



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-45

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



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Announcements

Closed tonight! We have lots of white fluffy snow and the roads are not good. We remind patrons to call before they come in if the weather or the roads are not good.

The Toronto Family History Centre will be closed from December 18th to January 5th inclusive.

News From the Trenches

Irish Dog Licence Registers! Really? by Leslie Dorschell

Ireland Dog Licence Registers on FindMyPast.com? Really? After reading of this in the FHC bulletin recently, I decided to check it out. Having come up against the Irish research brick walls, e.g., census records destroyed by fire, church records not yet online, etc., I had decided to give that family line a rest to focus on other lines.

I have little knowledge of my great grandmother, Jane, before her marriage in The States in 1883. My family knew she was born in Ireland and her parents' names were on her death certificate. Did her parents go to The States too? Eventually, my aunt was able to provide a clue to the years of death for Jane's parents. Jane had said that she was 16 when her mother died and 24 when her father died. This allowed me to figure out approximate years of death and then to identify their death records on [FamilySearch](#). They had stayed in Ireland and the death records provided the area where they lived: Balrothery (the town where the death records were kept) in County Dublin. Finally, at least a county name and an area! Then nothing -- until the news of the amusing but unlikely-to-me dog licence registers were put online.

To my pleasant surprise, using [FindMyPast](#) even without a subscription gave me more information than expected. This database can be found by going to [FindMyPast](#), clicking on "Search Records", selecting "A-Z of record sets", then typing in "Ireland Dog Licence Registers"; or this [link](#) will take you directly there.

I put in the first and last name of Jane's father, Nicholas. In the county box, I put in "Dublin" and clicked on the search button. Immediately, 11 results were listed indicating that Nicholas had been a dog owner for most years between 1866 and 1882. Going back and changing his first name to only the initial "N" brought up an additional record with a misspelled first name.

It was also worthwhile to go back to the search page and take out the first name leaving this box blank. I kept the surname and the county name. This produced a list of dog owners with the same surname in County Dublin which provides a general idea of how many -- usually the male head of household -- of that surname were living in that county. Entering the Court name provided an idea of those with the same surname in the immediate vicinity of my ancestor. It's interesting to play around with this and might provide a good starting point for tracking down more of the family members.

However, the “Court” name is the name of the town where the area legal court was located and where the dogs were registered. Dog owners would have gone there from surrounding areas to pay for their dog licences. To find out an ancestor’s residence means looking at the images of the registers.

To see the images of the dog licence registers, either pay-as-you-go or a subscription is required, OR a visit to the local LDS Family History Centre will provide free access to [FindMyPast](#). I have looked at the images of a few of the records and found that Nicholas’s “Residence” was in different places in the same registration area in County Dublin over the years. More research will be required to find these small locations.

And last, but not least, the registers show the number of dogs per licence, along with their sex, colour, and breed. I plan to go through each image to see about his dogs – herding breeds. I already knew he was a farmer from his death record. Maybe he was a sheep farmer? Now I would like to know when other countries will put their dog licence registers online. Does anyone know?

What’s New

FamilySearch has added new indexed records and digital images for US Michigan Obituaries 1820-2006. FamilySearch has started to index a small collection of Newfoundland Vital Records 1840-1949; there are currently 16,711 indexed records and 58,839 images. There are a lot of delayed birth registrations; interesting information is included in some of them.

Ancestry has updated all the collections of parish records for Dorset, England. A new collection of New Zealand records are the New Zealand Cemetery Records 1800-2007. This collection has 1,624,000 records. The description says that these are transcriptions of headstones from cemeteries but it does include some cemetery records which give occupation and address, as well as name and date of burial and sometimes religion. A distant relative, George Billing, has three different entries each with different data.

FindMyPast has made a substantial addition to a great set of Irish records – dog licences. They have added over 3.6 million records to their existing collection, which now numbers over six million records. These records start in 1866 and record the owner’s name, address, type of dog and age. There are now 341 courts with Irish Dog Licence Registers online at FindMyPast. A dog licence cost two shillings, a not insubstantial amount of money at the time. FindMyPast has added Trade Union Membership Registers for Britain. There are over three million digitized British Trade Union Records from nine unions. Among these are a small collection of American records. The records may show marital status at registration, funeral benefits for family members, or moving to a new branch.

DeceasedOnline has added 52,000 memorial inscriptions for 20 burial sites in and around Bolton Lancashire. The records data back to 1555 (those memorials must be inside the churches!) DeceasedOnline already has 415,000 burial and cremation records online for Bolton Council area.

Tipperary North Records: The baptism and marriage records of the Roman Catholic parish of Loughmore-Castleiney from 1798-1899 (without gaps) have been added to the database at www.tipperarynorth.rootsireland.ie. A complete list of Tipperary North records on RootsIreland is available [here](#).

ScotlandsPeople has added Valuation Rolls for 1925. “The new records, which are FREE to search, comprise 2,103,648 indexed names and 76,512 digital images. The Rolls cover every kind of property in Scotland that was assessed in 1925 as having a rateable value, and provide a fascinating snapshot of Scotland in the aftermath of the First World War.” Note: they are free to search but not free to view an image. That costs 2 credits (30 credits cost £7).

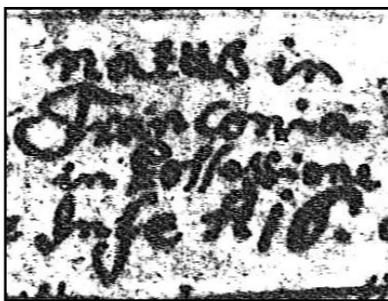
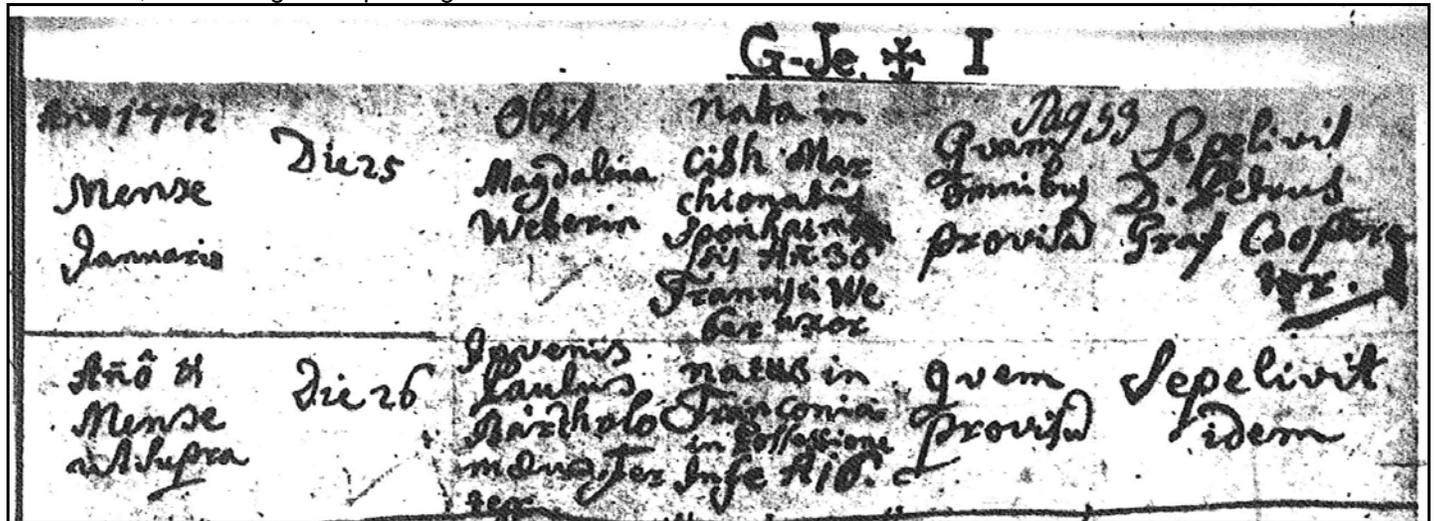
MyHeritage has launched a new feature they call *Instant Discoveries*. With *Instant Discoveries*, just by typing in seven names (you, your parents and grandparents) you will be able to connect directly into their huge databases of family trees, photographs, historical records, etc. Depending on the country, there may be a success rate of 35%. This service is aimed at beginning genealogists and those who know little about their family history. [I like the thrill of the chase – I do not think that this is for me but it may certainly get new people excited about the hobby of family history.]

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2014/45. Austrian/Hungarian Church Record.

A patron is currently looking at film #0858388. These Catholic church records from the 1800s are in German, Hungarian and Latin and the film is catalogued under three countries and towns: Hungary, Torontál, Nagyjécsa; Austria, Banat, Groß Jetscha; and Romania, Timiș, Iecea Mare. At least one entry has a word that the patron and volunteers cannot understand, even though it is quite legible.



The entry in question is the lower one. It is a death of a youngster and the word that is not understood is in the fourth column: **Natus in Franconia in Possessione Inse A16**, roughly translated as Born in Franconia in Possessions ?? Age (alte) 16. What does the word *Inse* or *Infe* mean? It occurs occasionally in the records.

Suggestions:

Q1/2014/44. Canada.

I have found records on FamilySearch relating to the Hunter side of my family, David Hunter (Sr.), son David (Jr.) and his wife Harriet Jane Romburgh/Rombough and their children Berta Victoria and Robert Irvine/Irwin Hunter. My great grandmother was the sister of David Hunter (Jnr). The records list a submitter's name: sesharp3792910. I would like to contact this person to see if he or she has any further information about my family. Would FamilySearch be able to allow contact with this person?

The record that the researcher found on FamilySearch is a "Community Contributed IGI" record. At the bottom of the entry, it gives the details that the International Genealogical Index (IGI) was published between 1973 and 2008; so this entry is at least six years old. One used to be able to order a film from Salt Lake City that might have the submitter's contact information on it, but this entry shows no film number and FamilySearch would not contact this submitter. Linda Reid found Harriet on the Pedigree Resource File as well. In its description I found this:

Submitter information, previously available, is now hidden for privacy reasons. Submitters can put basic contact information in the note fields, but they do so at their own risk.

Linda suggests searching online trees for Harriet Jane Rombough. There are 21 public member trees on Ancestry which have Harriet Jane on them. Contact with these people may lead the researcher to the information he is looking for. MyHeritage and FamilySearch also have online family trees.

Q1/2014/43. Germany.

I am looking for information on Hugo Heinrich Spengler, born 6 Sept 1872 in Bruchsal, Germany. I think that he died between January and April, 1937 in Karlsruhe, Germany. But now I find a Spruchkammer file (a file from the trials the Germans held for those who were Nazis or involved with the Nazis) for Hugo Heinrich Spengler. I presume this means

that, if this were the same person, Hugo Heinrich Spengler was alive in 1946 and that he could have been alive after World War II. Do these Spruchkammer files contain any personal information about family? How do I get his file? Is there any way to find out if Hugo Heinrich Spengler survived WWII? He worked in Karlsruhe (I only assume he lived there also), and I know that Karlsruhe was severely bombed during the war, destroying around 80% of the houses and killing hundreds of people - probably up to thousands of people. Are there lists of war dead in each city? Did they make lists of those killed in bombing raids?

Leslie Dorschell writes: "It sounds like you have done a lot of research and may have already checked Ancestry (free access at a Family History Centre), familysearch.com (including the microfilm catalogue), findagrave.com, and doing browser searches, e.g. Google. The main cemetery in Karlsruhe has sections for victims of air raids from WWI and WWII but there is no list of the graves as it is an academic site: <http://sites-of-memory.de/main/karlsruheairraidcemetery.html#ww2>

"You might need to find the name and contact information for this cemetery. If your ancestor is not listed, the next step would be to track down the cemeteries in Karlsruhe, in particular, the ones that would match his believed religion.

"As for the Spruchkammer files, it is my understanding that they are held in local archives so it might be best to start with the City of Karlsruhe archives, then the county archives.

"Something that might help a lot with all of your questions would be to join the "Baden Genealogy" group on Facebook which is run by volunteers and is in English. After joining, go through the postings that are already there, then ask. Groups like this can be a huge help."

Were You Aware...

Genetic Genealogy – Lectures or Webinars to Help You Understand Your Test Results

Genetic Genealogy Ireland held a conference in October and has posted most of their lectures online on their own [YouTube Channel](#). Eighteen of the twenty presentations are now online and can be viewed there. They are not all about Irish genealogy; most are more general in nature. For those of you contemplating a DNA test or wishing to find out more about DNA, there are four presentations which might help you:

[DNA Testing Basics](#) - Katherine Borges (41 minutes)

[DNA for Beginners](#) – Debbie Kennett (52 minutes)

[Who's Your Cousin? atDNA Knows!](#) – Emily Aulicino (52 minutes)

[Which DNA Test is Best for You?](#) – Maurice Gleeson (60 minutes)

FamilyTreeDNA also has a number of webinars to help understand genetic genealogy. Go to <https://www.familytreedna.com/learn/ftdna/webinars/> and scroll down. There are many webinars available to watch. Four are on general or beginning topics and then there are webinars which explain the different tests

Which DNA test should you take? With the current sale of test kits at FamilyTreeDNA and Linda's generous offer to send interested people further discount coupons in last week's Bulletin, you should probably look at [FamilyTreeDNA](#) first. [Email Linda at: ftdnacoupons@yahoo.ca and tell her what product you plan to buy.] The Family Finder (or autosomal DNA – atDNA) test is currently offered for \$89 and may help link you to cousins up to the fourth-cousin level. For men, a further test of Y-DNA looks at your male line only – father's father's father's, etc. A basic 37-marker test for \$129 may link you to surname-sharing ancestors. The mtDNA test or your mother's mother's mother's line only is of less value, unless your family history may be similar to that of [Richard III](#) (see the BBC article).

[23andMe](#), another genetic testing company, now offers tests to Canadians which include health testing [suspended in the US by the FDA.]

Waiting for your test results? Upload or create your family tree on the website. This cannot be emphasized too much. People with no family information available for potential cousins to view may not get the contact that breaks down that brick wall. One can upload a GEDCOM file or enter your ancestors manually at FamilyTreeDNA.

No films were received in the week ending December 11th.

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 Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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