



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-04

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Announcements

Scotland and its People Workshop

Saturday, April 12, 2014, North York Central Library

Registration is now open for the Toronto OGS spring workshop, Scotland and its People. Choose from 11 sessions on Scottish history, patterns of migration, records and repositories, planning your research both here and in Scotland, and adding "flesh to the bones" of your Scottish ancestors. Full program details and speaker biographies can be found on the Branch website [here](#). The early-bird registration deadline for this event is 15 March. The discounted fee for OGS members is \$48 (\$58 after 15 March). Non-members pay \$55 (\$65 after 15 March). This looks to be a fabulous workshop with a good variety of topics and excellent speakers.

Call for Proposals for the Fourth Annual Toronto History Lecture

The Toronto History Lecture will be held on August 6th at the Toronto Archives. OGS Toronto is seeking proposals for this lecture prior to April 15th. See the full call [here](#).

RootsTech Conference, February 6-8, Salt Lake City

While you may not be able to attend the fourth annual RootsTech Conference along with 10,000 of your closest friends, FamilySearch, the conference's major sponsor, is offering to broadcast 15 of its popular sessions over the Internet this year. The live broadcasts will give those who are unable to attend in-person a sample of this year's conference content. Interested viewers can watch the live presentations at RootsTech.org. The streamed sessions include a sampling of technology and family history presentations. The first on February 6th at 10:30 MST is "Top 10 Things I learned about my Family from my Couch" by Tammy Hepps. All of the broadcasts are listed [here](#) and all are presented in Mountain Standard Time. Some of the RootsTech sessions from 2013 are available [here](#) so you can get a sense what it is all about.

What's New

FindMyPast.co.uk has announced publication of over 2.5 million British India records. The **British in India collection** includes: British India Office birth and baptism records 1698-1947, British India Office deaths and burials 1749-1947, Indian Office wills and probate records 1749-1957, India Office East India Company and Civil Service pensions 1749-1947, East India Company cadet papers, and Applications for the civil service. This is a hugely important resource for those whose British ancestors went to India. These are also available on the worldwide FindMyPast.com. Don't forget that FindMyPast is available without charge at Family History Centres on the Portal and our Centre has six new fast computers that can access FindMyPast on the Portal. I am less delighted about the other announcement from FindMyPast this week – that they are changing their search engine to "give you far more control and should help deliver even more accurate results". It will allow you to search across selected categories of records, and filter based on keywords, records sets and country. I hope to be pleasantly surprised.

Ancestry has updated their collection of Surrey parish records. These baptism, marriage and burial records come from Church of England parish registers at the Surrey History Centre. Some of the more urban (London) Surrey parishes have deposited their records at the London Metropolitan archives and these are also available on Ancestry London records. The California Railroad Employment records 1862-1950 have been increased to number over 5.5 million records.

[FamilySearch](#) has added birth and death records for Wisconsin and many more browsable images.

[RootsIreland.ie](#) has just published their first online newsletter, called **Clann**. It is a very attractive magazine of 38 pages which can be viewed [here](#). RootsIreland has over 20 million transcribed Irish records online.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/01. Poland.

My maternal grandfather, Boleslaw Zabielski, was born in 1894 in either in Kolechowice, Lubelski, Poland or in Ostrov Lubelski (both east of Lublin) in 1894. The family had a coat of arms over the gate of the estate called ZABIEL. (The family was granted use of the Coat of Arms for supporting the Polish king in a war many years ago. A rather splendid coat of arms associated with the Zabielski name can be found [here](#).) The estate was taken over by the Russians in the early 1900s. My grandfather's parents were Joseph Zabielski & Josephine Gorunska. Both Boleslaw & his older brother Antoni (born 1891) were smuggled out of Poland in 1912 by Jewish traders to prevent their being taken into the Russian army. For this, Joseph Zabielski was sent to a Siberian forced labour camp where he died. There was no contact with any existing family after World War 2. My grandfather Boleslaw Zabielski married Maryanna Wodynska (born in Porkow, SE of Kielce) and settled in Toronto. Where might I find more information about the Zabielski family?

Q2/2014/02.

My great-great grandfather, Henry or Harry Ewing (originally Scottish and born in Edinburgh), was supposedly a British officer stationed at a military or pseudo-military (maybe police) base in Dublin. His daughter, Kathleen or Katherine Ewing, was born in Dublin at the base. Where I should look for her birth record? Where I should look for my GGgrandfather's service records? It has been said he was a major. He would have been stationed in Dublin between 1880 and 1900.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/03. Toronto.

Given the problems of trying to find what happened to the Belfield children in the question last week, what facilities were there in Toronto for orphaned or abandoned children about 1910? Were there orphanages or workhouses or local Dr. Bernardo's homes? Where might we find adoption records?

Vida Preece sent the Bulletin lots of suggestions for the researcher to explore:

"One orphanage in Toronto. <http://www.lostrivers.ca/points/orphanshome.htm>.

These sites have a few more: http://ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/toronto_orphanages/

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21898964>

[RootsWeb Toronto Orphans](#)

"The Jewish Children's Home was a communal orphanage that was established on Simcoe Street about 1910 and was moved to a large house on Annette Street in the west Toronto Junction in 1922. The Maternal Aid Society ran the Home with funding from the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies (FJP), the Children's Aid Society and its own fund-raising campaigns. Dozens of dedicated volunteers faithfully visited and mentored the children. But according to the FJP, the home suffered from a "narrowness of vision" and amateurish methods; also, its fund-raising campaign, in 1933, clashed with the FJP's own centralized campaign. Martin Cohn, whom Lipinsky fortuitously interviewed in 1985, was (in 1933) the FJP's executive director. A social-work professional and thus an uptowner, Cohn wrested control of the home from the downtowners and radically transformed how the community took care of its orphans – placing them in private homes rather than collectively under one institutional roof – in keeping with best professional practices. - See more at: [CJN](#).

"St Joseph's Hospital was an orphanage, called Sacred Heart Orphanage in the 1910's, before it was renamed to St. Joseph's Hospital. It was later demolished, and replaced by the Morrow Wing. I think the Carmelite Sisters also ran an orphanage, as did the Sisters of Loretto. Barnardos Homes had a receiving home in Toronto, but sent the children on from there."

Q2/2014/03. Poland to Canada.

I am trying to find records for my father's father, Wojciech Orłowski, who was born in Momina, located north east of Kielce. He was in the Russian army before he immigrated to Canada in 1907, landing in St. John, N.B. onboard the SS Montezuma. The last place of residence before immigrating was Milowice. On records I have found for him his name changes from Wojciech to Adalbert, ending with George as his final choice as there is no translation of these Polish names

to English. There is a Church of St. Adalbert in Momina which might be where his given name came from. Where can I find Catholic Church records/baptisms? What would be the best way to start a search?

The [Family History Library](#) has thousands of Polish Catholic films, which can be brought into any Family History Centre to view for \$8 for a couple of months. Unfortunately Momina is not one of the places that are listed as having films of the parish register. There is a film for the Evangelical Church in Miłowice, Wrocław, Poland for baptisms between 1756 and 1870. There is also a film of civil registrations for Ostrowiec, Koszalin, Poland 1875-1881 and Ostrowiec is a little closer to Momina than Kielce. The researcher should look for civil records that cover the area that Mr. Orłowski was from.

Were You Aware...

Accessing Digital FamilySearch Records

A researcher called the Family History Centre last week saying that she had found an entry of one of her ancestors in a Hungarian records collection. There appeared to be a digital image to download but she could not download it. FHC volunteer, Leslie Dorschell, found out that by creating a FamilySearch account she was able to download the record without any problems. The researcher tried this and was delighted to be able to get the record. If you have similar trouble, click on the SIGN IN button in the top right corner of the page and create an account. While it may ask for credit information, your card will not be charged.

Portuguese Records

Dick Eastman posted a blog about how to find Portuguese records and it is available [here](#). He points out that the website, *Tombo*, provides links to catalogue pages that contain information about where to find the records. A comment on the blog says that for some areas, like the Azores, actual records can be viewed.

No films were received in the week ending January 30th.

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.

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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