



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-34

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Announcements

The next Bulletin will be sent out on October 2nd.

The 20th Annual [BIFHSGO Conference](#) - September 19 - 21, 2014

Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

This year's conference will be focusing on English Family History, Immigration from Great Britain and Genetic Genealogy. For the complete conference program, click [here](#) and for the brochure, click [here](#). Online and mail-in registrations close on September 12th but you can still register at the door. One, two or three day attendance options are available.

OGS Toronto – Industrial England – November 1, 2014, North York Library

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has announced that registration for their fall workshop, "Industrial England", is now open. This full-day workshop will explore the social, economic and cultural effects of the Industrial Revolutions on the lives of English people from 1750 to 1900. Speakers include Kirsty Gray (keynote speaker), Lorri Busch, Lynda Chiotti, Lauren Goldstein, Paul Jones, Carol Nichols and Linda Reid. The early-bird registration deadline is 18 September, and there is a further discount for OGS members. For all the details and to register, click [here](#).

OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting – September 22, 7:30pm, North York Library

Guylaine Petrin presents *The Widow Cathy Brown: Proving a Family Story*. Cathy Brown's life went through upheavals because of the actions of the men in her life. While most of the facts of her life are found in the records of her menfolk, Cathy did take matters in her own hands. As a result, the story of her life can be told via not only public records, but also an oral story that survived for five generations. The mini-presentation will be by Pat Javor: *A Smuggler, a Shipwreck and Mrs. Heron*. For more information, click [here](#).

Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Many thanks to Joan Challis for donating the following books:

British Gallantry Awards 1855-2000 by Peter Duckers

Discovering British Military Badges & Buttons by R. J. Wilkinson-Latham

What's New

FamilySearch has added a browse-only collection of birth records for counties in New Brunswick, which they call County Registers of Births, ca. 1812-1919; so far the records are more limited: the counties of Northumberland, Victoria, York, and Westmorland have only the year 1888, the counties of Gloucester 1851-1907, Restigouche 1888-1917, and St John 1888-1905. If you have New Brunswick ancestors, keep your eye on this collection as more records and perhaps even an index are added. FamilySearch has added the images and an index to the existing census records for the early Irish censuses: 1821, 275,000 images; 1831, 80,000 images; 1841, 15,000 images; and 1851, nearly 60,000 images.

FindMyPast has added the ability to search the 1911 census for England and Wales by street, parish or town, county or country. This search feature is already available on FindMyPast for other England & Wales censuses. They have released a new British military medal roll, the Indian Mutiny Medal Roll 1857-59, which has 56,000 records. New US data includes the Quintin Local Histories, a collection of 203 different, searchable publications with PDF images. It contains a huge variety of information about the history of counties and states and includes some genealogies of early settlers. A list of the counties covered can be found [here](#).

DeceasedOnline has added burial and cremation records for Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. There are over 276,000 burials in the three cemeteries: Blackburn Cemetery (aka Whalley New Road): 1859-1997, Darwen Cemetery: 1861-1998, and Pleasington Cemetery: 1969-2001. There are 63,000 records for Pleasington Crematorium: 1957-2003. DeceasedOnline has an interesting description of Blackburn with some useful links [here](#).

Elizabeth Lapointe's [Genealogy Canada blog](#) from today notes that the pre-August 1914 Canadian Expeditionary Force Registers are now online at [Canadiana](#). Please read her blog for the description and more details if you think your person was in the militia before WWI broke out.

The Forum:

No new questions or suggestions this week.

Were You Aware...

Poor Law Records - Settlement

Adrian Hetherington sent the Bulletin some further comments about settlement rights in a parish:

"One point to add to the information on how one gained the right to be supported by a parish is how you transferred to another parish. Marriage is one way the wife gained the husband's but I don't know if the husband could claim the wife's. The other certain way was to have been employed in the parish for a full year. This is why agricultural labourers in particular were only hired for a year less a day - they would have been prevented from claiming settlement. The Nottingham Goose Fair did occur round Michaelmas when geese were ready for slaughter but it was also a hiring fair when you were taken on for your next year less a day.

"Looking at the settlement element of the Poor Laws a little more broadly provides one reason why the bicycle, as personal transport, is such an important development in the Industrial Revolution during the 1800s. It was important because it permitted greater distances to be covered when seeking employment. Because you returned to your place of abode each night it meant that settlement could not be achieved and stable, longer term employment was possible.

"Bikes had no social barrier. A horse, for riding or drawing a carriage, meant you owned at least an acre of land to grow the animal's feed on; an agricultural labourer did not own that much land. A bike just needed an awning at best in the court out back. Also of great significance, rated with emancipation, was the freedom bikes gave to women. No longer did women have to walk or be taken anywhere, no longer did they need permission to travel further than they could walk in a day and no longer did they have to time their travel round the male they were dependent on. As has been shown in the developing world, if women can gain access to employment, the economy grows and gains stability and their children gain an education and better health.

"One other observation about the Poor Laws and society: as the 20th century progressed the role of the Workhouses changed and they became hospitals and nursing homes. When the National Health Service came into being in 1949, the former Workhouse buildings became the hospital for many areas. Though the buildings gave good service they did show their age as the century wore on and were not suitable for the complexity of acute care. They could still provide appropriate long term care to the elderly. For a manager with a limited budget this made sense, but for an elderly member of the community they knew it was the Workhouse, which carried a stigma, and they would object to being admitted there."

There is a Gap in the Records of My Parish!

The creation of parish records in England begins with the Act of Succession in 1533/4 when Henry VIII decided to secede from the Roman Catholic Church in order to have his marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled, marry Anne Boleyn, and have Anne and his offspring declared as successors to the Crown. In 1838 Thomas Cromwell convinced Henry VIII to order the parishes to record all marriages, baptisms and burials after services every Sunday. Despite this nationwide order in 1538 and a further notice in 1558, many parishes did not start keeping their registers until somewhat later. Also, during the reign of the Catholic Mary Tudor, 1553-1558, gaps in the parish records often exist. In 1597 a law required that

existing records be copied into a book, the parish register, and all subsequent baptisms, marriages and burials be entered. Although records were more consistently kept from this time forward, the old records may or may not have made it into the parish register. Also starting in 1598, church officials were required to send copies of their registers to their archdeacon or bishop every year. These copies are known as bishops' transcripts (BTs) or archdeacons' transcripts (ATs). There were, of course, small gaps in the records after that, but the English Civil War and the Commonwealth Period that followed it caused a large gap of nearly a generation.

The English Civil War was, in short, a conflict between those who supported the King (Royalists or Cavaliers) and those who wished a different form of government – the Parliamentarians or Roundheads. The war started in 1642 and ended in 1651, a couple of years after King Charles II was executed. At the end of the war until 1660, the Parliamentarians formed the government (the Commonwealth Period). Many of the Parliamentarians were Puritans, Presbyterians, or members of non-Conformist (non Church of England) groups and initiated changes in the structure of religion. Although the Church of England was retained, the hierarchy of the church was suppressed, and many independent churches were tolerated. During this confusing period, many parish registers disappeared, and transcripts were not kept because ministers were deposed from their parishes. Between 1653 and 1660, responsibility for the registers was given to a local official (the Parish Register) who was elected by parish ratepayers and confirmed by government officials. This official registered births (not baptisms), marriages and deaths (not burials). [I have never seen reference to these registers surviving.] Between 1653 and 1660 only civil marriages were legally valid and were not supposed to be conducted in the church. When Charles II was restored to the throne, these Commonwealth marriages were recognized by the church. The Church of England returned as the official recorder of baptisms, marriages and burials until civil registration started in 1837.

A good example of the lack of parish records for this period comes from the marriage records for Chester-le-Street in Durham for which the marriages in the parish register have been transcribed and are available on GENUKI [here](#). In 1642, 23 marriages were recorded but for the following ten years only three marriages were recorded. Marriages were recorded between 1653 and 1660 in this parish; perhaps the Parish Register happened to be the old parish clerk or minister.

Frustrating gaps in the parish records or Bishops' transcripts can be seen in the FHL catalogue for most parishes. The BTs for St. Mary's Church in Ely, Cambridgeshire in the catalogue show records for the following years: 1599-1600, 1602, 1604-1640, 1642, 1661-1668, 1670-1671, 1673-1700, 1701-1716, 1718, 1720-1796, 1799-1820. The records start in 1599 and have a large gap between 1640 and 1660; this is nearly one full generation and has meant that one branch of my family will likely never be traced back before 1660.

There are other records that can help fill in the gaps, notably wills and land records, but for my poor peasants, records like those do not exist. One good source of records is manorial documents which include court rolls, surveys, maps, terriers, and all other documents relating to the boundaries, franchises, wastes, customs or courts of a manor. Some of these are very early records. There is a good description of these records at [Cumbrian Manorial Records](#).

No films were received in the week ending September 4th.

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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