



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-20

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



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Announcements – The Toronto FHC will be closed on June 12th, both the morning and evening shifts, for the Ontario provincial election.

What's New

Ancestry has added some collections that have previously been available at FamilySearch. There are two new sets of records for UK Electrical Engineers – Lists 1871-1930 (165,000 records) and Membership Forms 1871-1901 (7849 records). Swedish birth records (1860-1941) have been updated and now number over 12 million.

FamilySearch has added many more images to its browse-only collections.

FindMyPast has added two million records of Cheshire Land Tax Assessments 1786-1832. Nearly 450 towns are included in this database. The records usually include the name, year, residence and the proprietor or occupier. Most records will also include the name of the person who owns the property, the name of the occupier and the tax collected that year.

ScotlandsPeople has added 31,000 soldiers' wills to their website. 26,000 of these wills were made by ordinary Scottish soldiers who died in the Great War, and there are almost 5,000 from Scots soldiers serving in WWII and others from conflicts between 1857 and 1964. The soldiers' wills were usually found in pay books retrieved on the battlefield, recorded on forms in Army record offices in Britain, or in letters. The will record includes the battalion, regiment, rank and service number of the soldier, the name of the beneficiary, the date of the will, and the date of death. The wills are free to search and the cost to view one soldier's will is about £2.50.

TheGenealogist.co.uk has added more than 80,000 records of British and Commonwealth prisoners of all ranks, captured in WWI. The records provide the main details including forename, surname, rank, regiment and the date the information was received.

News From the Trenches

The 100th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Empress of Ireland

Today is the 100th anniversary of Canada's largest maritime disaster in peacetime, when the *Empress of Ireland* sank near Rimouski on **May 29, 1914** after it was struck by a Norwegian collier, killing 1,012 people. Explore the history, the passengers and personal stories by visiting the [commemoration website](#) or go to Wikipedia at [Empress of Ireland](#). Today [Canada Post](#) issued two stamps to mark the centennial of the sinking; the uncut press sheet lists the 1,012 lives lost in the tragedy, with the names printed in hidden ink and visible under black light.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/20. Schleswig-Holstein.

I received this baptism record from Hamburg and I am sceptical of the godparent: a Danish German constable, Soren Sewaldsen, and his wife, Ingeburg Sorensen, have a daughter named Carolina Cornelia SEWALDSEN in 1807, who has only one godparent, roughly translated, as Mrs. Countess Carolina Cornelia von BAUDISIN. This daughter died in Bruce County, Ontario in 1879 and the death registration is, unusually, under her maiden name. The Count von BAUDISIN is related to Queen Victoria. The BAUDISIN family did live in Schleswig-Holstein. I would assume this is just a family naming their daughter after aristocracy and of no relation. Do you agree?

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/19. Manchester, England.

While searching Ancestry I came across another tree containing a James Gilbert Hand, who had first married a Mary Flood (died 1866) and had a child, Mary Anne (born 1864). The tree owner had also attached my 2g grandmother Elizabeth Hand and some of her children to this James Hand as his second wife and offspring. I contacted the owner and email exchanges led me to believe that our James Hands were connected. Both were born in Castleblayney, Monaghan, Ireland and both had moved to Manchester, England, dying within a couple of years of each other.

A hand-drawn tree done by a descendant of James Gilbert Hand indicates the daughter, Mary Anne, married James Frederick Cavanagh. The marriage certificate shows James Frederick Kavanagh (sic), 23, bachelor, marries Mary Ann Hand, 20, spinster, daughter of James Hand, painter, on the 5th of June 1884 in St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Manchester. I was thrown by the fact that this James Hand was a painter, as was "my" James Hand. Were they the same person? Mary Anne Cavanagh indicates in the censuses that she was born in Liverpool, not Ireland, but that registration cannot be found. "My" James Hand, full age, bachelor, painter, married my 2g-grandmother Elizabeth Hand, 18, spinster, servant, daughter of John Hand, bricklayer in 1872 in Dublin. James and Elizabeth had a daughter, Mary Anne, in Castleblayney in 1874 and she died in Manchester in 1889 (I have certificates). Are the two James Hand's the same person? If not, how are they related?

I would doubt that the two James Hand's are the same person. In the later 1800s it is unlikely that someone would have given two children from different marriages the same name (Mary Anne) when the first had not died. [It may have been different in earlier years – see *Were You Aware...*] The researcher's James Hand marries Elizabeth Hand; it could be that the second James Hand is related to Elizabeth, not James. That could account for the James and Elizabeth Hand having a son they called James Gilbert Hand.

The first Mary Anne Hand (born 1864) was presumed to have been born in Ireland with her mother dying shortly thereafter. But this Mary Hand/Cavanagh, as an adult, consistently claims to have been born in Liverpool. This could have happened if Mary left Ireland at an early age and did not know that she was born there. If her widowed father, James, did marry Elizabeth Hand in 1872 in Ireland, she would not have left Ireland until she was about ten years old. It is unlikely that she would say that she was born in Liverpool if that was the case. There is a Mary Hand, born Liverpool, living in Manchester in 1881; the researcher should attempt to find this Mary in the 1871 census.

The researcher could also try to find the siblings of Elizabeth Hand. Perhaps she will find a brother named James Gilbert Hand. I would treat the Ancestry tree information with caution.

Were You Aware...

Children with the Same Names

It is sometimes confusing when one finds several siblings who have been christened with the same forenames. It was very common to name children after a deceased sibling. In the early 1700s, I have a Cambridgeshire family who have children: John (1717-1717), Aaron (1719-1719), John (1720-1800), Aaron (1722-?) Aaron (1730-1815) and Sarah (1733-1740). I have this information from good parish records with burial details. But if one is only looking at the IGI (International Genealogical Index) on FamilySearch, few burial records exist and it seems a little odd.

In the Spring 2014 edition of the Cambridgeshire FHS magazine, *The Journal*, one writer says of his family history research in the late 1700s: "It is extremely unlikely that two living children would be given the same forenames." Several contradictions appeared in the Summer issue. "One of my family names is GRIGG. Stephen Grigg left a will (VC7:72) dated 30 Dec 1520 and in it he says 'I will that the said John my son the elder to pay to John my son the younger his brother'..." and "...in the 1551 will of my 13th Gt Grandfather, JOHN GROCER of Walsham le Willows in Suffolk, he makes

bequests to John Grocer my ELDEST son, John Grocer my MYDDLLEST son and John Grocer my YOUNGEST son..." as well as "Jane his ELDEST daughter and Jane his YOUNGEST daughter". Yikes!

Newspapers and Family History

Last week a patron asked me if I had ever found anything of interest for my family in newspapers. The answer is YES. If you are neglecting to look at newspapers, you will miss out on some fascinating information. My gg grandfather, Thomas Berry, ran a pub in Tingewick, Buckinghamshire. In the Northampton Mercury of June 3, 1848, I found a little notice: "*Licence for the Red Lion, Finmere End, Tingewick, transferred from Corbet Coleman [his brother-in-law] to Thomas Berry.*" In the Oxford Journal of May 17, 1862, another noticed stated: "*Thomas Berry, of the Red Lion, Tingewick was charged with selling beer on Good Friday last during prohibited hours. A man, named Hunt, swore that he called at the house in question to settle an account, and, not being well, Mrs. Berry gave him some beer with some soda in it, and that he did not pay for it. There never having been any complaint against this defendant, he was allowed the benefit of a good character, and the case was dismissed.*" The final and very sad newspaper article in the Northampton Mercury of March 17, 1888 stated: "*Determined Case of Suicide at Tingewick.—Mr. T. Berry, of Tingewick, an old and respected inhabitant, has for the second time within five weeks attempted to take away his life with his own hand. It appears deceased had been somewhat strange in his manners for some time. On the second occasion, however, he has only too well succeeded in the attempt, having succumbed to the injuries he inflicted on Monday morning.—Dr. G.H. De'Ath, coroner, held an inquest on Monday ... and the jury returned the verdict of 'Suicide while in a state of unsound mind'.*"

My husband's ggg grandfather was a printer in London and an article in the Newcastle Courant of May 21, 1831 indicates an injunction against him for printing bogus labels for bottles of ink: "*20 guineas reward. - to shopkeepers and others; Whereon an Injunction has been obtained in the Court of Chancery, to restrain EDWARD BILLING, Printer, Bermondsey Street, Borough, under the penalty of £1,000, from printing or vending Labels, being Copies or colourable Imitations of those affixed to the Bottles containing 'Real Japan Blacking, prepared by DAY and MARTIN, 97, High Holborn.'* This Caution is to prevent any Person incurring the like Penalty, by purchasing or using such Labels, and to offer the above Reward for sufficient Evidence of any Printer committing a similar Offence." We have many other examples in our family history which are, of course, birth, marriage and death notices but it is nice to know that one's 5g grandfather was "*highly respected by all who knew him for his kind and Christian conduct*".

Your ancestors do not have to be rich or famous to have articles written about them. The Toronto Star online has lists of Ontario Scholars, for example. Here are a few websites to look for your ancestors' stories:

[British Newspapers Online](#) – 8 million pages – free snippets

[Welsh Newspapers Online](#) – 630,000 pages & 6.8 million articles – totally free

Australian Newspapers – [Trove](#) – more than 13 million pages – totally free; also pictures, books, diaries, etc.

Ancestry has some US newspapers online and a small number from Canada and Europe; it includes the Times of London 1788-1833 – subscription or free at family history centres

FindMyPast.com - 120 million pages in US and World; 80 million articles in British Newspapers; 1.5 million articles in Irish Newspapers - subscription

19th Century British Newspapers – a subset of the British Newspapers Online (above) – articles free at all family history centres

NewspaperArchive.com – billions of articles from newspapers around the world (mainly US) – free at family history centres

[New York State Newspapers](#) – 26.8 million pages – totally free

[Times of London](#) – 1785-1985 – subscription apparently

[Singapore and Malaya Newspapers](#) – 200 newspaper titles – 1831-2009 – mostly free

Isle of Man [iMuseum](#) – 400,000 pages – 7 day pass £10

Wikipedia has a very long list of free and pay digital online newspaper archives available [here](#).

Don't forget to check out what access your library offers to online newspapers from home. Toronto library card holders can get complete access to the *Globe and Mail* and to the *Toronto Star*. Please let the Bulletin know of particular newspaper websites you have found to be useful and of stories that you have found to flesh out your family history.

No films were received in the week ending May 29th.

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 catalogue 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](#)

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