



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-27

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<http://torontofhc.blogspot.ca/>



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Announcements

We will be closed Wednesday evening July 31st, Thursday August 1st during the day.

Third Toronto History Lecture – Wednesday, August 7th at 7:30pm, City of Toronto Archives

The 3rd Toronto History Lecture will be held at the City of Toronto Archives on Wednesday 7 August. The speaker this year is Guylaine Pétrin and the title of the talk is "Mary Mink: The Making of a Myth". This is a free event but attendees are asked to reserve a spot in advance online. More detailed information is available [here](#).

Toronto OGS Branch – Fall Courses

The Toronto Branch will be offering three courses in the fall.

- **Introduction to West Indian Genealogy**, Saturday September 21, instructor Pooran Bridgelal
- **Basic Genealogy and Family History**, Wednesday afternoons starting October 2, instructor Jane McNamara
- **Maps and Mapping for 21st Century Genealogists**, Thursday evenings starting November 7, instructor James Thomson

For complete details and registration forms, please click [here](#).

Additions to Our Permanent Collections

The following books have been added to our library:

Poland - Finding Your Polish Ancestors (2 gold stars)	LaBudie-Szakall & Zaleski
Italy - Finding Your Italian Ancestors (2 gold stars)	Karcich, Grant
Poland, Galicia - Methods and Resources for Researching Ancestors in Galicia, Austrian Empire (2 gold stars)	Wray, Betty
British West Indies - My Ancestor Settled in the British West Indies with Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras (2 gold stars)	Titford, John
England & Wales - Marriage Law for Genealogists (1 red star)	Probert, Rebecca
England & Wales - My Ancestor Was in Service (1 red star)	Horn, Pamela
England - Tracing Your Ancestors from 1066 to 1837 (1 red star)	Oates, Jonathan

What's New

Ancestry has added a database of more than one million Naturalization Petitions 1794-1906 for New York; information on each record includes name, birth date or age, nationality, arrival port and arrival date. The town and vital records for Massachusetts from 1620 have been updated.

[FamilySearch](#) has added the municipal records for two more Spanish Provinces, Cadiz & Sevilla. The Sevilla records are from 1293 to 1966, nearly as long as the new collection of Chinese genealogies which are dated 1239-2011! The Spanish records are indexed with images. The Chinese collection is browse-only. More browse-only records have been added for Brazil, Italy and Columbia.

[DeceasedOnline](#) is adding new burial records from the cemeteries and crematoria managed by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Approximately 261,000 burial and 134,000 cremation register records are being made available with a mixture of register scans and computerised records. Currently approximately 142,700 burial records and 82,000 cremation records are online for the 19 cemeteries managed by Wakefield Council and the two crematoria – Pontefract and Wakefield. The 19 cemeteries are: Altofts, Alverthorpe, Castleford, Crigglestone, Featherstone, Ferrybridge, Hemsworth, Horbury, Knottingley, Normanton Lower, Normanton Upper, Outwood, Pontefract, Ryhill, Sharlston, Snydale, Stanley, Wakefield, and Whitwood.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2013/26. Germany. General.

Do you have any collections of civil registrations, etc. from Germany and what time periods might be available? Also, would you have any information on Russian Mennonites in refugee camps in Germany in the early 1920's? Where in Germany were these set up, etc?

This is such a general question that it is hard to know where to begin. A good place might be to try to remember your high school European history classes. Most German states were not united until the 1871 Versailles Treaty. Before that it is helpful to know the state, or even better the town, one is interested in. The All Resources List of the Toronto FHC has many pages of German films containing both civil and church records. These are usually listed by state and town. Church records often start in the 1500s; civil registration often starts with the Napoleonic era as Napoleon was keen on keeping track of people. The Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City has more than 120,000 films or fiche with Germany in the title; these can be requested from the FHL to be read in any family history centre for \$8 each. Go to [Catalog Search](#) to see what is available. If one enters "Germany civil registration" into the keyword search, there are more than 7,000 results with civil registration starting about 1793 (particularly in the Alsace-Lorraine area).

There are 50 data sets freely available for Germany online at FamilySearch [here](#). Two general index-only collections were added in 2012: Germany births and baptisms with more than 37 million records dated 1558-1898 and marriages with more than eight million records dated 1558-1929. Please be aware that this is by no means all of the births or marriages that took place in that time period. Of the remaining 48 collections, many are browse only, so again you have to know a town, state or area of your ancestor. Ancestry has some German records online and are adding more; Ancestry is free at all family history centres.

While I have no knowledge of Russian Mennonites in camps in Germany, the Family History Library has over 2,000 results when one searches for Mennonite as shown [here](#). The [Milton Good Library](#) at Conrad Grebel College, part of the University of Waterloo might be the best place to start your search. It is the major depository in eastern Canada of Mennonite publications and they try to collect the latest books, periodicals, and genealogies. The [Mennonite Archives of Ontario](#) are located next to the Milton Good Library. They would likely have a much better idea of where to look for information relating to Russian Mennonites in Germany.

Often more specific questions yield more helpful results. We may be able to locate a Jacob Schmidt, whose parents were Joseph and Matilda and who was born about 1915 and emigrated in 1920. But it is difficult to suggest specific places to look for German civil registration – Germany, per se, did not exist before 1871.

News From the Trenches Never Give Up!

Joan Challis has been tracking down various members of the Molyneux family for many years but the marriage of Robert Molyneux, her grand uncle, to Mary Irving had never been found. She had found the family in the 1901 census living in Everton, an area of Liverpool close to the docks. At that time they had one child, Margaret. In the 1911 census, Robert and Mary say that they have been married for 14 years and have had 7 children, only 3 of whom are still living. But there were no Robert Molyneux's marrying a Mary between 1891 and 1901. The birth certificate of Albert Molyneux who was on the 1911 census as a six-year old gave his parents' names – Robert Molyneux and Mary Molyneux, formerly Irving. Even armed with his mother's maiden name, a marriage certificate was not found. Then one day Joan's sister searched in FreeBMD.org for a marriage of a Molyneux to an Irving with a date range – after 1891. One marriage popped up – in 1940!! The marriage certificate was ordered and it seems to be her Robert and Mary. On January 1st, 1940, Robert Molyneux, bachelor, and Mary Scott Irving, spinster, both of full age were married. Their fathers are correctly named and are listed as deceased at the time. Why wait for forty years after their first child to get married? As Robert would have turned 65 that year, perhaps it could have been for his pension. But English pensions did not start until the person turned 70 years old at that point. Was it because of rationing? It does not appear that being married made any difference to the amount allowed to a family of butter, sugar or bacon that were rationed starting on January 8, 1940.

This is just one example of “late” marriages that Toronto FHC patrons have come across recently and it appears to be the “latest”. It seems to me that there must be a reason for getting married after living together for so long. Do any readers have suggestions?

Were You Aware... Early Photographs



This photograph is of my great-great grandmother, Catherine Jane Dewar. She was born in 1826 in London, England and I have tried to date it. I only have a digital copy of it, scanned from the original which my aunt has. Using a few websites about the kind of mount and her style of dress, I believe that it was taken about 1860, when she would have been about 35 years old. I believe that the photograph is an ambrotype (collodion positive), where a negative image is printed on a glass plate, backed with black varnish or velvet to create a positive photograph. The photograph is in a deteriorated leather case. Ambrotypes were the first affordable types of photographs, costing about one shilling. Her husband was a gunsmith and could not have afforded a daguerreotype, an earlier type of photograph.

Many of you will probably have old photographs with no names attached. If you date them, it may become more apparent who the individuals are. FindMyPast had a series of blogs about dating photographs, starting on April 5, 2011 and these are a good place to start – click here for the [first](#), the [second](#), the [third](#), the [fourth](#), the [fifth](#), and a [sixth](#). I have found them very interesting reading. But there are many websites to help as well, most of which have been mentioned in previous Bulletins.

[Database of 19th Century Photographers in London 1841-1901](#) – This website is no longer being edited but it still contains a list of 9,000 London (UK) photographers with short biographical notes that will help you date the photographs they took. (The backs of many photos and the trim around the photos may contain the photographers name and address. When they were in business will help you date the photo.)

[Victorian and Edwardian Photographs - Roger Vaughan Personal Collection](#) – This website has many examples of photographs from different years and suggestions about [how to date](#) a photo and [what type](#) of photo it is. This website is nearly ten years old but I have found it very useful. It too discusses the use of the photographer's name to date the photo.

[Early Photographers](#) has hints for dating your photographs and a database of records of photographers & their studios (a small charge for this database). It has links to other websites and suggestions for books.

[Dating 19th Century Card Mounted Prints](#) is a US-based guide to dating *Cartes de Visite* of the second half of the 19th century.

Starting at the beginning of the 1900s many photos were printed to look like postcards. Several years ago Harold Lane found a website for the [Metro Postcard Club of New York City](#), which has a guide for identifying and dating real photo postcards. The website discusses the various types of printing processes and the papers used, and gives examples of

many of the marks used by the manufacturers of the postcard paper. These could also be used to date the real photo postcard.

Another website for dating real photo postcards is [Playle's Real Photo Postcards](#). Most Real Photo Postcards, abbreviated RPPC, have information on their backs to help in identifying the manufacturer of the photographic paper that was used by the postcard publisher. If you can identify the paper manufacturer, you can approximate the age of the old postcard. If the postcard has a stamp box, the website has stamp box links.

The Toronto FHC has a book called *Dating Old Photographs* by Robert Pols that could also be helpful.

No films were received in the week ending July 18th.

A patron wishing to view a film ordered by another should check first with staff. The description of the film given above may not be a full description but a search in the FamilySearch 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.)

Tuesday 9:30 am to 2 pm (Linda)

Wednesday 9:30 am to 3:45 pm (Ann, Joe am, Helen pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Don & Roberta)

Thursday 9:30am to 3:45 pm (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Helen)

Closures: Closed Wednesday evening July 31st & Thursday August 1st during the day & August 5th. If you do not have a booking, call before you come.

For a copy of a searchable listing of all films, fiche, CDs and books held at the Toronto Family History Centre in pdf format, click [here](#).

[FamilySearch - Search](#)

[FamilySearch - IGI](#)

[Hugh Wallis IGI Batch Numbers](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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