country” Project <i>For King and Country</i> is a searchable on-line database of war memorials in Toronto schools, launched by the Toronto Branch of the OGS on Remembrance Day 2010. It now contains more than 20,000 names, with information on dozens of schools. This session will provide a quick overview of the project and an update on progress to date. Speaker: Martha Jackson (15 min.)</p> <p>The Riches of a Regimental Museum: A case study This case study will focus on the speaker’s grandfather, who served in the 19th Lincoln Regiment in the First World War, and will demonstrate how snippets of information in a soldier’s attestation paper led to a host of new research resources including original documents and photographs. An overview of resources from several Regimental Museums will also be discussed. Speaker: Lorri Busch (15 min.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2:45-3:45 PM</p> <p>Session E1. The Canadian Munitions Industry in The Great War This session will explore the operations of Canadian munition companies during the Great War and the lives of the workers they employed on the home front, and will offer a practical example of how researching companies can contribute to local, social and family history. Speaker: John Gilinsky</p> <p>Session E2. Sinews of Steel: Researching women in the services and at home Tens of thousands of women served in the military in the Great War – both in support services and in combat. Many more served the cause as civilians, replacing men in essential jobs at farms and factories. This session will look at the many roles of women both at war and on the home front, and the resources available to help you tell their stories. Speaker: Simon Fowler</p> <p>Session E3. Planning a Family Battlefields Tour Researchers planning a visit to the Great War Battlefields have several options to consider, including package tours, do-it-yourself trips and bespoke tours. The speaker recently went on a five-day bespoke Battlefields tour with three generations of her family. She will share her experiences and offer tips and some “dos and don’ts” on organizing a tour of your own. Speaker: Linda Reid (30 min.)</p> <p>Hector Fraser Dougall WWI Documentary (video): This session will feature a documentary reconstructing one officer’s experiences in the Great War, based on a forbidden diary and a descendant’s pilgrimage to the relevant sites in Europe. Speaker: Brenda Dougall Merriman (30 min.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4:00-5:00 PM Closing Plenary</p> <p>Session F.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Program is subject to change without notice</i></p>
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SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES

Thirteen enthusiastic speakers with expertise to share and fascinating stories to tell

Lorri Busch has been researching her English/Canadian family for more than twenty years. She has a special interest in the first two decades of the twentieth century, immigration to Canada during this period and the home front in both England and Canada during the First World War.

Tim Cook is an historian at the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, as well as an adjunct professor of research at Carleton University, and he has been focusing on Canada’s role in the Great War for more than a decade. He is the award-winning author of five books – his latest release, *The Madman and the Butcher*, is a double biography of Arthur Currie and Sam Hughes, two key figures in Canada’s Great War – and he has published extensively in academic and popular journals in Canada and around the world.

Timothy Dubé has served as the Chairman and Newsletter Editor of the Ottawa Chapter of the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS) since 1989, and is a past National President (2008-2010) of the CAHS. For the last twenty-five years, he has served as a Military Archivist with Library and Archives Canada, responsible for all military acquisitions from the private sector and foreign governments. He is the author of a number of archival guides and publications on the British and Canadian military.

Dr. Marianne Fedunkiw is a Toronto-based historian, writer, and playwright with a PhD in medical history and an MA in journalism. She is a former writer for *The Globe and Mail* and *Maclean Hunter* publications and the author of two books and numerous articles, and has spoken at various international venues on women physicians serving in WWI. Marianne is currently a communications consultant within the university and healthcare sectors as well as an instructor in international studies at York University.

Simon Fowler is one of Britain’s most experienced family history teachers, writers and researchers. He specializes in military family history, with a particular focus on the First World War, and is the author of numerous well-regarded research guides and articles. Simon worked for The National Archives/Public Record Office at Kew on and off for over thirty years and edited their family history magazine *Ancestors*. He also teaches online military history courses for Pharos Tutors.

John Gilinsky is an experienced Canadian history teacher and historian who lectures on a range of military and war-related topics. His primary area of research is WWI, with a focus on the Canadian home front as well as the social, medical, legal, cultural, bibliographical, musicological, iconographical, visual art and literary aspects of the War.

Martha Jackson is a retired school-teacher and a long-time Toronto Branch member. The war memorials in Toronto public schools first caught her eye in the fall of 1989, while she was working as a substitute teacher and travelling from school to school. She has championed and co-ordinated the *For King and Country* project over the past two decades.

Brenda Dougall Merriman has been a board-certified genealogist for more than thirty years and is the author of *Genealogy in Ontario: Searching the Records*, often described as the seminal work for Ontario genealogical research. Known as a writer, instructor, and speaker, she has twice received the OGS Citation of Recognition. Her special interests are genealogical problem-solving and the 18th-century Loyalist era. Brenda blogs at <http://brendadougallmerriman.blogspot.com>.

Carol Nichols is a former teacher and now a member of the Executive Committee of the Toronto Branch of the OGS. She has taught courses for the Toronto Branch about using technology in genealogy, and has made presentations at Branch meetings. Carol’s interests in history, photography and travel have meshed well with her passion for finding and telling the stories of her family.

Linda Reid is a retired librarian who has been researching her British roots for 25 years. She is actively involved in the Toronto Branch of the OGS, presently serving as program co-ordinator and compiler of the electronic bulletin. She has spoken at many family history workshops and conferences, most recently the annual conference of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO) in September 2011 and the English Workshop in Toronto in November. She also volunteers at the Toronto Family History Centre.

Susan Evans Shaw, formerly a health sciences research technician at McMaster University, now chooses to apply her skills to writing and history. Her father and husband were both geologists and their influence helped cultivate her interest in the past, but the real catalyst was the discovery of her grandfather’s letters, written home during World War I, which piqued her interest in Canadian and family history. Susan is the author of two books, including *Canadians at War: A Guide to the Battlefields of World War I*, published in 2011.

James F.S. Thomson is a University of Toronto School of Continuing Studies instructor and has designed and taught over a dozen very popular advanced and expert-level family history courses co-sponsored by the Toronto Branch of the OGS and the Toronto Public Library. His particular interests include military records and British Isles research.

Glenn Wright is based in Ottawa and has been a fixture in the genealogical and family history community in Ontario for many years. In 2006, he retired from the federal public service after a thirty-year career as an archivist and historian at Library and Archives Canada, the Department of National Defence and the RCMP. He is a member of the Ottawa Branch of the OGS and President of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (BIFHSGO). Glenn has spoken at numerous genealogy conferences and meetings on military records, fraternal societies and census research, and is the author of *Canadians at War, 1914-1919: A Research Guide to War Service Records* (2010).