



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-08

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



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In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – FindMyPast **FREE** this weekend, OGS Toronto – Call for Speakers on Irish Genealogy,
- **News from the Trenches** – Marriage Occurs 40 Years After the Birth of the First Child!
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Australia Cemetery Transcriptions, Ohio Marriages, Toulouse France Censuses); Ancestry (WWII databases from JewGen, US Residents in the BEF & the CEF in WWI); FindMyPast (Australia Queensland Immigration records, WWI British Women in the Army, Navy & Air Force, British Civil Service Evidence of Age)
- **The Forum** – One new question & some suggestions; readers are encouraged to submit suggestions
- **Were You Aware...** – CEF Medical Files, The February Family History Writing Challenge

Announcements

FindMyPast FREE This Weekend!

From noon (GMT) on Friday to noon (GMT) on Monday, FindMyPast is giving unlimited free access to all their records including their newspapers from all over the world. This is a great opportunity to search the newspapers and Irish records, as well as their extensive UK records. I have found quite a few records on FMP that were not on Ancestry. I have found it easy to search particular record sets by going to **SEARCH** and then **A-Z of RECORDS** and typing in a county (like Cambridgeshire) or subject (like probate) before entering a name.

OGS Toronto – Call for Speakers on Irish Genealogy

Toronto Branch is planning a one-day workshop on 19 September 2015 on Irish genealogy and family history with a specific focus on Ulster. Historian Dr. William Roulston and genealogist Chris Paton have agreed to lead this workshop as keynote presenters, and they are now seeking other speakers with Irish expertise who would like to be part of the team. They are inviting proposals for presentations about Ulster at either a beginner or more advanced level. The detailed call for presentations is at <http://torontofamilyhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Call-for-Speakers-Irish-Genealogy-Workshop-Sept-2015.pdf> with a deadline of 18 April 2015.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Australia, New South Wales, Cemetery, Military & Church Record Transcripts 1816-1982 (190,000 records)
- Ohio County Marriages 1789-1997 (4.5 million records)
- France, Haute-Garonne, Toulouse, 1872 & 1886 censuses (247,000 records)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Several WWII databases from JewishGen
- US Residents serving in the BEF in WWI (13,365 records)
- US Residents serving in the CEF in WWI (23,000 records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets:

- Australia, Queensland Assisted Immigration 1848-1912 (261,000 records)
- Australia, Queensland Immigration Registers 1922-1940 (19,000 records)
- Australia, Queensland Passport Registers 1926-1939 (5,000 records)
- British Women's Royal Navy Service Registers 1918-1919 (ADM 336) (7,000 records)
- British Women's Royal Naval Service Officer Files 1917-1919 (ADM 318) (500 records)
- British Women's Royal Air Force Service Records 1918-1920 (AIR 80) (31,000 records)

- British Army, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps Service Records 1917-1920 (WO 398) (7,500 records)
- British Civil Service Evidence of Age (65,000 records)

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

News From the Trenches

Marriage Occurs 40 Years After the Birth of the First Child!

One of our family history centre's patrons has come across a late marriage and wonders whether anyone can top this. Or, in fact, can anyone explain why the marriage occurred so late?

In 1901, Robert and Mary Molyneux are living in Everton, Liverpool with their 11 month old daughter, Margaret. They were both 28 years old and so Joan looked for a marriage in the previous five years. There were a couple of Robert Molyneux marriages in the particular time period to others, but they were found to be the wrong Robert. "This" Robert Molyneux's father's name was Thomas. These marriages showed the Robert Molyneux's to be sons of a Robert and a George. In 1911 Robert and Mary were living with their three children in Liverpool. Mary states that they have been married for 14 years and that they have had seven children, four of which have died. A few baptisms of their children can be found online in the Ancestry Liverpool records but not all. Joan says that they always lived in the same area of Liverpool and usually attended either St. Ambrose or St Peters churches. The birth certificate for one child stated that the mother was Mary Molyneux, formerly Irving. Their marriage, supposedly about 1897, remained a mystery.

But a year ago Joan's sister found a marriage of a Robert Molyneux to a Mary Irving in 1940. Surely this could not be the marriage? But the certificate confirmed that it was. Forty years after the birth of their first child they got married on January 1. Both were "of full age" and single (definitely as they were 67 years old) and their fathers were deceased.

Why would they have got married then? I can think of two reasons for their late marriage: that they had to have proof of marriage to receive a married couples Old Age Pension or they needed to be legally married to get their ration books. Apparently they had not needed proof to get their Identity Cards in 1939. While petrol rationing began in September of 1939 (this couple did not very likely own a car), food rationing did not start until January 8th, 1940, seven days after they were married.

Why did they not get married earlier? What were the impediments to their marriage? Different religions? Parental disapproval? (The parents had died much earlier – all before 1920.) Did they need to be married to receive an inheritance? A previous marriage? (Not found for either spouse.) Do any readers have other suggestions for this unusually late marriage?

The Forum:

Questions:

Q1/2015/08.

In researching of events within the old Austro Hungarian Empire we find that reference is made to the Austrians giving documents to successor countries sometime after 1918-1919 (we are interested in military records but also census, birth, marriage, property). These documents cover the period around the 1850's to 1918. So it is possible that these records may have gone to Warsaw and we all know what happened to that city in 1944, perhaps these records have been destroyed?? The continued twist in all this studying is that the Grandparents came from the province of Galicia in the old Austro-Hungarian Empire. That complete province after 1918 was given to Poland, however this province is broken into two parts, Western Galicia which was made part of the new Poland in 1918 and still remains within the Poland of 2015 and Eastern Galicia which was given to Poland in 1918 and is now part of (Western) Ukraine of 2015.

Now to the multipart question:

- how can we determine if in fact these records went to the successor country, presumably Poland or did our findings mean the old territory of the empire and in fact the records are in one of the cities of Eastern Galicia--- that would be wonderful if true!!!!
- are there still records in Austria of Eastern Galicia prior to the 1850's which would assist us in tracing the family line further back and if so are they freely available in Vienna or in one of the cities of Eastern Galicia?

We plan to visit Vienna this June and hope for some help to useful sources. Any suggestions that might point me in the right direction would be appreciated.

Suggestions:

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.

The researcher may have a very hard time trying to find the grave of her grandmother. Berlin has about 230 graveyards. [BillionGraves](#) has a long list of cemeteries with addresses in Berlin that people may contribute pictures to; but the few that I checked have no names or images. Further complicating the problem is that cemetery plots may only be rented for 20 years and if the family does not pay for an extension, the plot is recycled. Every year, thousands of grave sites are removed and leveled. If the researcher was looking for a military person, they may have more luck as military graves are maintained. FindAGrave Germany only appears to have a few famous names. There is also a German website which has some names to search – [Angrada](#). Neither FamilySearch nor Ancestry have any burial records for Germany in that time period.

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?

The FamilySearch Wiki has a good article about records of Customs and Excise [here](#). It states that most of the records are at The National Archives at Kew and they have a useful leaflet: D38 (Customs, Excise, Tax Collectors and Civil Servants). Another useful source, as suggested in this article, would be newspapers: local newspapers and national journals such as the London Gazette, reported incidents of encounters between Revenue Men and smugglers. A quick look found only the death notice for a Charles Ogilvie, late of Tobago, in 1793. But with newspapers being free at FindMyPast this weekend, the researcher could have a go there.

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. – Researcher found his death in Canada and a Probate record in England.

Sue Reid had further comments about the probate of Elijah Stone. "What is involved here is usually referred to as Administration with Will Annexed. It means that there was a valid will, the will was submitted to probate, but either the will did not name an executor (unusual, but it did happen), or more likely the named executor had died or had declined the task, and no alternate executor was named in the will. So it appears what happened here was that the widow applied to the surrogate court to be appointed Administratrix (female of Administrator) of the estate, to do what an executor would have done. Different from what happens when there is no Will, but the same title.

"So I suspect there will indeed be a will available in the records. Other than having to apply to administer the estate the widow would have had to do everything an executor would have had to do, with even more court oversight than if she had been named as executor."

Were You Aware...

CEF Medical Files

I was reading a blog about transcribing one thousand medical files for the Canadian Expeditionary Force. The most common complaint was influenza and respiratory diseases, not surprising as these forces were fighting in damp trenches. But nearly ten percent of soldiers were affected by venereal diseases; venereal disease was apparently listed as a self-inflicted injury and could result in his pay being docked while he got treatment! [Blog post at [MUNINN](#).]

The February Family History Writing Challenge

[The Armchair Genealogist](#) issued a Writing Challenge for February complete with daily blogs to keep everyone who subscribed motivated. The challenge was to develop a daily writing habit that would continue into the future.

Well, I started with good intentions but being away for the first ten days of February made those intentions slip by. In my mind, I had chosen to write about my grandfather. But he was very ordinary. What was going to be my hook? What could possibly make him interesting to my children, my intended audience? Then my next problem – the first blog mentioned creative writing! OMG! Creative Writing!? I did not know the writing was supposed to be creative. My education has not lent itself to anything creative since I wrote an essay for Grade 11 history – a first person narrative about a 12-year old mill worker. And that was a few years back.

Granddad was a bus conductor in London England for 36 years – not a terribly exciting occupation. He had been a personal servant, valet or batman for two Lt. Colonels during WWI. No heroic episodes that I know about. But he was determined to do the best for his family; he had returned from the war to meet the three-year-old that he had only seen in pictures. Along with thousands of men he was demobbed in September 1919. He did not hang around waiting for a job to find him; he armed himself with three reference letters and hit the street. [The reference I found most charming was from his employer before he was recruited: *“I gave up the business of ... on the 24th of June 1917, or he would not be today seeking for employment.”*] Within two months he was working as a bus conductor. He was not just lucky - he was determined. Another episode in his life that makes him special to me is his concern for the education of his children. After my father left school at the normal age of 14 to work in the Ford plant in Dagenham, my grandfather made sure that he continued his education. He walked with my father to night school two or three nights a week; he was concerned not only that he get the education in the engineering subjects my father enjoyed, but that he was safe, walking through a rather gritty bit of London.

My problem is further compounded because, although he lived until I was 29 years old, we lived in different countries and I knew him more through my parents' discussions than I did from knowing him well personally. But it is a challenge that I will accept and try to meet, hopefully making his story interesting, even if it may not be terribly creative. But I will write it.

Did any reader try to meet the Family History Writing Challenge? Were you successful in writing each day? Did you get motivated to write anything at all?

Films received in the week ending March 5th, and due for return about the middle of May.

Film Content	Film No
ENG LAN Liverpool St Peter Chr 1903-1919	0093911
FRA MOS Loudrefing PRs 1691-1796	1331543

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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