

Many thanks to Gwen for sending out the Bulletin last week while I enjoyed more than a metre of fresh snow at Whistler.

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Announcements

The Toronto FHC will be closed for Easter – April 6th to 9th inclusive. We will be open again on Friday mornings starting on April 13th.

OGS Spring Courses

There is space still available in some of the Toronto Spring OGS Courses. For additional information, go to www.torontofamilyhistory.org/courses.html.

Hands-on Ontario Estate Records (Starts tonight)

Finding your ancestor's will or administration (as part of an estate file) can provide vital information to link him or her to other family members. Jane McNamara teaches this course at the Archives of Ontario, using case histories to learn how to navigate the finding aids to find estate files at the AO from the various Ontario courts, and land registry records.

Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm., April 5, 12, 19, 2012

Advanced English (and Welsh) Family History- James Thomson & Joan Read

This course will focus intensively on the period 1700-1837. Topics include: finding vital events which aren't easily located; researching a parish or place inside out, as a key to breakthroughs; pre-1841 population listings; pre-1858 inheritance records; pre-1834 poor relief; apprenticeship records; and records of land tenancy (including early manorial documents). Resources available locally, on the Web, from Salt Lake City, and in Britain will be discussed. Participants should be familiar with the basics of English family history research in the post-1837 period.

Wednesdays, 6:15 – 8:15 pm, April 18 & 25, May 2 & 9, 2012 at the Toronto Reference Library

Hands-on Early Ontario Land Records – Jane McNamara

This course will provide an introduction to the land granting process and the main types of Crown Land Department records, and how to use the various finding aids and collections at the Archives of Ontario to document your ancestor's acquisition of (or attempt to acquire) land in Upper Canada. Registrants must have e-mail and Internet access, and will be expected to do some assigned background reading before each class.

Prerequisite: Basic course or equivalent experience. Spaces are strictly limited.

4 sessions, Thursdays, 5:30 to 7:30 pm., May 3, 10, 17, 24, 2012 at the Archives of Ontario

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

Joe Mounsey has donated the following fiche for Oxfordshire towns:

OXFORD Combe PR Transcriptions 1646-1992 (5 fiche) - 7000148

OXFORD Hethe PR Transcriptions 1678-1992 (3 fiche) – 7000149

What's New

FamilySearch has started indexing the 1940 US census – Delaware is now 95% complete. They have continued to update US state marriage records. More Cornwall parish registers have been added to the collections. I was pleased to find Kent Quarter sessions and Court files 1600-1883 but less pleased to find that the images are only available at Family History Centres. New miscellaneous records for Tasmania are accessible from home. As there are now over 1,100 record collections and they are being added to daily, I recommend looking for new data available for your

country/county/state every so often. Go to www.FamilySearch.org and scroll down to the map/list of areas to find what you are looking for.

Ancestry has a huge new collection of 705 million city directory records for the US, presumably to help you in locating people in the 1940 census. They also added 1940 US census enumeration district maps. One new UK collection is a database of marriage bonds and allegations for London and Surrey 1597-1921 (see description below). The collection of baptisms, marriages and burials for Liverpool England 1659-1812 has been updated. Some interesting records about the RMS Titanic are available now.

FindMyPast has added two new indexed record sets in the last two weeks. The largest contains more than 1.3 million parish records for Westminster 1538-1945. More than 50 Westminster churches are currently included in these records, including St Anne, Soho, St Clement Danes, St George Hanover Square, St James Westminster, St Margaret Westminster, St Martin-in-the-Fields, St Mary-le-Strand and St Paul Covent Garden. The remaining parish records will go live in the coming months, along with cemetery registers, wills, rate books, settlement examinations, workhouse admission and discharge books, bastardy, orphan and apprentice records, charity documents, and militia and watch records. The second database has two types of maritime records, which contain some Titanic information. The first series has records of maritime births, marriages and deaths from 10 different National Archives record series and includes the deaths of all the Titanic's crew and passengers. The second series are images of the White Star Line Officer's books. The information for each officer includes: date and place of birth, address, details of his apprenticeship, the names and dates of the ships served upon and the date he left the company.

DeceasedOnline has added about 72,000 burial records for the older section of Overleigh Cemetery in the City of Chester. The records, which include burial register scans and grave details, date from 1850 to 1953; records for 1953 to October 2011, the Overleigh 'New' Cemetery, are already on www.deceasedonline.com.

The Forum

Questions: No questions this week.

News From the Trenches Never Give Up!

I received a phone message on Monday from a lady in Oakville looking for a Helen Billing, who was related to Aaron Chevell. As Aaron is my 4g-grandfather who was transported to Australia in 1817, I was very intrigued as to what relation we might be and how she found me. I called her and we ascertained that our common relative was a 6g-grandfather born in the early 1700s. She found me through one of her contacts in Australia! This gentleman sent her something he had found on the web that I had written for the Bulletin in 2007. Some convict records had just been released on Ancestry and I had found Aaron Chevell and had written about my findings. At that time the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG - <http://www.torugg.org/>) uploaded the Bulletins to their website and the person in Australia had found the Bulletin mentioning Aaron Chevell. While I had hoped that we might have a closer connection, I was astounded that an article written five years ago put us in touch. It seems that one should never give up hope of contact with a relative when one has placed information on the web. Has anyone else had a similar experience recently?

Were You Aware ...

1940 US Census Update

On Monday, the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) provided access to all the images of the 1940 census, available at <http://1940census.archives.gov/>. There were 22.5 million hits on their website in the first three hours and access became quite difficult. Meanwhile various other groups started uploading the 1940 census images. All these groups are providing the images without charge. FamilySearch currently has 10 states available to browse at www.familysearch.org/1940census/ and they expect to have the complete census available within two weeks. MyHeritage has uploaded all the images and you can browse by state and enumeration district now at www.myheritage.com/1940census. Ancestry is also madly uploading records. They currently have over 40 states completely or partially available at www.ancestry.com/1940. Each of these groups is indexing the census but this may take some time.

To locate your ancestor without an index, you will have to know where they were living. Small towns can be browsed easily but in larger cities you will have to have an address and then figure out an enumeration district. The addresses from the 1930 census can be tried (the enumeration districts are not the same) or you could use the city directories which are available on Ancestry and other places. FamilySearch Wiki has an article about enumeration districts and links to how to find a particular enumeration district here: <http://goo.gl/q1XKY>. Ancestry has uploaded the enumeration district maps and descriptions – they seemed easy to use.

Marriage Bonds and Allegations

Ancestry describes their collection of London and Surrey marriage bonds and allegations as follows:

"Before civil registration began in 1837, most people were married by banns or by license, as required by law. The process of requesting a license included providing a written allegation stating a couple's intent to marry and asserting that there were no legal obstacles to the marriage. From 1604 until 1823, the allegation was made sure by bond. Two witnesses, one of them typically the groom, swore to the bond, which would be forfeit if the claims of the allegation proved false and a legal impediment to the marriage, such as consanguinity, arose.

"Marriage allegations and bonds often exist where licenses don't because, while the license was given to a member of the wedding party to present to the officiant at the ceremony, the allegation stayed with the authority who issued it. This database contains marriage allegations and bonds from parishes in the Diocese of Winchester (Surrey) and the Diocese of London. Marriage allegations typically listed the following details: groom (name, age, marital status, occupation, parish); bride (name, age, marital status, parish); and the parish where the marriage was to take place. Minors might list father, mother, or guardian. Ages sometimes indicated only that the party was 21 or older."

I always enjoy finding the signature of an ancestor, even if it is only the male grooms who were witnesses in this case.

Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group (TUGG)

Those of you with Ukrainian ancestors may be interested in TUGG and their website at [www "dot" torugg "dot" org](http://www.dot.torugg.dot.org) (NOTE that McAfee does not like this website because of some pop-ups). Their next meeting is on Tuesday, April 10th at 7:30pm in the St Vladimir Institute. Marian Press will be speaking on "*Googling for Genealogy: How to Take Advantage of all Google Has to Offer*". This presentation covers strategies for using Google effectively for family history: how to search effectively on Google, setting up Google Alerts, Google image searching, Google Maps, Google Books (including setting up one's own Google bookshelf), Google News Archive, Google blogs, Google translation tools, Google+ and more. Anyone may attend meetings for \$5 each or a TUGG membership is \$35.

Films received in the seven days ending on April 5, 2012 and due for return on May 3, 2012.

Film Content	Film No
CAN NS / UC Johnstown Dist PRs & Land Grants1732-1864	0477530
ENG BRK Cheveley BMD 1560-1812	0254496

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 for Easter April 6th to 9th 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. 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

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