



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-18

May 14, 2015

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



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### Announcements

#### **OGS Toronto Genetic Genealogy Workshop - June 6, 2015, 9:30 am – 4:45 pm**

Are you wondering what genetic genealogy is all about? Or have you already had some DNA tests done for yourself and your relatives but don't know what the results mean? Do you already use DNA testing effectively but would like to learn more? If any of these questions apply to you, this one-day workshop on genetic genealogy may help you to advance your knowledge of this fascinating and rapidly changing field of research. There are still a few spots remaining for this workshop which will be held at the North York Central Library. For all the information about speakers and topics and to register, click [here](#).

#### **The One World One Family Conference – August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9am – 4pm**

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual OWOFF Family History Conference will be held at the Brampton Stake in Brampton for an early-bird registration fee of \$20. The keynote speaker will be Lesley Anderson and Glenn Wright will join her for the plenary address. Please check the [website](#) for the conference details with workshops and speakers.

### What's New

**FamilySearch** has updated or added to the following collections:

- Newfoundland Vital Statistics 1753-1893 (191,573 records)
- United States Passport Applications 1795-1925 (960,000 records) Many applications have photographs of the applicant.
- New South Wales Australia 1841 Census Fragment (1,385 records)

**Ancestry's** updates or additions include:

- West Yorkshire Select Apprenticeship Records 1627-1894 (6,982 records)
- West Yorkshire Alehouse Licences 1771-1962 (76,239 records)
- West Yorkshire Occupation Records 1793-1930 (46,225 records)
- US, Passenger and Crew Lists for US-Bound Vessels Arriving in Canada 1912-1939 & 1953-1962 (93,258 records)
- Oregon Motor Vehicle Registrations 1911-1946 (3.5 million records)

**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets for this Friday's release:

- Dublin Workhouses Admission & Discharge Registers 1840-1919 (1.5 million records)
- Dublin Poor Law Unions Board of Guardians Minute Books (900,000 records)
- Dublin Poor Law Unions Board of Guardians Minute Books Browse Only Collection
- Nottinghamshire Baptisms and Burials Additions – 5,000 births & 14,000 burials
- Northern Territory (Australia) Birth, Marriage & Death Index 1870-1913 (small number of records)
- British Newspapers (over two million more articles added) (Not available at Family History Centres)

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

## The Forum:

### Questions:

#### Q1/2015/17. Irish Town/Parish.

I would love to find out the town or parish that my Irish ancestors came from. Patrick O'Brien (died 27 May 1889) and his wife, Ellen Murphy (died 06 Oct 1888), immigrated to Canada in the mid-1800s. They had 8 children:

1. Michael (my ancestor) born 3 April 1845 in Ireland, immigrated to Canada 1855 (from 1901 census); died 01 Jan 1931 in St Catharines
2. Mary born Dec 1848 in Ireland (1901 census); married Peter Carey;
3. Ellen born 2 May 1854 in St. Catharines, Ontario Canada.
4. John Joseph born 8 Jan 1856, died 24 March 1934. Married Caroline Hallett in 1886
5. Johanna born 2 June 1857, died ? Married Cpt. Patrick Dacey (Deasy) in 1879
6. James born 6 Aug 1858
7. Catherine (Kate) born May 1859, died 2 April 1938, married William John Kelley (Kelly) in 1907
8. Timothy Joseph born 15 July 1862, died 20 Jan 1925 married Julia Henrietta Hestor in 1888

Siblings 3 through 8 were born lived and died in St. Catharines, Ontario, as far as we know.

Adrian Hetherington wrote: "There is no easy answer to Ireland based questions, and they may never find a complete answer. Try the usual lists for passengers and be sure to check arrivals at US posts, many people came to Canada via the USA and the immigration formalities often show that they are in transit to Canada.

If they were to find a possibility and they write to an Irish catholic diocese, they should be sure to specify that it is for family history research or it may go to the solicitor to answer not the archivist. Some catholic dioceses still keep their registers closed for fear of litigation. Were they a stone cutter [mentioned in last week's Bulletin] by apprenticeship or was the stone cutter term a euphemism for a labourer?"

Leslie Dorschell asks if the researcher has the death certificates for the four O'Briens who were born in Ireland as they sometimes have a specific place of birth. Patrick, Ellen and Mary's certificates just state Ireland; maybe Mary's is different. Leslie notes that Canadian passenger records were not kept until 1863, so unless the family came through the US (very possible), passenger lists will likely not be found.

Leslie also suggests looking at other newspapers, like the Welland Telegraph. Her other suggestions are City Directories for St Catharines at the [public library website](#), land records at the St Catharines Public Library, and church records of the area. The Toronto Reference Library also has some St Catharines directories. Leslie found a book called "The Irish on the Welland Canal" available for viewing at the Toronto Reference Library, North York Central Library, and the library in St. Catharines.

The Welland Public Library has an online local history collection which includes an extensive collection of Welland Canal historical photographs and newspaper clippings; a Birth, Death and Marriage index and surname index from local sources and newspapers from 1872 to 1934, and 1990 to the present; and a section on the development of Welland's industrial and ethnic history, with over a thousand historical photos and full text documents available [here](#). The Niagara Falls Public Library has a newspaper index available on its [website](#). The database is an index to birth, marriage and anniversary announcements, death notices, and news articles related to the city of Niagara Falls that can be found in the Daily Record, the Evening Review and the Review, since 1908.

As it appears that no records for Patrick, Ellen or Michael contain the town or origin, perhaps the researcher should look for more information on Mary. There was a family rumour that one child was born on the boat on the way to Canada; the FindMyPast database, Births At Sea 1854-1960 (United Kingdom & Ireland), was searched in the appropriate dates but no birth was found.

The researcher may have more luck when the Irish Catholic parish records come online in the summer, looking for a marriage and births that match the family in one place. Check "What's New" over the summer for the release date.

### Were You Aware...

#### England's Early Immigration Records

Herb Proudley wrote to tell us of a new database available from the National Archives at Kew. A new database revealing data of immigration in medieval England, held in the records at The National Archives, has been launched online. England's Immigrants 1330-1550 is a database containing over 65,000 immigrants who were resident in England during

this period by name, nationality, profession and place of residence. The database can be found [here](#) and as well as being searchable by name, it has some interesting statistics. There is a very good blog about the database [here](#). It would be very interesting if readers found an immigrant in this database – please let us know if you do.

### Using FamilySearch

While FamilySearch has billions of records online, it is sometimes frustrating to find what you want. Many researchers go to the records search page at [www.familysearch.org/search](http://www.familysearch.org/search) and start entering their ancestor's name in the boxes shown below.

## Search Historical Records

Search for a deceased ancestor in historical records to uncover vital information from their life.

**Deceased Ancestor's Name**

First Names

Last Names

**Search with a life event:**

Birth | **Marriage** | Residence | Death | Any

Birthplace

Birth Year (Range)  From  To

Except for very unusual names, you often end up with a plethora of results, which are difficult to wade through. I find it much more useful if I first choose the database that I wish to search. On the same main page at [www.familysearch.org/search](http://www.familysearch.org/search) you will find a map of the world as shown below.



From here one can click on the country of interest but I find it more useful to click on the [Browse All Published Collections](#) link.

Place
▶ Africa (18)
▶ Asia & Middle East (50)
▶ Australia & New Zealand (21)
▶ Canada (94)
▶ Caribbean and Central America (71)
▶ Continental Europe (482)
▶ Mexico (65)
▶ Other (7)
▶ Pacific Islands (7)
▶ South America (107)
▶ United Kingdom and Ireland (126)
▶ United States of America (926)

When you click on one of these countries or areas, you will be able to choose smaller areas and a particular database. As I am most often searching in England, I am able to choose from a list of 79 databases for England, a subset of United Kingdom & Ireland. The list of databases have little symbols beside them, as shown here:

<a href="#">England, Lancashire, Parish Registers 1538-1910</a>	913,314	17 Apr 2014
 <a href="#">England, London Electoral Registers, 1847-1913</a>	14,886,274	14 May 2014
 <a href="#">England, Manchester, Miscellaneous Records, 1700-1916</a>	853,243	21 Dec 2012

The top database is a transcription and has no digital image linked to it. The second database, with the camera beside it, has a digital image associated with it created by FamilySearch. Usually these images are available from your computers at home or the library but, increasingly, new databases can only be accessed at Family History Centres. For my Kent research, I must use the computers at the Family History Centre but my Norfolk research can be done from my home computer.

The third database, with a camera and a box, has a digital image associated with it but the images are on a partner's website, in this case FindMyPast. Some of the partner sites can be accessed at home without a subscription but others, like FindMyPast, require a subscription BUT can be accessed at no cost at **all family history centres**.

Other information should be noted from the database link: the Lancashire parish registers database is fairly small, considering the 400 year coverage and the size of the county (it is far from complete) but the London Electoral Registers has 14 million records, a goodly number.

 [About this collection](#)

When you have completed a search, you will see an icon like this:  on the right. I would encourage you to click on the "i" to read about the database in the FamilySearch Wiki.

Finally FamilySearch has provided each record with a citation under the record. It is important to know where you found the record and you can easily cut and paste the citation into the spot where you save the record citation. It is extremely important to know where you got the information. When FHC volunteers ask you how you know that fact, you will be able to answer. If you cannot answer the question "How Do You Know That" with specific details, it is not a fact, just a theory.

#### Films in the week ending May 14<sup>th</sup> and due for return about the end of July.

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Güstrow (Dom) BMDs 1777-1837, M 1838-1874	0069155
DEU MEC Lüssow BMDs 1787-1876	0069331
DEU MEC Reinshagen BMDs 1786-1912	0069518

Film Content	Film No
DEU MEC Wattmannshagen BMDs 1795-1841	0069662
DEU MEC Zehna BMDs 1740-1871	0069699
DEU PRU West Prussia Gross Tromnau Taufden 1742-1766 etc.	0286030
ENG CHS Barthomley Ch rec. 1814-	1655396
ENG LAN Liverpool Index of names (by grave)	1564093
POL WA Plock Akta urodzeń, małżeństw, zgonów 1853-1859	0730204

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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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Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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