



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-28

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



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Announcements

All Resources List - The list of all the holdings at the Toronto Family History Centre has been updated to include recent additions. To download a pdf version of this list, click [List of All Resources](#).

What's New

Ancestry has added several million record pages of civil registration in Mexico. These records are not name-indexed and they will have to be browsed through. Ancestry has updated its US city directory collection and it now numbers nearly 1.5 billion names. Another small addition is a Canadian collection of veterans and nurses of the South African War who were given land grants in Canada.

[FamilySearch](#) has added five new indexed collections in the past week. There are several new US State death or obituary records.

FindMyPast has added 500,000 transcripts of parish register baptisms from 150 parishes in Wiltshire. Their newspaper collection has also increased by a quarter of a million pages and now includes London's Illustrated Times. Peter Calver's [LostCousins July 23rd Newsletter](#) has a link where you can get a one-year subscription for FindMyPast's British records for £49.75 (new subscribers only) until the end of July.

The **Irish Civil Records** that were available on [IrishGenealogy.ie](#) have been removed from the website. The country's data protection commissioner had warned that potentially sensitive personal details, like mother's maiden name and birth date often used in banking websites, etc., were available to all. The site, which launched on July 3rd, now states that the Civil Records Search is temporarily unavailable and that a further update will be provided. This happened a week ago and there has been no further update yet. Stay tuned.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/28. UK Military.

Patrick Williams was born 1838 in Tynemouth, Northumberland. His birth record lists his parents as Michael Williams and Hannah Fell. Patrick was in the Royal Military Asylum for boys of soldiers in Chelsea London in 1851, so I know that Michael was a soldier. But both Hannah and Michael drop off the face of the earth. I can't find them in 1841 when Patrick was just 3 or so, and I can't find his parents in 1851 or beyond. I can surmise that perhaps his father died in some conflict or other, but don't know where to search to find this information. I don't have Michael or Hannah's birth information so I don't know if they are also from Tynemouth or if Michael was perhaps stationed there for a short time. I have lots of information about Patrick and his wife and children, but nothing further back than this. I'm wondering if there are any searchable records from the Military School for boys in Chelsea, or if there is a way of finding out if Michael died in some conflict.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/27. Probate in the UK.

England – There are three probate records that I would like to get from England. My paternal grandfather Ernest Wheatley died March 31, 1973 in Highbury Hospital in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire County. It would be great to get probate records for Ernest's older sister (Florence Tilly Wait) and her husband (Frederick William Wait). Florence died April 19, 1956 and Frederick William Wait died March 26, 1961. I have found reference to both in the England & Wales, National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations); 1858-1966 on Ancestry (probate date July 19, 1956 for Florence and August 16, 1961 for Frederick William Wait).

Ireland - I have a death record for a paternal great-great-grandmother from the GRO in Ireland (Mary Alicia Mulrenin or Mulrennin) who died Sept 13, 1886 in Gurteen. When researching the family on familysearch.org and other sites I also found reference to a related probate record in the Ireland, Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1920. Like the National Probate Calendar for England & Wales on Ancestry, the image gives the probate date (October 7, 1886) and the executor of the will (Alicia E. Wilson, wife of John A. Wilson). [FamilySearch's transcript of this record incorrectly names both Alicia and her husband as beneficiaries, which they may or may not be.]

England – post 1858 – From 1858 on you can request copies of wills or letters of administration from the Probate Service - <https://www.gov.uk/wills-probate-inheritance/searching-for-probate-records>. The cost for this is £10 or about \$18 CDN. You will have to complete the form PA1S and mail it to:

- Postal Searches and Copies Department, Leeds District Probate Registry, York House, York Place, Leeds, LS1 2BA.

Wills between 1858 and 1925 have been filmed by the Family History Library and the appropriate film can be requested from the FHL Catalog (cost \$8). For a list of the 1025 films of Record Copy Wills for the Principal Registry 1858-1925 available from the FHL, click [here](#). There are also filmed records for the District Registries and for administrations. If you need help deciphering which film to order, check with an FHC volunteer or email the FHC with the details from the National Probate Calendar. Adrian Hetherington suggests this website which may be useful: [Looking for records of a will or administration after 1858](#). It is easy to check for these wills up to 1966 by looking at the National Probate Calendar on Ancestry.

Finding pre-1858 wills is more complicated. The Bulletin will make some suggestions for this next week.

Ireland - Adrian Hetherington suggests looking at this [link](#) to start the Republic of Ireland will search. Only a few of the Principal Registry Books survived the fire of 1922; these are listed in the John Grenham book, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, available at the Toronto FHC. The will for Mary Alicia Mulrennin may have been in the Principal Registry Books and a copy may survive at the district registry. There were 8 district registries in Ireland: Ballina, Cavan, Cork, Kilkenny, Limerick, Mullingar, Tuam & Waterford. Probate records for Gurteen fall into the Jurisdiction of the Ballina District Registry which includes the counties of Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim (except for the baronies of Carrigallen, Mohill, and Leitrim). Family History Library film number 100925 appears to contain the Will Books 1865-1891 for this area and may contain the will of Mary Alicia Mulrennin. One can search the Will Calendars [here](#).

Were You Aware...

CARP and Ancestry Discount

Marie Heard renewed her Ancestry subscription in June and received a 30% discount for being a member of CARP & Zoomer magazine here in Canada. A CARP membership is \$14.95/year if you join online.

FamilySearch Indexing Record Set

During a 24-hour period on Monday and Tuesday, more than 66,000 volunteer indexers indexed more than 5.7 million records. "Since 2006, FamilySearch indexing volunteers have indexed and reviewed over one billion records containing more than 3.5 billion searchable names, including all of the available U.S. Censuses." Should you wish to help index the millions of browse-only pages on FamilySearch, please go to the [Indexing page](#) at FamilySearch. You are able to choose a project that you are particularly interested in. If you can read a language other than English, projects are available in many languages.

Easily Accessible Records by English County

Once you have established your family connections using the censuses and the civil registration indexes, you will want to trace further back using parish records. With so many more records becoming available online, it is a bit tricky to decide where to look first. This table (current to July 2014) may help researchers establish a plan of attack.

COUNTY	ANCESTRY	FAMILYSEARCH	FINDMYPAST	Toronto FHC	
Bedfordshire					
Berkshire			200K marriages, 0.75M burials	CDs with 773K burials & 140K marriages	
Buckinghamshire					
Cambridgeshire			1.6M PR transcripts	CDs with baptism & marriage indexes and MIs	
Cheshire	5M BT records	4M PR transcripts, 2M BT transcripts, 200K Non-Conf transcripts	4.3M PRs, 2M BTs, 200K Non-Confs	CDs with marriage indexes and MIs	
Cornwall		200K PR images, 170K indexes	2M PR transcripts & MIs		*
Cumberland					
Derbyshire	3.3M PR records from FS	1.4M PR transcripts	400 PR transcripts		
Devon		tiny part of Cornwall images	4.6M PRs		
Dorset	1.5M electoral registers & 3.2M PR records	1.2M PR transcripts, 22K images	0.75M PR transcripts		
Durham	200,000 PR records	100K BT images	2M PR transcripts & MIs with Northumberland		
Essex	1.2M PR records	1M PR transcripts	170K MIs	CD with Roman Catholic marriages	*
Gloucestershire	2.4M PR records		30K PR transcripts	CDs with baptism, marriage, burial & MI indexes	
Hampshire			1.5M PR transcripts	CDs with baptism, marriage, & burial indexes	
Herefordshire	Midlands trade directories - 8M			CDs with marriage & burial indexes	
Hertfordshire			3M PRs		
Huntingdonshire			200K burial transcripts	CD with marriage index	
Kent	300,000 PR records	60K BT images & 100K PR images available at FHCs, 500K PR transcripts	1.3M PR transcripts		
Lancashire	more than 12M PR records	900K PR transcripts			
Leicestershire	Midlands trade directories - 8M				
Lincolnshire			.5M marriage transcripts		
London	more than 26M PR records	15M electoral registers	3.2M Westminster PRs & 1.2M burial transcripts	CD with Roman Catholic marriages	
Middlesex	see London	1.2M PRs with images available at FHCs			
Norfolk	600,000 parish records	1M BR transcripts, 200K BT images, 76K AT images, 300K PR images, 200 PR transcripts		CDs of marriage & PR indexes	*
Northamptonshire			0.6M Marriage & burial transcripts		*
Northumberland		350K images or PRs &	2M PR transcripts & MIs		*

		Non-Conf recs	with Durham		
Nottinghamshire					
Oxfordshire				CD of marriage index	
Rutlandshire					
Shropshire			2.5M PRs	CDs of marriage & burial indexes	
Somerset		700K PR transcripts	0.7M marriage transcripts	CD of marriage index for North SOM	*
Staffordshire	2.3M Birmingham records & 500,000 PRs		3M PRs	CD of MIs	
Suffolk			700K PR indexes		
Surrey	more than 3M PR records			CDs of baptism, marriage & burial indexes	
Sussex		770 PR transcripts	500K burial indexes	CD of marriage indexes	
Warwickshire	1.5M WAR PR records & 1.5M Birmingham PR records	1.2M PR transcripts, 22K images			
Westmorland					
Wiltshire	0.5M PR records		290K MI transcriptions & 500K baptism transcripts		
Worcestershire				CD of MIs	
Yorkshire	8M West Yorkshire PR records				

Abbreviations - PR = Parish Record
 BT = Bishop's Transcript
 MI = Monumental Inscription
 K = thousand
 M = million

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* indicates another good selection of online records on other sites – see below

Online Parish Clerks is particularly good for [Cornwall](#). [FreeREG](#) has excellent coverage of Norfolk transcriptions, which can lead to the actual images at FamilySearch, and good coverage for Durham (500K records), Northamptonshire, Northumberland, and Somerset, but with 14M baptisms, 5M marriages and 15M burials, one should check any county you are interested in. Several pay sites offer good online records: [Essex Ancestors](#) (very good coverage) and [Durham Records Online](#) for Durham & Northumberland (3M PRs);

All English counties have coverage in the [International Genealogical Index](#) (IGI) on FamilySearch. With 900 million transcribed records, do not overlook this old but good resource. Limiting your search to the reliable "Community Indexed IGI", a search by name and county or town will result in transcribed parish records. Always remember to check the Community Indexed box or at the top of your search results the Indexed IGI box each time your search results appear. The Community Contributed IGI entries are far less reliable.

All FHCs offer free access to Ancestry and FindMyPast and certain FamilySearch records that are not available from your computer at home (for example Kent parish registers).

If the data for your research interest is not easily accessible online, there are thousands of films that can be ordered from the [Family History Library Catalogue](#) to be researched at FHCs. While places like London presented a huge problem for researchers (which parish did they live in) before Ancestry digitized the records at the London Metropolitan Archives, one can easily identify relevant films for smaller cities and towns. Don't forget to check our [All Resources](#) list for your parish, in case we have already a film in our "vault".

Letter to an unknown soldier

Jerri Grimley wrote to the Bulletin with a link to a [BBC article](#) about a memorial of words to commemorate the start of World War I. The website [1418NOW](#) (1914-1918) is organizing a letter writing campaign to the Unknown Soldier whose statue stands in Paddington Station. The letters will all be published online and will be archived by the British Library. One can

send letters to the unknown soldier until August 4th, the day that in 1914 the British Prime Minister announced that Britain had joined the First World War. I found the [background page](#) about the importance of letters to and from soldiers very interesting.

Films received in the week ending July 24th and due for return by the end of October.

Film Content	Film No
AUT Bukowina Hadikfalva Kereszteltek 1790-1887	0722484
DEU MEC Westenbrugge PRs 1649-1882	0069675
IRE Civil Reg Births v. 18-1 1872	0255863
IRE Civil Registration Births V. 9-1 to 9-2 1876	0255955
IRE Civil Registration, Births, V.4-2, 1874	0255897
SWE GTB Sotenas Harad History	1440004

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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