



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-37

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



Editor:
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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](#).

OGS Monthly Meeting, Monday October 27, 7:30pm

Archives of Ontario: What's in it for me?

Jane McNamara discusses what sources are available for your family history research at the Archives of Ontario – “records of birth, marriage, death and divorce, land records, and estate files, but that's just scratching the surface. This presentation will help you understand how archival records are organized and “described” and demonstrate how you can get the most from the AO's Archive Descriptive Database.” The mini-presentation will be **Self-Publish your Family History or Memoirs at the Toronto Reference Library using Asquith Press Book Printing Service** by Irena Lewycka and Dawn Connolly. Learn about Toronto Reference Library's new book printing service that lets you design and print bookstore-quality paperback books.

News From the Trenches

Liverpool Crew Lists - New On Ancestry

Linda Reid found her grandfather listed as E. Polley, age 20, born in Belfast and serving on the Ninian. It reports that he deserted in Cape Town in 1912. The original date is given as 6/7/12 and over that is written 5 August. Linda wonders what he did before he enlisted in the Australian Navy in May 1913. The ship in which he last served seems to be "Magician" but she can find no record of such a ship. The SS Saint Ninian was sunk by the Germans in 1917.

What's New

FamilySearch added a browse-only collection of cemetery and military records for New South Wales, Australia; these are digitized card files and are hard to search. A few other databases have been updated – check your area of interest.

Ancestry has added over one million records of crew lists for Liverpool 1861-1919; these crew lists may include the name or signature of the crew member, age or birth year, birthplace, nationality, residence, service on other ships, rate, date and details of engagement and discharge, and reports of character and ability. They have new Registers of Seamen 1859-1936 for New South Wales. This collection of 270,000 records has the names of seamen engaged or discharged in New South Wales 1859-1936 and registers of certificates of competency 1905-1933 issued to masters, engineers, first mates, pilots, and others. A further addition is the Church of England parish registers for Wigan (now part of Greater Manchester).

There are 134,000 records for baptisms, marriages and burials 1580-1812, 225,000 baptism records 1813-1911, 150,000 marriage records 1754-1926, and 133,000 burial records 1813-1979. This will be a useful addition to the Manchester parish records already on Ancestry.

FindMyPast is releasing new record collections every Friday; if you wish to read about the release before next week's Bulletin, go to [FindMyPast Fridays](#). Last Friday seven new collections were released. The largest database is the London Apprenticeship Abstracts 1442-1850, which lists 165,000 apprentices, their masters and their fathers (I saw no mothers listed). Over 70% of the apprentices came from outside London and each record often includes the apprentice's name, trade, father's occupation and birth county. The other collections released were: Archdeaconry Court of London Wills Index 1700-1807 (4687 wills); Eastbourne Sussex Monumental Inscriptions 1610-2008 (20,000 inscriptions from Ocklynge cemetery); Surrey and City of London Livery Company Association Oath Rolls 1695/6 (32,965 tradesmen who signed an oath of loyalty to William of Orange; a useful census substitute); London Consistory Court Depositions Index 1700-1713 (3,000 depositions); and Surrey Peculiars Probate Index 1660-1751.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions were received this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/36. Ireland.

I am looking for a family from Belfast – the Harlands. Six boys went into the military after school leaving. 1) Bill (William) b 1925; 2) Jim (James) b 1927; 3) Jack b 1928; 4) Bobby (Robert) b 1930; and 5) Frank b 1936. (Frank is the only one still alive; he had a lifetime career in the military). Jim (James) was awarded the MBE. Five of the boys were the eldest five in the family with the last Frank in the middle of 13 children. The family, Harland, is no relation to the big ship builders. Apparently the father, James Harland b 1902, was in the Navy as a young man and married in 1923.

It would be easier to find this family if they had been given middle names. Leslie Dorschell and I found only one who may have had a middle name – William J, born 1925/3. The family was born too late to be included in historical records and do not appear to be in any military records. They are probably born too early to be found on current records. The researcher might like to try the website www.192.com to find more current records like electoral rolls. (192.com lists full names, addresses, age guides, property prices, aerial photos, company & director reports, family records, & more. The electoral rolls start in 2002. It is a pay site. It does include some Harlands living in Belfast.)

Online family trees could be searched – Ancestry, FamilySearch, and FindMyPast are examples. But the Bulletin came up with no obvious clues. If the researcher knows when James Harland was awarded his MBE, newspapers could be searched for his award and any information that goes along with the award.

The Northern Ireland Civil Registration Indexes can be searched online [here](#), only for birth records over 100 years old, marriage records over 75 years old, and death records over 50 years old. But the Toronto Family History Centre has films for all the Northern Ireland Civil Registration indexes for births, marriages and deaths from 1922 to 1959. The history of the family in Northern Ireland can be traced using these films.

Q1/2014/35. England. Prison Records.

I have a dead end on my tree in my great uncle Herbert Harold Taylor b.1894 in Lostwithiel Cornwall. I recently found another article about him dated 1921 in Torquay where he was arrested for theft of 2 one pound notes in a registered letter. He explained himself as having 'shell shock' from the war, and admitted to having been caught for theft twice before. He served three months for the crime. My question is: Is there any access to court records back that far? I'd love to know more about the trial, so I can know more of him - and perhaps have details about him after his sentence has been served.

Leslie Dorschell looked to see what is there. She found information about Devon records at <http://www.devon.gov.uk/crime.htm>. Leslie suggests reading the last line of the Introduction and then scrolling about two thirds of the way down the page to "Petty Sessions". (Presumably, this would be a petty crime.) There appears to be a 100-year closure on these records so the researcher may have to wait until 2021.

Were You Aware...

Book Printing at the Toronto Reference Library

I was interested in the mini-presentation at OGS Toronto's next meeting entitled *Self-Publish your Family History or Memoirs at the Toronto Reference Library using Asquith Press Book Printing Service*. The library and Asquith Press have

a very good description of the process to publish a book on the library's website [here](#). It has a Step-by-Step instructions [page](#) and a price list. I was surprised at the low cost of printing ten copies of a 150-page book with a colour cover and black-and-white text and pictures - \$145.00. You will need to go to the Toronto Reference Library to submit your book for publishing and it should take one to two weeks to get the finished books.

A Surprising Inquiry

This week the Toronto FHC received an inquiry from a person in France about an article in an old Bulletin. He was searching for Nikolai Philip **POP**ERT and had come across mention made of this person on the Toronto Ukrainian Genealogy Group website. When I had a look for the Bulletin mentioning Nikolai **POP**ERT, it was a Bulletin from 2006! Peter Goddard, editor at the time, had been helping a patron track down her gg-grandfather. Peter found Mr **POP**ERT in the 1851 census in London saying that he was born in Russia but the 1861 census indicated that he was a Naturalized British subject. As was Peter's usual method of work, he had gone to some expense and trouble to find the naturalization papers for this person. He got lucky: the naturalization information he got included full name; birth place in Russia, including Village and County; occupation; age; wife's full maiden name with marriage date and place, including the name of the Church in London; that they had 5 children - 4 living, and 1 deceased; the address he lived at when he applied; how long he had lived there; and the address he lived at previously. This week's inquirer wanted to have a copy of these naturalization papers. After a little bit of digging, I was able to send him a link at the National Archives UK for these naturalization papers; the cost for him to download these nine or ten pages of documents will be a very modest £3.30.

London Electoral Registers

Looking for information on the above named Nikolai Popert, I checked the London Electoral Registers. I found a couple of interesting entries in the 1880 lists, not related to Mr. Popert. Under *Nature of Qualification* (how the person qualifies to vote), several people had written comments which had been crossed out and *House as Occupier* or *Occupier* written in. "*I pay rent weekly for house and yard, 12s.*" "*Weekly tenant, 8s inclusive; rent £21 12s.*" "*Rent 8s. 6d. per week.*" I would love to know how much my ancestors paid to rent their houses.

Another page had many people crossed out completely. These names had not been transcribed by the computers who had OCR'd the registers. (OCR, optical character recognition, by computers has made it possible to view large collections of newspapers and electoral registers. The London electoral registers contain nearly 160 million names. In the description of the records Ancestry writes: *This index was created using text recognition software. Records were not transcribed.*) You may be able to track ancestors whose names were crossed out by following neighbours throughout the years. Always look at the original images, if possible; they may contain very useful information.

Your Genetic Genealogist

CeCe Moore has been working as a DNA researcher for the PBS series "Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr." and she has written a series of articles about what goes on behind the scenes. I found them rather interesting because she gives a lot more information than can be shown on the TV series. Click [here](#) for her blog (*Your Genetic Genealogist*) and links to the background of each program. Also by scrolling down on the right of the page you will find four articles entitled **Getting Started in DNA Testing for Genealogy, Basics**.

WHO, WHEN & WHERE: WHY, WHAT & HOW

Diana Davies found these quotes on the Gwent FHS website and thought that they would be a good addition to the Bulletin:

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew)
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.
– Rudyard Kipling

For pure Genealogists
'Who, When and Where?' suffice
But Family Historians
Add 'Why, What, How?' for spice
– Geoff Riggs, Gwent FHS webmaster 1997-2012

Films received in the three weeks ending October 16th and due for return about the middle of December.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Gnevsdorf Ch. Rec. 1759-1891	0069119
DEU MEC Lohmen Ch. Rec. 1641-1815	0069306
DEU MEC Retschow Ch Rec. 1825-	0069496

DEU MEC Satow Ch. Rec. 1751-1839	0069568
ENG STS Ilam Ch Rec 1661-1812	0417200

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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