



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-04

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



Editor:
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In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – No Bulletin next week
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Nova Scotia Delayed Birth Registrations, US Marine Corps Muster Rolls, US Russian-German Obits, North Dakota Census); Ancestry (Death indexes for England, Wales, Scotland & Ireland updates, North Carolina Divorce Index, US Registers of Patients and Naval Hospitals); FindMyPast (Ohio Obituary Index, Tasmania Birth, Marriage & Deaths, KinderTransport Records)
- **The Forum** – No new questions or suggestions
- **Were You Aware...** – Going Beyond the Birth, Marriage and Death Records, February Family History Writing Challenge, FindMyPast Blog – *How to Use Our New Poverty Relief Loans*, International Red Cross Prisoners of the First World War Archives, Toronto in the 1940s

Announcements

There will be no Bulletin next week.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Nova Scotia Delayed Birth Registrations 1837-1904 (70,000 records) also available at [Nova Scotia Archives](#)
- US Muster Rolls of the Marine Corps 1798-1937 (1.7 million records) updated
- US Obituaries, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia 1899-2012 (400,000 records)
- North Dakota 1925 census (284,000 records)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- England, Wales, Scotland & Northern Ireland Death Index 2007-2014 (1.5 million records) updated – Ancestry now shows the data coming from *GreyPower Deceased Data*, compiled by Wilmington Millennium, West Yorkshire
- North Carolina Divorce Index 1958-2004 (2.3 million records)
- US Registers of Patients at Naval Hospitals 1812-1934 (300,000 records)
- Victoria Australia, St. Peter's Eastern Hill Baptisms, Marriages, Burials from 1848 (about 50,000 records)

FindMyPast has added or updated the following datasets:

- Ohio Obituary Index 1814-2013 (2.7 million records from newspapers)
- Tasmania Births 1803-1933, Marriages 1803-1899, Deaths 1803-1933 (400,000 records)
- KinderTransport - 1,500 passenger lists and 41 volumes from The National Archives (UK). Read the FindMyPast blog about these records [here](#).

See [FindMyPast Record Sets](#) for the complete description of the new records

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions were received this week.

Were You Aware...

Going Beyond the Birth, Marriage and Death Records

This week I have been poking around some records and items that may be of interest to some readers. I was looking for the family name of **LAZARUS** and found some relevant records in the London UK, Freedom of the City Admission Papers on Ancestry. The records had much more in them than I was expecting – several pages with exact birthdates, signatures, fathers' names, etc. The one that most surprised me was an 1831 request by a Lazarus Lazarus, Maker of Playing Cards, who stated that his father was “Henry Lazarus a Native of Berlin in Prussia who came to England about 85 years ago” (1746!!) where Lazarus was born and raised. He pays £25 so that he can join the [Livery Company](#) – the [Worshipful Company of the Makers of Playing Cards](#). I then got distracted by looking at the 110 City Livery Companies that there are today. Another Lazarus was in the Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers; he would have drawn out silver and wire thread used in the making of braid and the like for military and society clothing. Another was a Loriner, who supplied equestrian bits, bridles and spurs. The FamilySearch Wiki has an article on Freedom of the City of London [here](#).

Alan Billing has found some useful Freedom and Apprenticeship records. “Wikipedia says that freedom of a city started as a medieval practice of granting respected citizens freedom from serfdom; since that time it has evolved into a more honorary award without much in the way of privileges. Freedom was first recorded for the City of London in 1237, and has been closely tied to the Livery Companies, the groups that each controlled a particular trade.

“My interest in freedom of a city (for me, almost always the City of London) developed from apprenticeships of my ancestors from late in the 18th century. We have found records relating to apprenticeship of various ancestors living in and near the City. My 3g-grandfather Edward Billing became a printer, by apprenticeship to one working on the Bermondsey Street where his father (then deceased) had run a public house. On 3 July 1793, he was bound for seven years, at a cost of £10. The cost of apprenticeship was wildly variable: of the 33 apprentices for various trades listed on Edward's page of the records, the fee ranged from £2 to £400.

“Robert Harrild, who was to become Edward's business partner, was apprenticed one month earlier to a clothworker. His £10 was paid by a charity, for unknown reasons. His indenture laid out very specific behaviour on his part: “He shall not waste the Goods of his said Master, nor lend them unlawfully to any. He shall not commit Fornication, nor contract Matrimony within the said Term. He shall not play at Cards, Dice, Tables or any other unlawful Games He shall not haunt Taverns or Playhouses, nor absent himself from his said Master's Service Day nor Night unlawfully...”. Robert's Admission to the Company was recorded on 2 July, 1800. Robert's son Horton was admitted into the Freedom of the City of London in 1837 by Patrimony, in the Company of Clothiers, because “he is legitimate, and was born after the Admission of his Father into the said Freedom”.

Two generations after Edward, a grandson of his brother, named Robert Thomas Billing, was admitted to the Freedom of the Company of Stationers (who include printers) by Redemption – that is, he bought his way in. There have been so many printers in this family, that the One-Name Study of the Billing name has classified this particular line as “The Printer Billings”. I avoided the same trade thanks to my grandfather, a printer who refused to let my father become a printer because of the very high risks (including lead poisoning and eye damage).”

One Bulletin reader was inspired to look a bit further afield for her relatives in the [National Archives UK](#). Eve Richardson has an interest in an optical company, **Laurence & Mayo**, who had a business in India. She has found many records in the undigitized BT 365 records (Board of Trade: War Risks Insurance Records) that have given her snippets of information that are quite fascinating. Wikipedia says, in part, that war risk insurance is a type of insurance which covers damage due to acts of war, most commonly used in the shipping and aviation industries. It appears in these records that the UK government was reimbursing the insurer who had already paid the company who had purchased insurance. One of the records she found in BT 365 was:

Steamer: Mantola. Nature of goods: Optical Goods. Value: £50. Payment to: Glanvill Enthoven and Company.

Assured: **Laurence and Mayo**. Date of Settlement: 20/03/1917

Eve then found from Wikipedia how this cargo was lost:

The Mantola sailed from London on 4 February 1917, bound for Calcutta. She carried 165 crew, 18 passengers, and general cargo including around 600,000 ounces of silver valued at £110,000 at 1917 prices. On 8 February 1917, while 143 miles off Fastnet, she was sighted by SM U-81, under the command of Raimund Weisbach, Weisbach torpedoed the Mantola, causing her captain, D.J. Chivas, and the crew to abandon ship. Though there were no casualties in the initial attack, a party of seven Indian seamen drowned when their lifeboat overturned. U-81 then began to shell the still floating Mantola, until being chased away by the Acacia-class sloop HMS Laburnum. Laburnum took the floating hulk under tow, but the line parted in the rough seas, and Mantola was left to sink, which she did on 9 February.

Another claim: *Steamer: Camberwell. Nature of goods: Instruments. Value: £718. Payment to: Glanvill Enthoven. Assured: Lawrence and Mayo. Date of Settlement: 18/07/1917* led to www.wrecksite.eu. It says that “the steamship Camberwell struck a mine and sank six miles off SE by E of Dunnose Head, Isle of Wight, on May 18th, 1917. Seven men were killed. Broken amidships with an intact bow and stern this WW1 cargo steamer still retains much of her cargo of Wine, Champagne, perfume and blocks of pre-paid postcards intended for the British troops stationed in India.”

I have found London Land Tax Records useful for addresses of London ancestors (recently updated).

February Family History Writing Challenge

Why don't you take up *The Armchair Genealogist's* Family History Writing Challenge? If you register, you will receive her daily newsletter with encouragement and tips. It runs from the 1st to the 28th of February. To register, go to [Family History Writing Challenge](#). Perhaps with a daily nag (sorry newsletter), you will be able to put pen to paper (fingers to keyboard, perhaps) and write something. I think that the trick might be to start small and choose one person to try to write an interesting history about. Perhaps it is time to write your own memoirs (*It's hard to do after you are dead*). I will be writing about one of my grandfathers to show that even a very ordinary person can have an interesting story and how his life affected his descendants.

FindMyPast Blog – How to Use Our New Poverty Relief Loans to Find Your Irish Ancestors

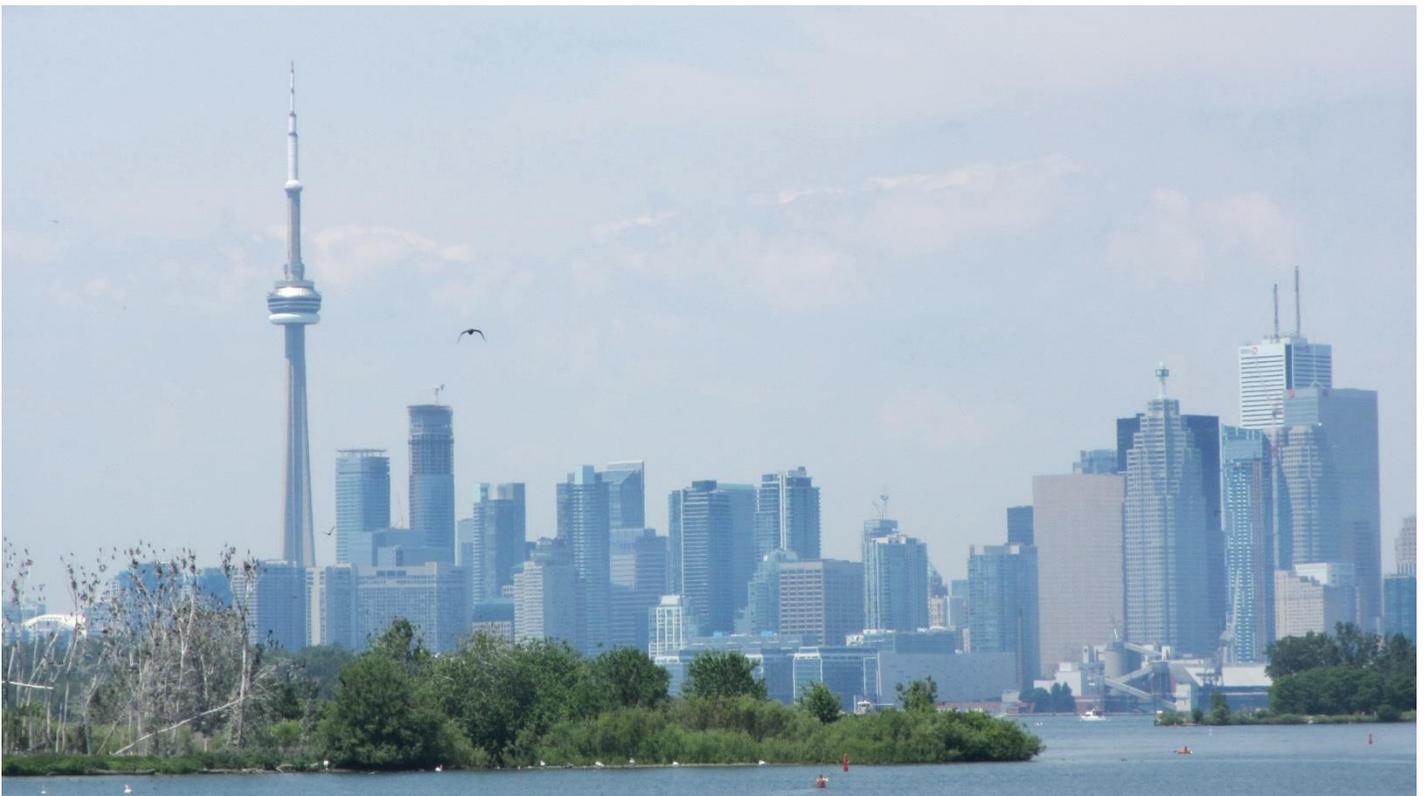
FindMyPast has posted a useful [blog](#) on how to use their new database of Irish Poverty Relief Funds. It has a very useful map showing where their records come from (only a very small part of Ireland).

International Red Cross Prisoners of the First World War Archives

During the First World War, 10 million people, servicemen or civilians, were captured and sent to detention camps. The International Red Cross created an index card for each prisoner or detainee from lists provided to them by each country. Five million index cards can now be searched at their Prisoners of the First World War [website](#) and the project to digitize these cards is complete.

Toronto in the 1940s

Barbara Carter through Diana Davies has passed this link to [Toronto photographs from the 1940s](#) that were posted online at the beginning of the month. They are very clear and show the Royal York Hotel as the tallest building in the city. It is now dwarfed by towers. Can anyone find it in this photo taken in 2014 from the Leslie Street Spit?



Films received in the week ending January 29th, and due for return about the middle of April.

Film Content	Film No
AUT Emig. & Immig.	1327506

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)

Saturday, 2nd & 4th of each month, 10am to 1pm (Grace & Charlene) For Chinese research

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](#)

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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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