



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-09

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



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Announcements

OGS Toronto Branch - A New Educational Opportunity

A new course that has just opened for registration is **Discussion Group: Genealogical Research Techniques**. This new event will be held on three Wednesdays (May 6, 20 and 27) and there is no fee. Registrants can register for the sessions they are interested in; they don't have to sign up for all three. More information can be found on the Toronto Branch website at: <http://torontofamilyhistory.org/learn/courses/>. These discussion groups are open to all.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Australia, Queensland Cemetery Records 1802-1990 (2.1 million records)
- Maine Vital Records 1670-1907 (1.4 million records)
- Prince Edward Island Marriages 1832-1888 (20,000 records)
- Nova Scotia Marriages 1907-1932 (66,000 records)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Australia WWI Service Records 1914-1920 (376,000 records)
- New York Passenger Lists 1820-1957 update – (83 million records)
- Hamburg Passenger Lists 1850-1934 update (5 million records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets:

- Lincolnshire Parish Registers Surname Search 1695-1911 (1.9 million records)
- Wiltshire Salisbury Wills Index 1464-1858 (90,000 records)
- Australia Queensland Brisbane Register of Immigrants 1885-1917 (48,000 records)
- Australia Queensland Naturalizations 1851-1904 (12,000 records)
- Australia Queensland Maryborough Registers of Rations Issued to Immigrants 1875-1884 (7,000 records)
- Australia Queensland Nominated Immigrants 1908-1922 (45,000 records)
- British Newspapers (another 4.4 million articles)

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

News From the Trenches

Marriage Occurred when the First Child was 46 years old!

Another reader has found a marriage in her family that was 46 years after the birth of the couple's first child. She writes: "I had a similar event in my family. An uncle and his (future) wife were together since 1919 when their first of seven children

was born. When I started doing my family tree, a cousin from this family informed me that her parents did not get married until 1965. The reason being that her mother was previously married. She apparently left an abusive relationship and never had contact with the husband again. It wasn't until 45 years later that she learned that he had died so was free to marry again." This researcher did know this very sensible reason why the couple did not marry. One set of my great-grandparents never married. My great-grandmother and her four children were abandoned by her alcoholic husband and lived with my great-grandfather for the rest of her life, having two more children. Perhaps had she known that her husband had died only a few years later, my great-grandparents would have married.

The Forum:

Questions: No new questions received this week.

Suggestions:

Q1/2015/08. Poland/Austria/Galicia.

In researching 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 has since been 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.

The Bulletin received several helpful suggestions for this researcher. Paul Jones wrote: "Has the researcher spent time with the resources at this site? <http://www.halgai.com/vitalrecords.html> It looks to be very helpful in giving an overview and suggesting specific repositories and research strategies."

Barry Spinner wrote: "This is a complex question. But most simply, records will be found in the place where they were deposited by the original record-holder (like a city or village). So most of the Galician records - without sorting out which record classes - will be in a Polish or a Ukrainian archive, depending on the present geography of location. That statement then begs WHICH Polish or Ukrainian archive! There are so many. The querier ought to do some searching (not soul searching) on topics like "civil records of Lvov located where?" I chose the city of Lvov/Lviv for this example as the search results are both simple and complex! Please insert your village of concern."

Eva Zuber replied with a very comprehensive answer:

"The answer is very long but the topic is vast and complicated. This is based on my 20+ years of experience in researching the former Austrian province of Galicia and the Austria proper.

"Military Records.

After WWI, the Austro-Hungarian military records were indeed sent to the respective countries. So, all Galician military records were sent to the care of the Polish government and some parts of it are still kept at the **Central Army Archives** (<http://www.caw.wp.mil.pl/en/index.html>). Unfortunately for us, the genealogists, between the years 1918-1939, some military records were de-centralized and were transferred to the regional (provincial) archives in each provincial capital respectively - Krakow, Lwow, Rzeszow, etc. where, depending on the damages sustained during the WWII, they presumably still reside. The records that remained in the Central Army Archives, for the most part, survived despite almost total destruction of Warsaw in 1944. They are available for research in person or through the mail - see the above website. The transferred regional records have to be researched archive by archive. If your ancestors come from the former provinces of Lwow, Stanislawow or Tarnopol which are now in Ukraine - you're out of luck as nobody knows where those military records are - with the border changes, the Soviet Union era and all.

"Anyway, I'd start with the **Central Army Archives** and take it from there.

“The civilian records - births, deaths & marriages

Most of the records exist but getting them can be very difficult. Here, as opposed to the military records, if your ancestors come from the Ukrainian part of Galicia most of the records are available through the microfilms at the FamilySearch <https://familysearch.org/catalog-search> or in person or by mail from the Old Records Archives in Warsaw (<http://www.agad.archiwa.gov.pl/>).

“If your ancestors come from the Polish part of Galicia and they belonged to the Roman-Catholic church - your luck differs depending on the parish. A very small part of church records was microfilmed by the FHC and is available through FamilySearch, and an equally small part is held by the Polish National Archives. The vast majority of the records is available only in the respective parishes. Despite the horrible destruction of Poland during WWII, the church records survived almost intact (it was the first thing people saved!!), and they are still sitting in the church offices. In theory, there is a directive for each parish to send copies of the records to the archdiocese's central archive, and for all records older than 100 years, also to the National Archives, but in practice this rarely happens. I've seen the one and only volumes from 1500's sitting casually and unprotected on the open shelves or scattered on the priests' desks. So, the records are there but without going to each parish in person there is absolutely no chance of getting the information. BTW, as a rule, the RC Church does not answer to the genealogical requests by mail/email or phone.

“If your ancestors were of other than Roman-Catholic faith - you have more chances of finding the records, as those faiths have ongoing projects to microfilm all their records in Poland and put them in the National Archives in Warsaw and/or in care of their genealogical societies. The RC church in Poland (and in Austria btw) is very opposed to the microfilming.

“Recently, there has been some positive movement in making the records held at the Polish National Archives more accessible to the public. They have a search engine <http://www.szukajwarchiwach.pl/> which searches through all BDM books scattered all over various Polish national/regional/city archives, with a minute amount of them published online. If you find what you are looking for, and the records are not on line, at least it gives you the contacts where you can request the research & copies (\$). But bear in mind that the search is not indexed by the last name but only by the parish/town/faith, and that the National Archives hold a small amount of what is kept in churches.

“Vienna records

Of course it does not hurt to go to the National Military Archives (Kriegsarchiv) to check <http://www.oesta.gv.at/site/6155/default.aspx> . But it needs a lot of time to do any kind of research there.

“If your ancestor was an officer (lieutenant and up), there is a good chance of finding his records - despite what they say about destroyed records, sending the records to the respective countries, etc. The officers' records (or at least the copies) are kept intact in Vienna. Anyway, in order to find anything in Kriegsarchiv, you have to know exactly not only the name, date and place of birth & parents but also which army, regiment, years and the rank he served as. The Kriegsarchiv does not have index by name (at least they did not in 2007 when I was there) and a lot of the records are not microfilmed. Some Austrian Kriegsarchiv records are available at FamilySearch (search by keyword or author) - so I'd start there first. Another sources for the officers, are the military publications - Militär-Schematismus des österreichischen Kaiserthums - which were issued each year (until 1918) with very detailed information about the army organization, history of the regiment, personnel, etc. The assorted Militär-Schematismus volumes are scattered all over the internet (Google).

“If your ancestor was not an officer - forget it. There will be nothing to find in Vienna. Just enjoy this beautiful city and look in the Polish military records.”

The Toronto FHC has a book that may be helpful to the researcher: *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia* by Brian J Lenius.

Were You Aware...

Editing and Saving or Printing Images

The Bulletin has regularly mentioned a wonderful FREE computer program ([IrfanView](http://www.irfanview.com/)) with which you can easily edit *jpeg* (and many other file formats) files. If you download a census image from Ancestry for example, it will be in a *jpeg* format. You may wish to remove the black edges, straighten it, or brighten it; *IrfanView* is an easy way to do this. *IrfanView* has become more sophisticated in what it can do over the years but it still remains uncomplicated to use. All the computers at the Toronto FHC have *IrfanView* to use for viewing and editing images. Volunteers have found that it is also useful for saving something one has on the screen. Leslie Dorschell has created the instructions below for users wishing to print part of what is displayed on their screen. Download IrfanView here: <http://www.irfanview.com/>. Our volunteers are always happy to help patrons understand how to use this program.

How to Crop and Print/Save Images Using IrfanView

IrfanView software allows for printing and/or saving selected sections of digital images.

With the image displayed on your screen, press:  + 

(The Print Screen key is on the keyboard usually in the top row towards the right.)

Minimize the browser window. 

Double-click on the IrfanView icon (red cat) on the desktop.



To paste the image into IrfanView, type:  + 

To Select and Crop the Image:

- Move the cursor  to top left corner of the section required.
- **Press and hold the left click** button on the mouse.
- Drag the cursor to the bottom right corner of the section required.
- Let go of the left click button.
- The rectangular outline of your selection can be adjusted by hovering the cursor over the border you want to move until you see a two-way arrow. 
- **Press and hold the left click button** and move the line to the left or right or up or down, then release.
- On the toolbar, click on:

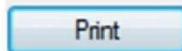
Edit
Crop Selection

To Print:

On the toolbar, click on:

File
Print...

This will bring you to the **Print Preview** screen. Choose landscape or portrait, fit to screen, etc., as it applies, then click:

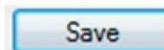


To Save:

On the toolbar, click on:

File
Save as...

This will bring you to the **Save Picture As...** screen. Click on the down arrow  on the drop down box. Choose either My Documents to save to your computer or choose the drive assigned to your memory stick. Go to the **File name** box and type in a file name, then click:



Close IrfanView. 

Note: IrfanView is freeware which can be downloaded at no charge from www.irfanview.com.

Update on 1939 Register – England and Wales

FindMyPast, in partnership with the National Archives, is digitising the records of the 40 million men, women and children surveyed on the eve of WWII in England and Wales. They have currently conserved 3,300 of 7,000 volumes, scanned 487,000 images and indexed 31,000 names. The information (name, address, date of birth, sex, occupation, and name changes) collected on the 1939 Registration helped form the government's decisions on identity cards, rationing, conscription, and, eventually, the formation of the National Health Service.

No films were received in the week ending March 12th.

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](#)

[FamilySearch - IGI](#)

[Hugh Wallis IGI Batch Numbers](#)

[FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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