



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-37

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



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Announcements

As of October 15th (after Thanksgiving), we will be switching to our fall hours and the FHC will not be open on Thursday afternoons after 12 noon. Other hours will remain the same.

New Fall OGS Toronto Course - Hands-On Early Ontario Land Records

Thursdays from November 28 to December 12th – 4-7pm

Instructor: Jane E. MacNamara; Venue: Archives of Ontario

An enormous amount of information about the people and families who lived in early Ontario survives in land records. The records of the Crown Lands Department are extensive, complicated and sometimes a little mysterious, but extremely rich in unique and intriguing historical detail. This three-session course, designed for both family and local historians, will provide an introduction to the land granting process and the main types of Crown Lands records. You'll learn how to use the various finding aids and collections at the Archives of Ontario (including those on microfilm from Library and Archives Canada) to document a person's acquisition of (or attempt to acquire) land in Upper Canada. For more information, click [here](#).

The OGS Toronto course, **Maps and Mapping for 21st Century Genealogists**, taught by James F.S. Thomson, is full.

What's New

[FamilySearch](#) has updated their indexed collection of Ohio County Marriages 1789-1994, Mexico Civil Registration 1832-2005, Canadian Passenger Lists 1881-1922, and Boston Passenger Lists 1891-1943. FamilySearch added 35,000 new records from the Diocese of Manchester held by the Manchester Archives and Local Studies. The parishes are mainly from the historic county of Lancashire, with a few parishes from Cheshire and Yorkshire.

The [Irish Family History Foundation](#) has added new Monaghan records. Most of the records are marriage records from more than 20 parishes with dates that centre around 1850. For a complete list of Monaghan records click [here](#). One has to purchase credits to view the actual record, although the first 100 searches are free. Until October 13th, the number of credits to view the actual records will be 15 credits rather than the usual 25 credits. Credits are not cheap but it is much cheaper to check online records than to make a trip to Ireland. €5.00 will buy 25 credits; €10.00 will buy 50 credits, with which you can buy three actual records. They have also added 20,000 new census substitute records from County Leitrim. This database contains an index to people recorded in Tithe Applotment books dating from 1829 to 1846 for all Co. Leitrim parishes.

[Origins.net](#) has added an index to over 132,540 records of probate documents for Devon 1312-1891 that includes pre-1858 Devon wills, administrations, inventories, etc. Many probate records for the county of Devon and Diocese of Exeter including the Exeter Principal Registry were destroyed during the bombing of WWII. This index aims to create a finding-aid to enable the researcher to determine what probate materials were originally recorded and most importantly what

documents have survived (original document, copy or abstract) and where they can be located. The current index includes an index of the Wills and Administrations for Devon proved in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Barnstaple, 1563-1858; the calendar of Wills and Administrations for Devon (and Cornwall), proved in the court of the Principal Registry of the Bishop of Exeter, 1559-1799, in the Court of the Archdeaconry of Exeter, 1540-1799 and in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Exeter, 1532-1800.

News From the Trenches

An Interesting Find in Australian Newspapers

Alan Billing writes: "I had known since I was a child that my paternal grandfather Edward had followed the gold rush to Western Australia at the end of the 19th century. We have some great photographs of life in Kalgoorlie at that time, complete with Afghans with camels; unfortunately, he never made his fortune. But I did not expect to find a record of his tourist activities. A search for him in the [Australian Trove website](#) of newspapers came up with him in Hobart, Tasmania in 1904. I initially dismissed this as being a record of someone else, as I didn't think he was ever in Tasmania.

"But then I looked a little further. The Mercury of Hobart on 9 March 1904 included him in a list of more than 50 visitors to the Tasmanian Museum who had left their names and addresses in "the book at the bureau" in "the tourist room". I already had an Australian outgoing passenger list with my Edward leaving Melbourne on 26 February 1904 on the "Runic" (identified by age and occupation) and the corresponding British incoming list which recorded him arriving in London on the "Runic" in April of that year, that has sailed from Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Albany, Durban and Cape Town. He obviously acted the tourist on his way home.

"One never knows what a search will turn up."

The Forum:

No new questions or suggestions this week.

Were You Aware...

FamilySearch Indexers Celebrate Record-Setting Italian Ancestors Project Weekend

On September 13-15, volunteers from around the world joined together to index and arbitrate 134,986 Italian records (approximately 400,000 names). Participants were invited to index and arbitrate over 35,000 Italian records in just 48 hours—slightly more than the previous high. Due to the enthusiasm and dedication of many volunteers, the event goal was significantly exceeded. There are millions of Italian records waiting to be indexed; go to this [website](#) to help with indexing Italian records or one of the many other indexing projects FamilySearch is working on. There are currently 1,700 volunteers who have indexed over two million Italian records.

Civil Registration in England and Wales in the 1800s

How were births and deaths registered?

Starting on July 1st 1837 all births and deaths had to be reported to the local registrar, although it was not until the Births and Deaths of 1874 that fines were levied if an event was not registered. The local registry office was in the local town and each was a subdistrict. The local registrar then sent each item to the superintendent registrar of the registration district. The superintendent registrar kept his original records and copied them every three months to the Registrar General. So there are two sets of registers for each birth or death. The local one is original and the GRO (General Register Office) one is a copy.

Harriet Minett was born in Littleport Cambridgeshire on February 28th, 1839. The [Cambridgeshire County Record Office](#) has the following index entry online: 332/B-LIT1/303 MINNETT Harriot 1839; The LIT in this entry indicates that the subdistrict for the birth was Littleport. [FreeBMD](#) has the following GRO index entry: June 1839 MINNETT Harriot [Ely](#) 14 68. If one clicks on the Ely here or in the online FreeBMD index, you will find that the Registration District of Ely had 18 subdistricts. Harriet's birth was registered by her mother on April 5th 1839, some five weeks after she was born in Littleport. (As a mother, I can understand why it took her five weeks to walk to the registrar's office – she had a new baby and at least three other living children and had to walk four miles to town from the farm where they lived.) The local registrar who signed Harriet's birth certificate was Robert Cheesewright; because I have spent much research time on this town, I know that Robert Cheesewright and his sons were the local registrars and census enumerators for years.

I have the GRO certificate for Harriet's birth which I could order again from the [GRO office](#) online for £9.25 or I could order her birth certificate from the registration district of Ely from the [Cambridgeshire Record Office](#) at a cost of £10.00. [UK BMD](#) has links to all counties that have online transcribed indexes to the original records held by the local register office. They believe that searching these records should be your first choice; these transcribed indexes sometimes contain additional information, like mother's maiden name before 1911. This method is not necessarily cheaper. **Please note that the**

original registers for births, marriages and deaths at the GRO or local registrar's offices cannot be inspected by the public.

Deaths were registered fairly quickly because, after 1837, burial was only permitted if one had a death certificate or a coroner's certificate. This also meant that nearly all deaths were registered.

Harriet's grandfather, William Minett, died on September 20th, 1846. Elizabeth Layton, who was present at the death, registered it the next day; as I do not think that she is a relation, perhaps she was a neighbour helping out. Good old Robert Cheesewright was still the registrar in Littleport. William was buried the following day, the 22nd of September. His local register entry is 332/D-LIT3/94 and the GRO entry is Ely 14 64. The FreeBMD entry is Ely 14 6[4_]; the 6[4_] means that the last digit is difficult to read; it is possibly a four but could be something else. If you click on the "glasses" next to the entry, you will be able to see two different images of the index page and one of them clearly shows that the last number is 4. When the transcription was done, the transcriber probably was given the poorer image to transcribe from.

How were marriages registered?

Ordained clergy of the Church of England, Registering Officers of Quakers and Secretaries of Synagogues were entitled to perform and register marriages. Clergy of other denominations could not perform legally valid marriages until 1898, when they could apply to become 'Authorised Persons'; before 1898 a Registrar of Marriages had to be present. These officials made three copies of the marriage record: one for the couple, one for the church, and one which was sent to the local registrar. Quakers and Jews had to forward copies quarterly to the Registrar General. There are no registration dates on marriage certificates as, I presume, they were registered very quickly by the clergyman or other official, who had the responsibility.

Harriet Minett was married on May 17, 1862 in the Wesleyan Chapel in Ely about five miles from where they lived in Littleport. William Shearman was the Wesleyan Minister and Marshall Fisher, a solicitor's clerk, attended as the registrar. Harriet's new husband was registered under two names because his father was illegitimate – his paternal grandmother's maiden name and his step-grandfather's name. It would be interesting to see the original church record or the local record from the county record office to see how Charles signed his name; the GRO transcription says Charles MUSTILL otherwise CLIFTON.

Again copies of the marriage certificate can be obtained online locally or at the GRO online.

The big difference between marriage registration and birth and death registration is that the former was the responsibility of the official and the latter was done by a family member, friend or neighbour.

Films which were received in the week ending October 3rd and due for return about November 28th.

Film Content	Film No
DEU Kirchenbuch Katholische Kirche Kreuzstätten (Banat)	0858423
DEU Badresch, Kl. Etc,	0069709
DEU Immigration records Ruppel, Hedwig-Ruschinsky, Olga	2098166
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Original wills, 1621-1625	1885789
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Wills 1589-1591, 1593-1594	1885743
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Wills 1608-1609, 1611	1885785
ENG SSX Diocese of Chichester, Wills 1711-1716	1885593
HUN Temes Keresztes Taufden, Heiraten, Tote 1783-1835	0858423
HUN Temes Nemetsag Taufden 1772-1812 etc	0858425
POL OL Obrzynowo PRs 1822-1899	0208270
POL OL Obrzynowo PRs 1859-1942	0208272
PRU WPRU FreystadtTaufden 1803-1840	0208092
PRU WPRU Lessen PRs 1778-1887	0162306
PRU WPRU Riesenkirch Taufden 1859-1942	0208271
PRU WPRU Riesenkirch Taufden 1859-1942	0208271
RUS Vilna BMD's 1901	2102811
SGP Singapore Marriages 1879-1927 Births 1955-1976	1356948

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 & Leslie pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Helen)

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

Closures: As of October 15th (after Thanksgiving), we close at noon on Thursdays. 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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