



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-21

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<http://torontofhc.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.

Ontario Genealogical Society – Scottish Symposium; August 22nd; 9am-4pm

OGS is holding a symposium for those interested in Scottish research. The following people will be speaking:

James Thomson: Basic Scottish Research

Linda Reid: A Scottish Pedigree: Using DNA Tests to Confirm (or Deny) Ancestral Relationships (Scottish examples)

Ruth Blair: Scots-Irish Research

Christine Woodcock: Tracking Scots Emigrant Ancestors

Further details can be found [here](#).

What's New

Ancestry has again added many more collections that have previously been available at FamilySearch. They have updated their collection of pre-1870 Connecticut Town Birth Records (the Barbour Collection) and it now has 252,000 records; the records can also be browsed by town.

Ancestry announced today that they are retiring five of their sites/products as of September. These are Mundia, Genealogy.com, MyCanvas, MyFamily, and MyLegacy (Y-DNA and mtDNA genetic tests). They are continuing to do autosomal genetic tests on AncestryDNA. For more complete information about this rationalization, please read Ancestry's [blog](#) or the [blog](#) by "Your Genetic Genealogist". If you have done this Ancestry DNA Y-DNA or mtDNA testing, you may be able to upload your results to FamilyTreeDNA for a small amount of money to continue your research.

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

FindMyPast has added four million new parish registers for Devon to its collection of Devon records. These new records are searchable transcripts and scanned colour images of the handwritten parish registers held by the record offices in Barnstaple and Exeter. These are in addition to the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office parish registers which were already available on FindMyPast.

DeceasedOnline has added 113,800 burials for the period 1778-1849 in the Spa Field Burial Ground in the Islington borough of London. Spa Field Burial Ground no longer exists but it was situated near the parish church of Clerkenwell, St. James. Searching is free and one can use the Advanced Search, which will allow searching of a specific cemetery. Downloading the scans of the burial registers can be paid through purchased vouchers. DeceasedOnline now has over 8 million London burial and cremation records.

The Forum:

Questions:

Can you suggest where, on the Family Search website, I can access pre-1900 records for Angola?

Suggestions:

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?

Volunteer Leslie Dorschell says that it is very common for babies to be named after their sponsors/godparents.

This baptism took place in 1807 in Hamburg, which is not far from Denmark, and there is a connection between the von Baudissins and Denmark. Wolf Heinrich Friedrich Karl Graf von Baudissin was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1789 and he was a Danish and German diplomat, writer, and translator. [Graf means count; Gräfin means countess.] Unfortunately neither Friedrich nor his father married a Carolina Cornelia and Friedrich is a bit too young anyway. However the von Baudissins were a large and prolific family. Heinrich Friedrich Graf von Baudissin (1753-1818) married Adelaide **Caroline Cornelia** Gräfin von Schimmelmänn (1760-1826). There could be a remote family connection to the von Baudissins (the counts and countesses would tend to marry in their own class), but it is perhaps more likely that there was a work connection between the Sewaldens and the von Baudissins. Perhaps Ingeburg worked for the Countess, and the Countess was happy to be godparent to Ingeburg's baby. This, however, is strictly conjecture.

Were You Aware...

Online Trees – Fact or Fiction

Last week a patron was getting rather frustrated by several online family trees that had different parents (all with the same baptism date) for his 3g grandfather; but they provided no sources for that information. Meanwhile I was getting increasingly annoyed at the online Ancestry family tree that had been referred to in last week's question about the Hand family. The patron had found the baptism information for his 3g grandfather on the Scottish OPRs (Old Parish Records) at FamilySearch and we believe that this information is correct. My exasperation with the Hand family tree was not the result of no source information being included, but rather the following "proof" of the birth of Mary Anne, the daughter of James Gilbert **Hand** and Mary Flood, born in Castleblaney, Ireland. It cited 2 census entries for Mary Ann after she married James Cavanagh which clearly state that she was born in Liverpool; one death entry index (which gives her age but no parents or place of birth); and the one that had me spluttering, the birth of Mary Anne **Cavanagh** in Balrothery registration district, part of Dublin, in 1864. Cavanagh was her married name; Hand was her maiden name. Argh! A good source would have been a birth index registration for a Mary (Anne) **Hand** in the Liverpool area about 1864 but I cannot find one. Another example of an incorrect online family website tree for a branch of my family lists the mother having children when her age was between 2 and 16; not very likely.

Please include source information in your online tree and always double-check the sources of other trees before you add the information to your tree willy-nilly. You should always be able to answer the questions: **WHERE DID THAT INFORMATION COME FROM?** and **HOW RELIABLE IS IT?**

Ancestry *Shaky Leaf* Hints and Ancestry *Suggested Records*

If you have put your family tree on Ancestry, you will probably have seen the "*Shaky Leaf*" Hints that they provide. When the leaf shakes, and you click on it, you will find a series of hints which may or may not apply to someone in your tree. Ancestry emphasizes that these are HINTS and not FACTS. You will have to look at each *Shaky Leaf* hint carefully to decide whether or not it actually applies to your ancestor of interest. Ancestry has a good explanatory video on YouTube about "*Shaky Leaf* Hints". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFDnwpcrOtk> In this YouTube video, I was interested that the presenter chose to ignore the *Shaky Leaf* Hints that suggested other family trees. I am sure that eventually she would have gone back to check them out but she was concentrating on Ancestry databases.

Anyone searching on Ancestry has probably come across the "Suggested Records" list on the right hand side of the page. These are records that Ancestry thinks may be associated with the person you just found in a particular search – again these are HINT and not FACTS. For example, when I search for the birth index registration for my father-in-law, the

suggested records include his 1911 census record, his death index registration, and another 1911 census record that is not him.

Because you have found a *shaky leaf* hint or a *suggested record* does not mean that Ancestry has searched all its records for your ancestor. In fact, to provide these hints, it only searches a small number of its databases (like censuses and birth, marriage & death indexes); you need to search all their pertinent databases separately. For example, my father-in-law shows up many times in the London Electoral Records and these were not included in the *Suggested Records*.

FamilySearch to Add Hints

FamilySearch has announced that soon they will be adding hints to help people build their family trees online at FamilySearch. This will only apply to people who have started to construct their family trees on FamilySearch; as far as I can tell there will not (yet) be anything like the Ancestry "Suggested Hints". Here is part of their May 22nd blog: "FamilySearch will soon release a feature called 'hinting.' With this Search Records feature, we will automatically search for records that match people in your family tree. When you go to an ancestor's page, we will show you what we have found for that person. That's right—we do the searching and finding for you! ... We'll even search for you while you sleep." FamilySearch hinting is in its test phase and you can test this new feature by logging in to beta.familysearch.org.

FamilySearch has created mini-trees with some of their data. I recently noticed that the old IGI (International Genealogical Index), which is available [here](#), has been added to the FamilySearch Family Tree section. You will have to log in with your user name and password, which is the same as the one that you use to order films from SLC or you can create one without charge, to view this. I searched for my distant ancestor, Aaron Chevell, (because he has a distinctive name), and one of the trees that I found had the following information:

Mary Chevell (1809-Deceased . 9D53-R3P); father Aaron Chevell (Deceased . 9D53-R3Y); mother Rebecca Chevell (Deceased . 9D53-R3B)

This information was extracted from the Indexed IGI Baptism record for Mary, which gives more information, specifically the exact christening date and where she was christened. There were NO sources for this mini-tree and I think that there should always be a source – specifically the IGI for this tree. As an aside, if you do use the IGI to search for records, please ensure that you are looking at the Indexed, not the Contributed, IGI entries, as the former are very accurate and the latter are not.

Newspapers – More Online

Myrna Miller-Tait wrote: "In your recent bulletin, you asked for other newspapers which might be helpful in researching family activities. The Peel's Prairie Provinces archives in the University of Alberta Libraries were helpful in researching my maternal grandfather, R. K. McCammon. In these archives, the Henderson Manitoba and Northwest gazetteer and directory of 1905 showed he ran a furniture store in Calgary. The Edmonton Bulletin dated April 5, 1907, 'Western Happenings' noted that 'R. K. McCammon had purchased the undertaking business of Moore and Moore, Medicine Hat.' I am not sure how long he was in Medicine Hat but my grandfather and family eventually moved to Phoenix, B.C. where he was the stores manager for the Granby Mining Company. When the mine closed in 1919 after the price of copper fell following WWI, they moved to Chilliwack, B.C. He opened a furniture store which was carried on by his son, T. T. McCammon. R K. McCammon died in 1945."

The University of Alberta Library has the collection referred to as "Peel's Prairie Provinces" on-line [here](#). It currently has nearly five million newspaper articles digitized from 66,000 newspaper issues. Check out the list of 106 newspapers that they have digitized [here](#); by clicking on each paper you can see the years available to search. The University of Alberta has also digitized *Henderson's Directories* for Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat & Redcliff, Alberta, Winnipeg & Incorporated towns, Brandon, Manitoba & Northwest Territories, and Saskatoon. The directories contain addresses of citizens and businesses dating as far back as 1905 and are online [here](#).

Newspapers.com is a subscription website that has 11 Canadian newspapers with 1.5 million articles [online](#); the three largest are the Ottawa Journal, the Winnipeg Tribune and the Vancouver Daily World.

On May 24th, Dick Eastman wrote a blog entitled [A Long List of Digitized Newspapers Online](#). It has a link to many US county newspapers, created by someone who was very excited to find his ancestor's obituary in one of them. Do read the blog for all the information and the list of newspapers.

Films received in the week ending June 5th and due for return by the end of August.

Film Content	Film No
ENG CAM Soham PR transcripts 1559- v. 2	0088603
ENG SAL Multiple Parishes PRs CofE - L-O - 1558-1975	1657582
ENG SFK BT Archdeaonry Sudbury 1734	0989607
IRL GAL Misc. Catholic PR	1279215

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](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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