



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-41

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



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### Announcements

The Toronto Family History Centre will be closed from December 19<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

### What's New

**FamilySearch** added or updated several browse-only collections of county records for Ohio and Iowa. There is a collection of School Registers 1799-1953 for the Czech Republic and a few more Czech census images.

**Ancestry** has updated its database of passengers and crew arriving in California between 1882 and 1959 and its database of US Quaker Meeting Records 1681-1935.

**FindMyPast** has added a wonderful new collection (for me) this week – 92,000 wills from Oxfordshire 1516-1857; although FindMyPast calls this an index to wills, I found the complete documents online. Also added were an index to 28,000 records of wills proved in the 54 Peculiar courts in the province of York (York Peculiars Probate Index 1383-1883); 1400 will abstracts for the Diocese of Bath and Wells (Somerset Medieval Will abstracts 1385-1558); 27,000 probate records from Hertfordshire 1415-1858 including wills, inventories, etc.; a large number of will and probate indexes published by the British Records Society; Prerogative Court of Canterbury will abstracts 1736-1794 for Surrey; London & Middlesex will abstracts 1700-1704; 38,100 Lancashire wills proved at Richmond 1457-1812; and nearly 4,000 London, Court of Husting will abstracts 1258-1688. They also added an Irish street directory and almanac for Dublin – Thom's Directory 1844-1900 which may reveal the street address and occupation of your ancestor.

**DeceasedOnline** has added 98,000 burial and cremation records from Pembrokeshire County Council. They manage 11 cemeteries and burial grounds: Parc Gwyn Crematorium (from 1968), Llanion Cemetery, Pembroke Dock (from 1869), City Road Cemetery, Haverfordwest (from 1926), Llanwnda Cemetery, Goodwick, Fishguard (from 1906), St Michael's Cemetery, Pembroke (from 1895), Monkton Cemetery, Pembroke (from 1895), Freystrop Cemetery (near Haverfordwest) (from 1938), St Ishmael's Cemetery (near Dale) (from 1957), Llangwm Cemetery (from 1938), Nolton Cemetery, Nolton Haven (from 1954), Llanfair Nan-ty-gof Cemetery, Trecwn (from 1966), and Rosemarket Cemetery (from 2004). Digital scans of around 56,000 individual cremation records as well as transcripts and grave details for 30,000 burials are available. From their [blog](#), I thought this was interesting: "If you have Welsh ancestors you will know how useful burial and cremation records can be in identifying those with common surnames. Most of my Welsh ancestors were called JONES, which proves very tricky to research! Use burial records to double-check residence, age and names of informant. Once you have identified the correct relative, you should have enough details to find him or her in the GRO death indices and order a birth certificate. This is a far easier method than trying to guess which is your David Jones from the death indices alone."

### The Forum:

**Questions: No new questions this week.**

## Suggestions:

### Q1/2014/36. Vienna, Austria Births.

I finally found proof my 2nd Great Grand Father, **Johannes Gerber** (who died in the Netherlands) was born in Vienna about 1786. He was admitted to hospital in Amsterdam in 1833 and his parents' names are mentioned. I have looked through the Austrian LDS online catalogue finding many films covering that time period; however they seem to be only military records covering garrisons. I need some help pointing my search towards the right direction.

Jennifer Stampfer had the following suggestions: "The parish registers (RC) for the Archdiocese of Wien are currently being digitized and put online for viewing. They can be found at Matricula online <http://icar-us.at>. Registers for Vienna are found under Wien stadt. Some of the registers have indexes, some do not. One needs to keep checking as not all registers are available yet.

"It is worth checking [www.genteam](http://www.genteam) as they are indexing the Vienna registers. It is necessary to register and it takes a day or two to receive access (via an email) but their records are free and can make the search easier. This is also a work in progress - some 600,000 records so far. A search found one Johannes Gerber baptized 1791 in Maria Rotunda parish, vol 1, p 109. He was baptized 21 June 1791, son of Friedrich & Anna Maria. The maiden name of the mother is given, as is some additional information (address & godparents) but I am unable to read it! Perhaps the researcher will have better luck. This was the closest entry to the year given.

"These sites are primarily in German so you may need an online translator. Also, the church records may be written in old German script which can be very difficult to decipher. Familysearch has some very good reference guides online to help with this." Check [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

## Were You Aware...

### Essex Wills

The Essex Record Office has uploaded a further 22,500 wills to their [Essex Ancestors website](#). There are now 44,500 wills dating up to about 1720 available for download. The remaining 25,500 wills dating from 1720 to 1858 will be uploaded in the next few months. You can subscribe to *Essex Ancestors* by the day, week, month, etc. Before you subscribe please check that the documents you would like have been digitized by going to <http://seax.essexcc.gov.uk/>. Please read the Essex Record Office [blog](#) about this release for more information. Thanks to the British GENES blog of [October 31<sup>st</sup>](#) for this news.

## Cremation through the Years

I was going through some papers of ancestors recently and came across records of a cremation in Scotland in 1945. The name of the crematorium was "The Scottish Burial Reform and Cremation Society Limited". This rather long name intrigued me and the internet gave me a bit more about the Society, now abbreviated to the Scottish Cremation Society Ltd. It was the third cremation society established in the United Kingdom to promote cremation as a more sanitary form of disposal of deceased persons. Established in 1888 it purchased land in Glasgow's Western Necropolis in 1893 and its first cremation was in 1895. After ten years of operation only 191 cremations had been carried out but the numbers slowly increased to an annual figure of 346 by 1936. I was fascinated by the cost of the cremation of this ancestor in 1945 - £11 8s; this included cremation, a niche in the columbarium, a casket or urn (£4 4s) and an inscription. The undertaker's costs were a bit more - £33 2s. Of course, there was a postage stamp of 2d on each document to show that stamp duty had been paid.

This reminded me of a Bulletin article Peter Goddard wrote in April 2007 for which he had found statistics by country and date for the popularity of cremation:

### United Kingdom

1900 0.1%  
1930 0.9%  
1950 15.6%  
1960 34.7%  
1970 55.4%  
1990 69.6%  
2004 72.2%  
[2010 73.1%]

### Canada

1930 0.5%

1950 1.9%  
 1970 5.9%  
 1990 32.5%  
 2004 56.0%  
 [2009 68.4%]

**USA**

1950 4.0%  
 1970 4.6%  
 1990 17.1%  
 2001 26.9%  
 [2010 40.62%]

**Australia**

2008 65%

**New Zealand**

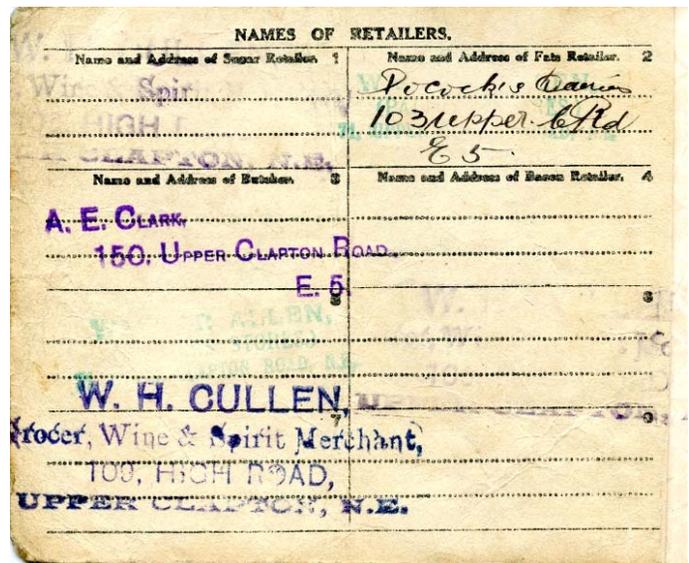
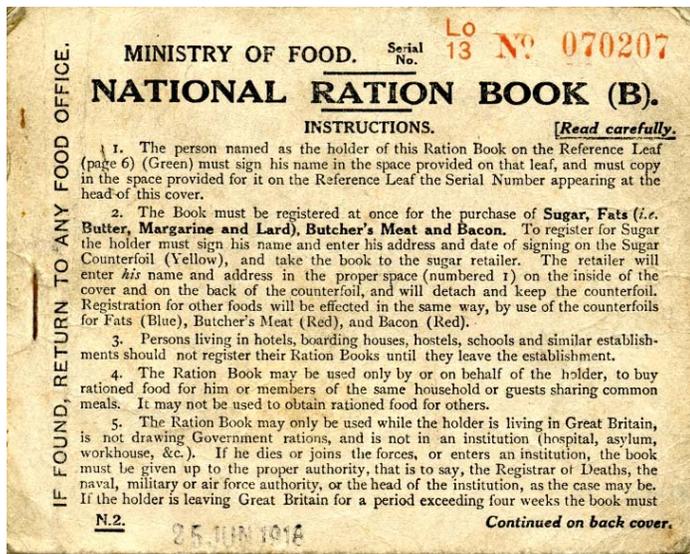
2008 70%

Woking Crematorium was the first crematorium in the United Kingdom, founded in 1878 by Sir Henry Thompson, surgeon to Queen Victoria and founder of The Cremation Society. Canada's first crematorium is on the grounds of Mount Royal Cemetery in Montreal; it opened in 1901.

[DeceasedOnline](#) has a growing collection of records from crematoria in England, Wales and Scotland; I was surprised to find a cremation record for my mother-in-law, whom I never met.

**World War One Rationing in England**

I was going through some old documents on the weekend when I found a National Ration Book. It looked a bit different from the ones from the Second World War that I had previously looked at and I was surprised that the address on the book did not match what I knew for the person after 1939. It was not until I looked more closely that I realized it was dated 25 June 1918.



Britain had been importing a lot of food from the US and Canada before and during the war. But by 1917 the German U-boat blockade had been sinking merchant ships with greater frequency. That year the government took over 2.5 million acres of land for farming, and the Women's Land Army and many conscientious objectors worked the land. Despite this work, food shortages were a serious problem by 1918 and in January rationing was introduced. Sugar was the first thing to be rationed and by the end of April meat, butter, cheese and margarine were added to the list of rationed food. Ration booklets like the one above were issued and everyone was required to register with a particular butcher and grocer. [The ration card pictured has stamps for the Sugar Retailer, Butcher, Bacon Retailer, and Fats Retailer. A Fats Retailer??!!] Rationing worked and, of course, set the stage for rationing in WWII that lasted until 1954 in Britain.

## 120 Years of Pioneering Genealogy

Today's [blog](#) from FamilySearch celebrates the first meeting of an obscure non-profit organization that became the Genealogical Society of Utah and eventually FamilySearch.org. It celebrates quite an accomplishment. Today there are 5.47 billion names that are searchable in historical records, one billion online historical documents, and nearly half a billion indexed records published each year. And all this is free to all!

**Films received in the week ending November 13<sup>th</sup> and due for return about the middle of January.**

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Prosekin Taufen, Heiraten, Tote 1805-1889	0069453
DEU MEC Ruchow Taufen, Heiraten, Tote, Konf. 1788-1880	0069686
DEU MEC Stuer PRs 1795-1845	0069595
HUN Fejer Adony Ch. Rec. 1733-	0622474
HUN Fejer Isztimer Ch. Rec. 1803-1895	0622508
Hun Veszprem Romand Ch. Rec. 1817-1895	0699660
HUN Zala Csesztreg Ch. Rec. 1665-	0700946
HUN Zala Letenye Ch. Rec. 1867-1888	0701037
HUN Zala Szent-Gyorgyvolygy Ch. Rec 1717-	0602024
ITA Bari Civil Registration 1809-1865	1604128
ITA Bari Civil Registration 1889-1899	1916506
PHL Negros Occidental Binalbagan Not. Rec.	1582905
USA NJ Bloomfield RC PRs 1899-1947	1378071
USA NJ Newark 1915 Census	1465519
USA NJ Newark St. Stanislaus RC PRs 1889-1919	1398598
USA NJ St Casimir Newark PRs 1908-1916	1398625

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: **December 19, 2014 to January 5, 2015 inclusive.** 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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