



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-28

July 25, 2013

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



Editor:
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In This Bulletin

Announcements – Closed next Wednesday evening July 31st & Thursday August 1st during the day & August 5th, HP LaserJet III Cartridges - free

What's New – Ancestry (More NY Naturalizations, Kansas records); FindMyPast.co.uk (UK Electoral Registers 2002-2013); FamilySearch (Spain, Brazil, & Belgium, also Iowa and North Carolina marriages); Library & Archives Canada (1842 Census Canada East & West); ScotlandsPeople (18th Century Window Taxes)

The Forum – No questions or suggestions

Were You Aware ... - More on Late Marriages, 1939 National Register, Late Marriages and "*Marriage Law for Genealogists*", Incompatibility Problems between Windows 8 and ScotlandsPeople

Announcements

We will be closed Wednesday evening July 31st, Thursday August 1st during the day. We will not be open on the holiday weekend.

Printer Cartridges – Free!

The Toronto FHC has three printer cartridges for an HP LaserJet III printer that are available for the first people who respond to this email. This is a pick-up (at the FHC) only deal. The cartridge number is 92295A.

What's New

Ancestry has not added much in the last week. They have updated the New York Naturalization Records 1882-1944 and added a very small database of Kansas cemetery records.

FindMyPast.co.uk has added UK Electoral Rolls 2002-2013 and UK company house directors 2002-2013. These records contain the names of most UK citizens over the age of 18 and include the following: name, approximate age, year of data, address and other occupants. This will be most useful for tracing forward to find living relatives. It appears that these databases are not yet on FindMyPast.com. But remember that Family History Centres have free access to FindMyPast.co.uk.

FamilySearch has added more records for Brazil, Belgium, and Spain. Their transcribed records of Iowa County Marriages 1838-1934 now number nearly two million records and the North Carolina County Marriages 1762-1979 database contains over 800,000 records.

Library and Archives Canada has announced that the 1842 Censuses of Canada West and Canada East are now online. In 1841, Upper Canada was renamed Canada West (Ontario), whereas Lower Canada became Canada East (Quebec). The census contains the names of heads of family, their occupations and the number of residents in each family. Go directly to [Canada West](#) or [Canada East](#) to access the images. Note that not all returns have survived. FamilySearch has previously released these two 1842 censuses and they are available here: [Canada West](#) and [Canada East](#). I have not checked to see which images are better.

ScotlandsPeople has added 18th century window taxes in 218 volumes for Scotland. Taxes helped pay for wars, and from the 1740s until 1815 Britain was frequently at war in Europe and beyond. Window tax started in 1747 in Scotland and continued until 1851. It raised a few pence per window, beginning with houses with 10 or more windows. Later all houses with 7 or more windows were liable for tax. ScotlandsPeople has also launched four more Ordnance Survey Name Books including: Roxburghshire 1858-1860, Ross and Cromarty 1848-1852, Lanarkshire 1858-1861, and Argyll 1868-1878. The remaining tax rolls and OS Name Books will be added to the site in the coming months.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions this week. Please submit any genealogical puzzles to the Bulletin.

Were You Aware...

More on Late Marriages

Agnes Craig says: "When Britain was at war, all of the population of the U.K. was required to register the names of all the family members in each household in the National Registry. We were ALL issued National Identity Cards, which we were required to have in our Possession at ALL TIMES. Even as children we had to carry them, even when we were outside playing. I still have my original IDENTITY CARD and I keep it among my treasured possessions. I could quote my UNIQUE Identity Number even today. It was made up of Four Alpha Letters, Two Digits, then the Final Digit indicated my position in the family. My Father was Number One, Mother was Number Two, My older Brother was Number Three and I was Number Four.

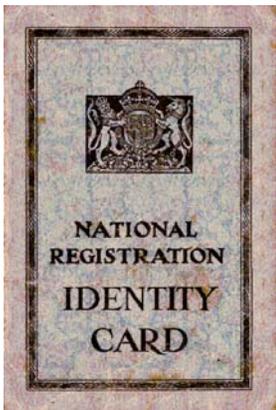
"I definitely think that this is the reason why ROBERT & MARY MOLYNEAUX decided to formalize their marriage, on January 1st 1940, when they would be required to join the National Registry."

Carol Lewis writes: "I have had a similar case and the reason for the delayed marriage was that the gentleman had been married before and couldn't get a divorce. The couple lived together and had several children but had to wait many years until the first wife died."

Carolyn Lofquist has another example: "I have a late marriage like that in my family - they finally married because the "bride" had been married before - I believe they finally married because her first husband died. Sadly, both parties died within the year."

Finally Eve Richardson had other examples: "Neither my grandfather nor his sister married the other parent of their children because their common-law-spouses were already married and couldn't get divorces. It's possible that in other instances like these, a couple decided to formalize their relationship once death the legal spouse made it possible, simply because they wanted to make things right, or for sentimental reasons, before they died. (In a like manner, I knew an elderly woman who married her female companion of many, many years when Ontario changed its laws to allow same-sex marriage - just a couple of years before she died.)"

The 1939 National Register



As Agnes says, everyone in Britain was required to register by September 29, 1939 and give information like name, address, date of birth, marital status and occupation. For England and Wales, one can order a copy of the National Enumeration Transcript Books for deceased persons. While this might be a lovely substitute for the 1941 census that did not occur, the cost is quite high - £42 for each person! National Identity Cards were also issued in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Canada. 1911Census.org.uk has a very good description of these cards [here](#) and it includes how to order the identity card information for Scotland (£15) and how to make a Freedom of Information request for Northern Ireland.

Late Marriages and "Marriage Law for Genealogists"

Alan Billing writes: "Last week the Bulletin included two items that turn out to be related, and perhaps in a manner of interest to other readers.

"First was a couple who married (very many) years after they began to produce a substantial family. Second was one of the books added to the library: "*Marriage Law for Genealogists: the definitive guide*" by Rebecca Probert (2012). The book is primarily relevant to England and Wales.

"Probert first described research that determined that parents of children were almost always married (until recent times, of course). She used baptism registers of the 1700s and census data of the 1800s to investigate the marital status of more than 5,000 couples. In almost all cases it proved possible to trace a record of the marriage. Some were easier to trace

than others, and a few were impossible for such familiar issues as common names, suspected mis-recordings, unexplained locations, etc. Those passing themselves off as married without being so, at the time of census, accounted for 0.1% of the 5000 couples (which corresponds to just five couples). Interestingly, these were usually ascertained because of a later marriage, as in the above instance of last week's Bulletin.

"If this determination were reliable, a person wouldn't find more than five unmarried couples with children in a family group of 10,000 people who had children. My own group contains about 3,000 people; the above data might suggest I would find one or two couples who did not actually marry.

"I believe that I have sufficient evidence of two couples having children, who did not first marry. One of each couple had separated from a first spouse (one woman, and one man). It appears only one of the couples married after the death of the earlier spouse. An interesting census entry for the earlier wife in 1891 has her marital status as "separated", and her occupation (stroked out) as "supported by husband".

"The book provides many other items that might help guide a family historian. She sought to replicate a study in the 1990s of couples of two parishes in Kent, listed as putatively married in the 1851 census. That researcher had searched for the marriages in parish registers for the parish of residence and the parishes where the man, the woman, and their eldest child were born. He was able to trace marriages of just 70 percent of couples (which might suggest that the rest had not married). Ms. Probert did the same thing for one Northampton parish, and was even less successful, since she was able to trace only 67% of marriages using this technique. But when she used modern digital resources, she was able to trace all 100% of marriages. Perhaps unmarried cohabitation was less common than was once thought, simply because it had been so difficult to trace the marriages.

"Interestingly (for a non-lawyer) Ms. Probert indicated that English law has regarded evidence of cohabitation and repute as indicating that a proper marriage had taken place, in the absence of contrary evidence. The basis was presumably the improbability of the alternative. This may encourage researchers who may find such evidence of presumed marriage, to then make a "sensible presumption" even without finding marriage records.

"A further moral I take from this is that every dead end should be revisited every few years, simply to take advantage of the improved quantity and quality of the available data, and because the search tools are improving at the same time. You never know what you may find."

Restoring Old Photographs

Mary Ann Tate writes: "I read your piece about old photographs with interest. For your information, the forum RootsChat has a group that do excellent digital restoration of old and damaged photographs and will even take on the challenge of dating them. There are some very knowledgeable people there. I have submitted photos in the past for restoration or colouring and I have been very pleased with the results." Go to the main RootsChat Forum site at [RootsChat Forum](#) and after reading the information posted there, try the [RootsChat Photo Restoration and Dating](#) site.

Incompatibility Problems with ScotlandsPeople and Windows 8

Laura Holland had a problem with viewing images on ScotlandsPeople last week in that she was only able to view the first page of past "viewed images" and she could not get the other three. Laura felt that ScotlandsPeople's response could help others with the problem. Here it is.

"It has come to our attention that some users are experiencing functionality issues when running IE10 [Internet Explorer 10] on a Windows 8 machine. In particular, links on the Previous Searches, Viewed Images and Timeline pages can be unresponsive, specifically when clicking the 'next page' links. These issues are as a result of browser incompatibility, when the website you are using has some features which are not compatible with the most current version of your browser.

"To overcome any compatibility issues between IE10 and affected websites, Windows have introduced a simple fix which 'restores' the website to how it should look and function. The issues you have identified can be resolved by clicking the 'Compatibility View' icon in the address bar when using IE10 in desktop mode. The following Windows Help page gives instructions for doing so:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/en-GB/internet-explorer/use-compatibility-view#ie=ie-10>

"If following these steps does not resolve the issues you are experiencing, please do not hesitate to contact us."

Unfortunately this did not solve Laura's problem. If anyone knows why she cannot see all of the pages of past searches (she only gets the first page of four), could you please send your suggestions for a fix to the Bulletin?

Films received in the week ending July 25th and due for return on September 19th.

| Film Content | Film No |
|---|---------|
| DEU MEC Rethwisch Church Records | 0069513 |
| DEU Pedigrees of Immigrants 173427-174159 | 1796767 |
| ENG BRK East Garston BTs 1607-1835 | 1279458 |
| GER BAD Mannheim Baptisms 1764-1798 | 1192139 |
| IND Bengal Pres. Bapts., marrs., burs. v. 95 Jan-Jun 1859 | 0498998 |
| IRL OFF Birr bapt and marr 1838-1880 | 0926091 |
| PRT AZR Ponta Delgada PRs C 1768-1818 | 1438060 |
| PRU WPRU Riesenkurch Taufen 1680-1754 | 0208269 |

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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