



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-26

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

Editor:
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In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – No Bulletin next week; Toronto FHC Closed for the Pan-Am Games; Fall Genealogical Events
- **What's New** – Irish Catholic Parish Registers Online FREE; FamilySearch (More Spanish & Belgian civil records, Iowa 1915 State Census, Sweden Halland Church Records, Dresden records); Ancestry (Kansas records, Victoria Australia prisoners, US Northern Pacific Railway records); FindMyPast (Home Office records of criminals, Metropolitan Police criminal records,)
- **The Forum** – No new questions or suggestions
- **Were You Aware...** – Foundation for East European Family History Studies Conference, Drouin Obituary Database Updated – Canadian Obituaries 1999-2015, FindMyPast Crime and Punishment Month – July, UK Merchant Navy 1915 Crew Lists

Announcements

There will be no Bulletin next week.

Toronto FHC Closed during the Pan-Am Games

Due to probable traffic congestion during the Pan-Am Games the FHC will be closed until July 28th. Those of you with films that are due to be returned at about that time will be given a couple of extra weeks to view those films.

It may be summer in Canada but there are lots of excellent genealogical events for the fall.

BIFHSGO Conference - September 18 - 20, 2015, City of Ottawa Archives

This year's BIFHSGO (British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa) conference focuses on three themes: Scottish genealogy, technology for genealogists, and photography in genealogy. The speakers include Maureen Taylor, aka the Photodetective, Thomas MacEntee, and Chris Paton. For full details of all the speakers and the conference program, please click [here](#). A non-member registration including a half-year BIFHSGO membership costs \$130 until August 14th.

Toronto OGS Irish Genealogy Workshop – Focus on Ulster – Saturday, September 18, North York Library

This workshop will be a full day of lectures on the people of Ulster from the 17th to the 20th centuries where you will learn about the resources available to find your Ulster ancestors. Speakers, William Roulston and Chris Paton, will talk about different aspects of Ulster history and the best avenues for starting your own research into Ulster history. The early bird registration fee is \$50.

Toronto OGS Courses

Registration is now open for the following OGS courses:

Hands-On Ancestry.ca Library Edition (September 9, 16, 23, 2:00-4:00pm, Toronto Reference Library) - FREE

Drop-In Ancestry.ca Library Edition (September 30, October 28, November 25, 2:00-4:00pm, Toronto Reference Library) - FREE

Scottish Family History Lecture (Friday, September 18, 3:00-5:00pm, North York Central Library) – Chris Paton will explore some of the areas of ancestral hardship, to allow us to truly understand the situations that our forebears had to endure and overcome. Cost \$25.

What's New

Irish Catholic Parish Registers Online FREE

The National Library of Ireland (NLI) has put [Irish Catholic Parish Registers online](#) and access is free. The records are organized by parish and then divided up between baptisms, marriages, deaths, funerals, etc. Try searching using the maps lower on the front page. One can see each Catholic diocese and by enlarging the map the parishes come into view. It is easy to see when the parishes and diocese cross county boundaries. Similarly the county map shows parishes. This will be helpful if you know the general area of your ancestor's birth or marriage and wish to decide which parishes to search.

The NLI has put online over 3500 registers from 1086 parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland. The start dates of the registers vary from the 1740/50s in some city parishes in Dublin, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Limerick, to the 1780/90s in counties such as Kildare, Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny. Registers for parishes along the western seaboard do not generally begin until the 1850/60s. Leslie Dorschell warns that as this database is new there is a lot of traffic on the website and she has found that the images can be slow to download and to focus.

The website appears to be well designed. There are buttons for changing the image size, brightness, contrast, etc. Leslie adds that once the microfilm has been chosen the images can be filtered by events (baptism, marriages, etc.) and by date.

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Additional indexed municipal records for Spain and Belgium
- Iowa State census 1915 – updated (2,782,000 records)
- Sweden, Halland Church Records 1615-1904; index 1615-1860 – browse only collection (available only at FHCs)
- Dresden Germany, Citizens' Documents & Business Licenses 1820-1962 – browse only – Records do contain birth date and place.

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Kansas City & County Records 1919-1961 (13.6 million records)
- Victoria Australia, Deserter, Discharged & Prisoner Crew Lists 1852-1925 (41,000 records)
- US Northern Pacific Railway Company Personnel Files 1890-1963 - updated (163,000 records)

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

- Home Office: Newgate Prison Calendar 1782-1853 – 339,400 records of debtors & felons
- Home Office: Convict Hulks, Convict Prisons & Criminal Lunatic Asylums: Quarterly Returns of Prisoners 1824-1876 – 638,600 records includes age, convictions, sentences, health & behaviour
- Home Office: Criminal Entry Books 1782-1871 – nearly 273,000 records of warrants, pardons, reprieves and transfers of prisoners from one prison to another
- Home Office: Old Captions & Transfer Papers 1843-1871
- Home Office & Prison Commission: Male Licences 1853-1887 – 36,7000 records of male convicts who were allowed out on parole
- Metropolitan Police: Criminal Record Office: habitual criminals' registers and miscellaneous papers – 151,000 records of habitual criminals' registers & miscellaneous papers

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

The Forum:

Questions. No questions or suggestions received this week.

Were You Aware...

Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEEFHS) Conference – August 12-15, Salt Lake City

George Tuck suggested that many readers may be interested in this conference. In Salt Lake City, researchers can have access to the very records they are discussing in class, the benefit of more intimate class sizes, and time to network with instructors and other students. This year's program offers a track focused on German research (from getting started with German research to more advanced topics) throughout the conference. Additionally, it is offering more advanced topics in Russian and Jewish ancestors, and German ancestors from Russia. The Research Essentials track takes learning to the next level by offering courses like Latin Document Translation and Document Transcription. This well-rounded program provides both research methodology general to Eastern European research as well as specific country- or ethnic-focused research. Other areas included in the 2015 conference include Hungarian Empire, Polish, Displaced Persons, Croatia, and Slovakia. For all the information about this Eastern European Family History conference, click [here](#).

Drouin Obituary Database Updated – Canadian Obituaries 1999 to 2015

Gail Dever's [Genealogy à la carte blog](#) on Tuesday noted that the Drouin Institute has added 246,000 recent obituaries to its free bilingual website Genealogy Records for a total of 1,685,650 Canadian obituaries, from 1999 to 2015. The coverage is quite remarkable and the FREE database can be accessed [here](#). It included the complete newspaper obituaries for my father, his cousin and his cousin's wife.

FindMyPast Crime and Punishment Month – July

FindMyPast is busy adding lots of records about criminals this month. If you go to their [Crime & Punishment News blog](#), you will find several interesting articles about the records they are adding over the month. Yesterday's blog talked about the criminal gangs of 18th century Britain and the previous one is of criminal ancestors discovered through these new databases. I have written before about my 4g grandfather who was transported to Tasmania for life for rioting and stealing in 1817. I try to check each new criminal database for him and as he has an unusual name, Aaron Chevell, I usually find him quickly. I was delighted to find him in another database this week – the Home Office Criminal Entry books. This had a four page letter authorizing the transfer of Aaron and his eight co-accused criminals to be transferred from Ely Gaol to an unnamed Hulk at Woolwich. It did give a list of their crimes and sentences, items which confirmed evidence I previously had. These nine criminals had to travel 80 kilometres from Ely to Woolwich. Does anyone have any idea how he would have made this journey? In a wagon? Walking in chains?

UK Merchant Navy 1915 Crew Lists

The National Archives (UK) has completed a project with the National Maritime Museum and volunteers to transcribe the Crew Lists and Agreements from the Merchant Navy for 1915. Though no records of individual merchant seamen and women survive for the First World War, the Crew Lists and Agreements for 1915 enable you to search almost a million names of those at sea during that year. The records can be searched by name and the results from BT99, BT100 or BT400 [BT means Board of Trade records] will be displayed. The results will give you the name of the ship they served on and their previous ship. This [blog](#) gives more information about these records. I found the search to be a bit of a problem because my maiden name is also a place and, apparently, also a ship. So I had many hits that were not the names of people.

Listing of New Films at the Toronto FHC has been discontinued.

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

CLOSED JULY 14th to 23rd for the Pan-Am Games.

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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