



TORONTO TREE

Published by the Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto Branch

Branch meetings in 2010 will be held in the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Hall, North York Centre (North York Centre Subway Station) Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

TORONTO BRANCH MEETINGS

TWO SPEAKERS ON CEMETERIES:

Sue Henderson and Laura Suchan

28 June 2010

A Genealogist's Guide to the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries

Sue, of the Mount Pleasant Group of Cemeteries, will describe the 10 cemeteries, changing trends in the funeral industry and how to access burial records (with some potential anomalies). She will address issues such as photographing tombstones and using a "family" plot.

Symbolism on Tombstones

Laura Suchan is the Executive Director of the Oshawa Community Museum and Archives.

DEATH OR CANADA: THE IRISH FAMINE MIGRATION TO TORONTO 1847

Dr. Mark McGowan

27 September 2010

The author of this book of the same name (see *Toronto Tree* of January/February 2010) will speak on this fascinating period in Toronto's early history.

An exploration of the how average ordinary Irish people, both Protestant and Catholic, are discovered and tracked through manuscript and routinely generated records. This story begins in archives and museums in Ireland and continues in the commemorations, archives, newspapers, and cemeteries of Canada.

Mini-presentation: Cathy McNamara – My Quilts and Genealogy

NOTE: The September meeting will again feature a swap table so save your genealogy discards and send them home with others who may find them useful.

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An enquiry came from England attempting to clarify some confusing information about a Toronto family, the Damps, with whom our enquirer's great aunt had stayed briefly after immigrating to Canada around 1890 at age 23. He had determined from English records that Sarah Salter Damp was an aunt of his young relative, but in tracing the Damp family backwards, he had found two John Damps, both builders, living in Toronto in the 1881 census: one was married to Emma with one child, the other to Sarah with five. And why did Sarah and John's marriage take place in 1895? While it was merely a curious side-line to our enquirer, this story became something the Enquiries volunteers just had to follow up. And so emerged:

THE INTERESTING STORY OF JOHN DAMP

Patricia Sheehan OGS 23357

John Damp (1826-1900): master builder; immigrated to Canada in 1855; married twice; seven children. Seems like just an ordinary, run-of-the-mill sort of life in Toronto-the-Good in the age of Queen Victoria. However, John's life was anything but ordinary. We still cannot understand how he got away with it!

John Damp was born the second of nine children to John Damp and Ann Kinchenton in South Stoneham, Hampshire, England, just northeast of Southampton. His father, a native of Arreton on the Isle of Wight, moved the family back there before the 1841 census. Following in the footsteps of his father, a bricklayer and mason, John became a builder. He was evidently quite good at this trade because by the 1851 census he was a master house builder employing four men.

In 1846, John married Emma Harwood. Emma had been born in Arreton in 1823, daughter of James Harwood. She had an older brother, James, and a younger one William. In 1851, John and Emma lived

in Arreton next to Emma's father, a coppice dealer
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