



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-31

August 20, 2015

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

Editor:  
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### In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – Toronto FHC closed Saturday
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Savona & Imperia Italy images, South Africa Cape Deaths); Ancestry (Germany Ansbach Lutheran Parish Extracts, and updates); FindMyPast (British Army War of 1812 Casualties, British Army Deserters & Absentees, British Jewry Book of Honour, Scottish Covenanters, Church of Ireland parish register search forms, more British Newspapers); National Archives UK (Royal Air Force Operations Record Books 1939-1945, Naval Service Records, Naturalization Case Papers 1801-1871)
- **The Forum** – No new questions
- **Were You Aware...** – 1939 Register, WWI Medal Index Cards (UK), WWII British Prisoners of War in Japan, The Challenge & Some Interesting Stories

### Announcements

Due to the [One World One Family Conference](#) this week, the family history centre will not be open on Saturday for research into Chinese ancestry. You may register at the door for this conference on Saturday in Brampton. Check the website for time and place.

### What's New

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

- Added indexed records to images for Peru & France
- South Africa, Cape Province, Civil Deaths 1895-1972 (103,000 records)
- US – Obituaries, American Historical Society of Germans from Russia 1899-2012 (400,000 records)
- Added civil registration browse-only images for Italy - Savona (1.2 million images) & Imperia (200,000 images)

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

- Germany Ansbach (Mittelfranken, Bavaria) Lutheran Parish Register Extracts, 1550-1920 – New (2.8 million records)
- England & Wales National Probate Calendar (Index of Wills and Administrations) 1858-1966 – Updated (12.7 million records)
- 1920 US Census – Updated (107.7 million records)
- California Naturalization Records 1887-1991 – Updated (1 million records)
- Selected Georgia County Marriage Records – Updated (2.3 million records)

**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets

- British Army, War of 1812 Casualties – 12,000 records of those who died, deserted or were imprisoned
- British Army, Deserters and Absentees in Police Gazette 1914-1919 (13,000 records)
- British Jewry Book of Honour 1914-1920 – 57,000 colour images & transcript of the more than 50,000 Jews who served in the British & colonial forces during WWI
- Scottish Covenanters 1679-1688 – 81,000 transcribed records, listing name, county, place and a description which may include occupation of relatives
- Church of Ireland parish register search forms – 11,000 search forms to look for Old Age Pension qualifications after 1864
- Baptisms from Northumberland & Durham (39,000 records)

- New South Wales, 1828 Census householders' returns – 1,000 records of convicts & settlers but not indigenous people
- More British Newspapers – 5.8 million new articles, 22 new newspaper titles, additions to 94 publications

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

### **National Archives UK – Royal Air Force Operations Record Books 1939-1945**

The National Archives UK sent a newsletter today commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Britain and Churchill's famous speech: "*Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.*" You can now search and download [Royal Air Force operations record books 1939-1945](#) and all their [Second World War research guides](#). I thought that it might be interesting to look at the record books for the month that my uncle died – August 1943. There were three items for that month for his squadron #9: Summary of Events, Appendices, and Records of Events. There are 43 pages in the "Records of Events" and it can be downloaded for £3.30 or I can download it free at the National Archives at Kew. I may well do this next time I am there. But looking at these records and my family revealed a flaw in my records: I have no record of the squadron number of my father; that is now on my to-do list.

### **National Archives UK – Naval Service Records**

You can now also search and download naval service records in series ADM 362 and ADM 363. These records will allow you to research the career of any Royal Navy Rating who enlisted before 1923 and served after 1924. Please read their [blog](#) and download the relevant research guides [here](#).

### **National Archive UK – Naturalization Case Papers 1801-1871**

Naturalization case papers were filled in by those who wished to become British citizens. Up to 1844 naturalization was an expensive procedure which few people could afford. These case papers may provide detailed information on the applicant: nationality, profession, family details, birth date, birth place, year of arrival into the UK, address of the applicant, and character reference(s). They can be searched [here](#).

### **The Forum:**

**Questions. No new questions this week.**

### **Were You Aware...**

#### **1939 Register for England & Wales**

This week I was asked when the England & Wales 1921 Census will be released. Not in the foreseeable future was the answer - 2022. The 1931 census was destroyed by fire and there was no 1941 census because of the war. However, later this year FindMyPast - in association with The National Archives - will publish the 1939 Register. In 1939, on the eve of World War II, the British government introduced an act that would allow them to gather vital information about the country's population. This data informed their decisions on identity cards, rationing, conscription and more, including – eventually – the formation of the NHS. This register bridges the gap in Census records caused by the Second World War. This release will be of great interest to me and I hope that not too much of the information for my relatives is redacted because they may still be alive. Cost has also not been announced. Will it be included as part of the regular subscription? Perhaps not.

While work is underway to bring online access to the Register, FindMyPast are offering our readers a one month World subscription for just £1 (usual price £12.95). Visit FindMyPast and quote code '1939TNA'. Terms and conditions apply. You will need to indicate that your membership should not automatically be renewed at the end of the trial month. This £1 offer is a wonderful deal for those of you looking for newspaper articles about your ancestors. You never know what you will find – Marcia Cuthbert found an amusing tidbit in the Irish newspaper collection (see below).

### **WWI Medal Index Cards (UK)**

Chris Paton's [blog of August 17<sup>th</sup>](#) has a link to another blog that describes how to interpret a medal index card. [This blog](#) has a very detailed explanation of what you can find on a medal index card and all the abbreviations that you may encounter. I have never seen the details explained before and I am now going to have to reacquaint myself with the medal index cards I have to make sure that I have not missed a useful bit of information. The blog is part of the website [The Long, Long Trail The British Army in the Great War, 1914-1918](#).

## WWII British Prisoners of War in Japan or Japanese-Occupied Territory

For the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Japan's surrender, [Forces War Records](#) has released a collection of 56,363 records of prisoners with their name rank and number, their date of capture, the camp in which they were held, and the date of liberation (through release, escape or death). See their [blog](#). Forces War Records is a subscription site.

## The Challenge

Last week I challenged readers to write an interesting story about one of their relatives to publish in the Bulletin. I received the following submissions. I like the way each writer cited their sources for the article. Marcia is using social media to connect with her Cuthbert relatives/friends. Perhaps others have had time to rise to the challenge this week?

### Marauding Beasts Invade Property by Marcia Cuthbert

Here's something I was just working on to put on Facebook to amuse some of my Cuthbert FB friends:

It looks like some of our ancestors had a lot to contend with, such as for example hordes of marauding beasts invading their properties. I found this gem as part of my soon-to-expire one-month/one-pound subscription to FindMyPast.

On June 25th, 1898, Margaret Cuthbert of Bray, widow of my great great uncle, Richard Cuthbert, with her father, Francis McDonald as Witness, lodged a complaint before the Irish Petty Sessions Court at Newtownmountkennedy, County Wicklow, Ireland "that on the 7th of May, 1898, at Priestnewtown in said County, the Defendant, William Byrne, allowed **4 head of cattle** to trespass upon the Complainant's land; on the 9th & 17th day of May, **11 head of cattle**; and on the 20th June **4 horses and 2 cows**, his property, to trespass upon said land contrary to law".

For his transgression, Mr. Byrne was ordered to pay "for trespass one pound, one shilling, and for costs three shilling and six pence, and in default of payment to be levied by distress and sale of his goods".

### Apprenticeship Records Lead to a Death at Sea by Linda Reid

One of the new datasets listed in the Bulletin last week was Ancestry's *UK, Apprentices Indentured in Merchant Navy, 1824-1910*. There I found out what happened to one of my grandfather's cousins. In the 1911 census his mother indicated that she had 5 children and 4 were still alive. I had accounted for four of them so that just left Leonard Cecil, baptised in Acton, Middlesex, 1 September 1878. I couldn't find him in the marriage or death indexes for England and Wales so I assumed he must have gone "someplace" and I had been searching all over the world.

This time I was really looking for my grandfather, Ernest Alfred Polley, born in Belfast in 1892. According to family lore he ran away to sea at age 14 and his father was apparently annoyed that he wasn't properly apprenticed. Since Polley is not a common name, I just did a surname search (exact spelling) and got 9 hits. I've only ever found one relevant variant of the name (Polly) so I usually search for that separately instead of doing a fuzzy search and getting Paul etc. As expected, my grandfather's name was not there, but a listing for "Cecil L. Polley" caught my eye. He was born about 1878 and indentured in London 24 August 1895. Clicking through to the actual entry showed the name of the person to whom he was bound and the note in red ink "Killed by fall 30.7.96".

I found more details in FindMyPast's *Deaths at Sea, 1781-1961*. Cecil L. was serving as an apprentice on the *Craig Elvan* and his last residence was Acton, confirming that he was the same person baptised as Leonard Cecil. He died from "Injuries and bleeding from falling from aloft" on 30.7.96 at 2 am. The location was given as "At sea Lat. 40°20' S. Long. 90°30' W." I calculate this to be west of southern Chile.

Further research revealed that the *Craig Elvan* was a barque, built in 1891 and wrecked in 1898. Newspaper data (on FindMyPast, personal subscription) records the *Craig Elvan's* arrival in Queenstown (Ireland) on 12 November 1896 and notes that during the 180-day passage from Santa Rosalia [Baja California, Mexico?] to Dunkirk one seaman fell from aloft and was killed and two died from sickness.

Since my parents are both known by their middle names, you would think that I would remember to check for that!

**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, 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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