



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-45

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



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Announcements

We will be closed from December 20th to January 6th.

New computers – We have 10 new computers and already six of them have been installed. Five are set to access the FamilySearch Portal and we have been testing them out this week. They work really well. We encourage all of you who have experienced frustration with downloading images (or even getting access to the Portal) to come in and try them out. The volunteers are all very excited about this breakthrough!

FamilySearch Portal

The FamilySearch Portal allows patrons to access a number of subscription websites without charge at all Family History Centres. Unfortunately one subscription website has recently been removed from those offered – TheGenealogist.co.uk. Our most-used websites are Ancestry (worldwide) and FindMyPast.co.uk (although not the newspapers). Bring your USB key to save the useful images on that you find.

19th Century British Newspapers - searchable by name, date, etc; British Newspapers 1800-1900

Access Newspaper Archives - Collection of newspapers around the world but centering on the US

Alexander Street Press, American Civil War- Soldiers, Battles, Letters, Photos, etc.

Ancestry [Library Edition] (also at Toronto Public Library)

FindMyPast.co.uk - the British version of FindMyPast (does not include any newspaper archives)

Fold3 - US Historical military records and stories

Godfrey Memorial Library - Mainly US records

Heritage Quest Online- US Censuses, Genealogy & local history books, PERSI, Revolutionary War records, Freedman's Bank Records

Historic Map Works Library Edition - Old digitized maps from around the world

What's New

FamilySearch has added or updated Browse Only collections from Portugal, Spain, Quebec and several US States. The US 1900 census has been updated.

Ancestry has updated several databases: Ontario Deaths 1869-1938 (2.2 million records); London England Electoral Registers 1832-1965 (159 million records – a major update), UK Civil Engineering Lists 1818-1930 (194,000 records), UK Clergy List 1897, and New South Wales Certificates of Freedom and Naturalization.

RootsIreland has announced that all records will have a discount of 40% until Wednesday, December 4th 2013 (midnight IrishTime/GMT). You can purchase any record for just 15 credits instead of the usual 25 credits. To obtain the offer, go to [RootsIreland](#) and login using your existing IFHF login details.

The Forum:

Q1/2013/45. Poland.

I am trying to locate the birth record for my husband's father. I have not been successful in locating anything indexed. His name was MORDECHAI (or MORDKA ?) GRUSZECKI (or another spelling GRUSZKA?) and he was Jewish. He was said to have been born on August 21, 1912 in Warsaw but I do not know which town or community in Warsaw. As his birth was 101 years ago, this then satisfies the minimum 100 year ruling in order for a record to be made available from Poland. I would greatly appreciate your guidance.

Were You Aware ...

Variations in Surnames

Many researchers start off being unaware of how much surnames change over the years and what can affect radical differences in "spelling". In this instance, I am talking about original records and not transcriptions.

My surname, Billing, has been subject to very little change in the 2½ centuries that we have traced it back through church and civil records. The occasional "s" has been added and once the initial "i" was an "e". But it is also a common word used in English; even in the 1700s people were *billing* others for their services. Quite the opposite is true for one of the surnames I have been looking at for ten years. When I first found the marriage of Elizabeth Chevell in 1839, I thought what an easy name to search for. In my mind I envisioned being descended from a Frenchman and pronounced the name with a soft "ch", as in *cheval* (horse). I spent many many happy hours trolling through church record films in Cambridgeshire trying to trace her ancestors. I have probably traced the line back to the mid 1600s but I never expected to find so many name variations: CHEVERLY, CHEVERLEY, CHEVELY, CHEVERELL, CHEAVERILL, CHEVEL, CHEVELL, CHEVIL, CHEVILL, and CHEVILLE. (I originally counted 12 so there are two more that I cannot remember at the moment.) Most of these variations occurred in the 18th century and by the early 19th century, church records showed only three variations – CHEVELL, CHEVILL and CHEVILLE. By the end of the 1800s CHEVILLE was used in England and North America. I was disappointed when visiting Cambridgeshire that Ely Museum employees pronounced the name with a hard "ch" as in church – not nearly so romantic.

Why is this important? Do not discard a name just because it is not "yours". Names can vary a lot. In helping a patron who was looking for GLADHILLS in London, England, we found many more GLEDHILLS than GLADHILLS. GLEDHILL is a name that is more common in the north of England than in the south. Regional accents played a big part in what the census taker or church clerk wrote down. In the 1800s regional accents in Britain were even more pronounced than they are today, having been softened by the effects of first radio and then television (and perhaps increased mobility of the population). As Henry Higgins says in Shaw's *Pygmalion* (1912): "I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets."

Ancestry's "New Search" seems reasonably good at finding similar Surnames. Make sure to mark the "**Match all terms exactly**" box. Under **Last Name**, click on the down arrow and mark all the boxes – **Soundex, Phonetic and Similar**. Using this method my search for GLADHILL turned up a Mary GLADDELL, a name I would not have connected. But if you say GLADHILL out loud and then drop the "h" (it is London, after all), GLADDELL sounds about right. Of course, Gledhill is a minor variation that should not be discounted when looking for GLADHILL. Other variations also deserve a second look.

British names are a piece of cake when compared to the problems of Polish/Ukrainian/Russian names. See this week's question above.

Family Tree DNA Sale by Linda Reid

[Family Tree DNA](#) has a sale on many of their products until the end of December. They have also announced a special Black Friday sale for the Family Finder kit (autosomal DNA). If you purchase 2 or more kits, you get 10% off. The test results are much more helpful when you have a known relative tested with whom you can compare matches. Any matches shared by you and an aunt, uncle or cousin would confirm a set of grandparents and identify whether some of your matches are on your maternal or paternal side.

This sale is only until midnight Friday, November 29. They will also give a \$100 restaurant gift card with each order but that is only good in the United States.

Films received in the week ending November 28th and due for return about the middle of February.

Film Content	Film No
RUS Vilna, Oshmiany, Visnevo Prs	2102812
RUS Vilna, Oshmiany, Visnevo Prs	2103136

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 noon (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Don & Roberta)

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come. Closed December 20th to January 6th.

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](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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