



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-07

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



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In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – FamilyTreeDNA Price Reduction Code, Finding Your Upper Canada Ancestors
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Zimbabwe death notices, Argentina 1895 Census, Illinois Soldier burials, Puerto Rico civil registration); Ancestry (California Occupational records, Michigan marriages, Northamptonshire Baptisms & Burials); FindMyPast (New Wiltshire baptisms and Northwest Kent PR transcriptions, Royal Artillery Honours); DeceasedOnline (more Nottingham City Council burials)
- **The Forum** – Two new questions – readers are encouraged to submit suggestions
- **Were You Aware...** – The Families of Transported Criminals – How Do You Make Ends Meet?, Tasmanian Archives Online

Announcements

FamilyTreeDNA Reductions until Saturday

Richard Hill (DNATesting Advisor) has advised in his February 12th [blog](#) that you can save \$15 on any FamilyTreeDNA test by using the coupon code **15for15**. This would reduce the cost for the FamilyFinder test or an autosomal transfer to only \$84. Go to [FamilyTreeDNA](#) to start your purchase.

Finding Your Upper Canada Ancestors – OGS Toronto Workshop

April 11, 2015, 9:30am-4pm

This workshop will focus on the lives of people who settled in Ontario between 1790 and 1860. Expert speakers will talk about various kinds of records that can give you details of the lives of the settlers in this province before 1867. You will also learn about some of the relevant economic and social history. For more information, click [here](#). Early bird price is only \$40 for non-members.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Zimbabwe [Southern Rhodesia] Death Notices 1904-1976 (133,000 records but 328,000 images available)
- Argentina National Census 1895 (nearly 4 million records)
- Illinois Soldier burial places 1774-1974 (144,000 records)
- Puerto Rico Civil Registration 1805-2001 (nearly 5 million records now)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Northamptonshire PR Baptisms (780,000 records)
- Northamptonshire PR Burials (478,000 records)
- California – Occupational Records (850,000 records)
- Michigan Marriage Records 1867-1952 (5.6 million records)
- West Yorkshire Poor Law Records (updated to 53,000 records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets:

- Australia, New South Wales, Macquarie Park Cemetery Transcriptions 1922-2001 – index of 72,000 headstone inscriptions
- Australia, Queensland Immigrants nominated for passage 1884-1907 – 1,700 records
- Australia, Queensland Register of Immigrants 1864-1878 (800 records)
- Australia, Queensland passage certificates 1887-1906 – transcript of passenger certificates
- Australia, Queensland Land Orders 1861-1874 (29,000 records)
- Ireland National Roll of Honour 1914-1921 (now 24,000 records)
- Irish newspaper update – 1.6 million articles added, now 7 million articles, 1748-1900

- British Trade Union Membership registers – Browse 257 volumes of membership registers from 9 different unions
- British Trade Union Members, Service & Casualties 1914-1918 (61,000 records)
- Lancashire, Manchester Cholera Victims 1832 – detailed notes of the first 200 cases in 1832

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

[DeceasedOnline](#) now has 420,000 burial records from Nottingham City Council. Rock (aka Church) cemetery which opened in 1850 and Basford Cemetery which opened in 1970 have been added recently. With High Wood, Northern, Southern and Wilford Hill burial sites previously online, they are currently working on the registers for General Cemetery which opened in 1836.

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2015/07. Cemetery Records. Berlin. Germany

My grandmother Emma Ismer (nee Doerfler) was born 01 Feb 1883, in Lauterbach, Silesia, Germany (now part of Poland) and died 02 Feb 1967 in what was then the Russian (East) sector of Berlin. I will be in Berlin later this year and would like to visit her grave, if possible. Is there a BMD registry or something similar, which would give me information re the location of her grave? I have tried Familysearch.org and Ancestry.ca but could find no mention of her.

Q2/2015/07. Customs Officials in Britain.

A friend just sent off for a marriage certificate for his earliest known ancestor, Henry Grandison, who married 29 December 1828 an Eliza Ogilvie in Edinburgh. Henry was an ordnance surveyor and engraver from Dublin, but likely originally from Scotland. There's nothing about his father in the certificate, but Eliza is described as "Daughter of the deceased Charles Ogilvie late of the Customs in Liverpool." Any idea how to track down more about this Charles Ogilvie through his employment?

Suggestions:

Q2/2015/05. Deaths at Sea.

I am trying to locate Elijah Stone born about 1837 in Portland, Dorset who travelled to Australia in May 1875 on the S.S. Nubia. There is no evidence of arrival or death in the Victorian Records in Melbourne. He had a severe chest complaint and a trip to Australia was suggested by his Doctor. A note in his Church in Dorset states he might have died at sea or on arrival in Australia. I have searched and cannot locate a Passenger List for this particular ship. He and his children are listed under Baptisms and Marriages on FamilySearch.org but his death is a complete mystery. Any advice would be welcome.

This researcher found Elijah – not in Australia, but dying in Ontario in 1873. Fortunately Elijah left a will but the probate index indicates that probate was granted by an administration (with a will). The National Probate Calendar entry offered proof of his residency at death and the name and place of abode of his wife. If the probate had not been granted by an administration but by a will, the researcher would have been able to obtain a record copy of his will by ordering an FHL film covering January 1874. The Family History Library has filmed all wills from 1858 to 1925; these films can be ordered into family history centres for \$8 – rather cheaper and quite possible faster than ordering them at [GOV.UK Find a Will](#) for £10.

Were You Aware...

The Families of Transported Criminals – How Do You Make Ends Meet?

A trip to Australia in the future has had me thinking of my 4g grandfather who was transported to Tasmania in 1817. Several years ago I wrote an article for the Cambridgeshire Family History Society magazine, about seven Cambridgeshire rioters and what happened to their families. Over 80 men were arrested for rioting in May 1816 in Littleport and Ely and a full description of the riot and their offences can be found [here](#) and [here](#). After a speedy six day trial, five men were hung, and seven were transported:

Aaron Chevell, for life, tailor, 29, 5'9", ruddy complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes - "My convict"

Joseph Easy, for life, labourer, 35, 5'0", dark complexion, brown hair & eyes

John Easy, for seven years, labourer, 28, 5'9", dark complexion, black hair, brown eyes

John Jefferson, for life, labourer, 43, 5'7", dark complexion, brown hair & eyes

Richard Jessop, for life, labourer, 21, sallow complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes

James Newell, for life, labourer, 21, 5'4½", ruddy complexion, black hair, hazel eyes
Richard Rutter, for 14 years, labourer, 40, 5'5", dark complexion, black hair, gray eyes

These seven men spent several months in a convict hulk in the Thames, before being transported together on the "Sir William Bensley", which left London on October 9, 1816 and arrived in Sydney, NSW on March 10, 1817. This voyage was remarkable in that all but one of the convicts aboard arrived in Sydney alive – credit was given to a relatively new policy of having a surgeon on board each convict ship (one man drowned). After arriving in Sydney six of the Littleport convicts were transferred to the Elizabeth Henrietta along with 78 others on the Bensley for the voyage to Van Diemens Land [now Tasmania].

What happened to these men and their families left in Littleport? In the Cambridgeshire Record Office, there is a copy of a letter from the Lieutenant-Governor William Sorrell of Tasmania in 1820, saying that four of the Transportees are now "well enabled" to support their families and offers his support to allow the families of these men to immigrate. Unfortunately no action was ever taken by the powers that be in Cambridgeshire and the families remained divided. Who would have been able to pay for their passage?

Aaron Chevell was a tailor with a house and land. He left behind a pregnant wife, Rebecca, and four children. Rebecca had a son, Aaron, in November 1816, but little Aaron died of small pox at the age of 18 months. Census records show that Rebecca and her oldest daughter, Mary, ran a "petty" shop on High Street in Littleport for many years. Rebecca died in 1875 at the age of 85 years. Aaron died in 1857 in Tasmania – 40 years after he was transported. Life must have been hard on both sides of the world. Access to digitized Australian newspapers has allowed me glimpses into his life in Tasmania. Aaron Chevell, a convict holding a Ticket of Leave, was found guilty of stealing eleven sheep, the property of Thomas Dixon, and was sentenced to forfeit his ticket of leave, and to be transported to Macquarie Harbour for the remainder of his original term of transportation. [When convicts arrived in Australia, they worked on government projects or were assigned to an individual. A Ticket of Leave allowed them to work for themselves or seek other employment within a specific area, where they were monitored.] In 1838, he was given a pardon – he had held a Ticket of Leave for 8 years and it was observed that: "No offence on record for the last ten years and his conduct very favorably reported". Throughout 1818 and 1819 the Sydney Gazette and new South Wales Advertiser lists that there is a letter lying at the Post Office for Aaron Chevell and in 1820 the Hobart Town Gazette and Southern Reporter listed Aaron Chevell as one of many people with letters lying for delivery. What did those letters contain?

John Easy had married Rebecca Sindall in 1811 and had one son, John, who was born the following year. He had a garden and also earned 9s/week as an ag. lab. I have been unable to find Rebecca in the 1841 census but the CRO section of the A2A website at the National Archives shows her having three illegitimate children by three different men in the 1820s. Life must have been really hard for her. John received his Ticket of Leave, which allowed him to work in 1822. It appears to have been hard for John as well – he "cut his throat in a fit of insanity" in 1852.

Joseph Easy, a married man in 1816, was pardoned in 1824 and returned to England to live with another woman. After his first wife died, Joseph married Sarah Freeman in October 1843 after having lived with her for many years. They had one child, John born in 1829, who died in 1842. In 1851 Joseph was living on Crown Street and at the age of 70 was still an agricultural labourer. He died in 1858 at 77 years old in Littleport – the only one of the transportees who I know returned to England.

John Jefferson was a 43 year old single man earning 9s/week before he was transported and he appears to have died in Tasmania in 1860 – also living more than 40 years in Tasmania. Convict records show that he was given a pardon on August 7, 1821. In the census of 1848, John is living in a wooden house on his own on Davy Street, Hobart.

Richard Jessop was married to Phoebe and had a son, George, when he was transported. In Littleport he had a cottage and garden and earned 9s/week as a labourer. Phoebe, too, had an illegitimate child in 1822 and died in Littleport in 1825. Richard was pardoned on August 7, 1821. He died in Tasmania in 1864 at the age of 70 years. It is probable that he married Peregren Lloyd in 1836 but I have been unable to ascertain if there were children of this marriage who lived. He most probably had a son, also Richard Jessop, who died at the age of 18 months, "child of a convict".

James Newell remained in Botany Bay when the Sir William Bensley arrived there in 1817.

Richard Rutter was the only one of these men who had not been born in the Littleport area (he was from Suffolk) – he was a married man when he was transported for fourteen years. Although he worked for 9s/week, he did own a cottage and garden. After several years living in northern Tasmania, he received a pardon in 1821 and purchased some land. He was murdered on that farm in 1827. His wife, Elizabeth, was left in Littleport with a son, James. She had two illegitimate children: Rachel, by William Peacock in 1826, and Charles with Thomas Gotobed in 1829. In 1841 Thomas Gotobed and

wife Elizabeth were living with three children Elizabeth, Thomas & Sarah – perhaps she married Thomas after the deaths of their spouses.

Three of the wives who were left behind in Littleport had illegitimate children; perhaps this suggests how men were needed for support or survival, especially if one had been left with a child. Were they supported by the parish or were they discriminated against because their husbands were convicts? What would life have been like for these families if they had been allowed to join their husbands?

Tasmanian Archives Online

Items from the Tasmanian Archives can be quite fascinating; the name index can be searched [here](#). There are over 845,000 digitised records – over 210,000 births, 111,000 marriages, 102,000 deaths, 104,000 wills and 155,000 departures. The ship that the person arrived on is usually recorded in every record. A sample burial register lists name, where living, when buried, age, ship's name and quality of profession (convict, object of charity, assigned servant, etc.) The death register also has Rank or Profession – Child of a convict, labourer's child, labourer, etc.

Films received in the week ending February 26th, and due for return about the end of April.

Film Content	Film No
ENG LAN Liverpool St Peter Chr 1898-1903	0093910
FRA MOS Munster PRs 1695-1765	13317250093910

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](#).

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