



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-32

August 27, 2015

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

Editor:  
Helen Billing



### In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – Ancestry.co.uk records free to search this weekend
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Boston Passenger Lists, Welsh Parish Registers, Hesse Civil Registration); Ancestry (Canada & US Dutch Emigrants, Manchester Marriages updated, other updates); FindMyPast (England & Wales Probate Calendars: search complete text or browse images, more Irish Newspapers); DeceasedOnline (Wyre Council); ScotlandsPeople (Deaths of Scottish Seamen); AncestryDNA (Shared Matches available)
- **The Forum** – No new questions
- **Were You Aware...** – The RAF in WWII – Some Helpful Websites, Google Searches – Finding a Search Word or Term in a Whole Website, PostMortem Photos & Memento Mori, Church of Ireland Parish Register Search Forms, The Challenge (From Felon to Respected Police Officer & An En-Lightening Story)

### Announcements

Ancestry.co.uk is offering free access to its UK records for the August Bank Holiday this weekend.

### What's New

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

- Boston Massachusetts Passenger Lists 1820-1891 – Updated (965,000 records)
- Welsh Parish Registers 1538-1912 – Transcriptions online; for images go to FindMyPast or access at Family History Centres
- Germany Hesse Civil Registration 1874-1927 (77,000 records)
- US 1890 Census updated
- England & Wales Census 1901 update – Transcriptions online

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

- Canada and U.S., Dutch Emigrants, 1946-1963 – New (19,000 records)
- Manchester England, Marriages & Banns 1754-1930 – Updated (425,000 records)
- UK Foreign & Overseas Registers of British subjects 1628-1969 – Updated (164,000 records)
- US Quaker Meeting Records – Updated (6.4 million records)
- UK American Loyalist Claims 1776-1835 – Updated (30,000 records)
- England 1851 Census – Updated (16.7 million records)

**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets

- England & Wales Probate Calendars 1858-1959 – Search the probate calendars for a person (the testator or the executor or the administrator) or for a place (town, address, etc.) by using the full text search capability on FindMyPast. The text is not highlighted by the search engine. The text has been OCRd (translated by computer) and does contain mistakes.
- Browseable probate calendars 1858-1959 for England & Wales
- Hertfordshire baptisms, marriages & burials – a small update of about 12,000 records
- More Irish Newspapers – half a million new articles, 8 new newspaper titles, additions to 3 publications, now over 9.7 million articles from 1719-1950

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

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added 35,000 new burials for Wyre Council cemeteries. Wyre Council area is located in mid/north Lancashire with Blackpool immediately to the south and bordering City of Lancaster to the north. Its key towns are Cleveleys, Fleetwood, Garstang, Poulton-Le-Fylde and Thornton. All the 35,000 burials in the four cemeteries have been digitized: Fleetwood Cemetery, opened 1841, 27,000 burials; Poulton New Cemetery, opened 1929, 2,552 burials; Poulton Old Cemetery, opened 1895, 3,660 burials; and Preesall Cemetery, opened 1856; 3,000+ burials. Deceased Online now has nearly 5 million records for 60+ cemeteries and crematoria in Lancashire and Greater Manchester available on the website.

[ScotlandsPeople](#) have added new records to their deaths of Scottish Seafarers. They now have a complete record of the deaths of Scottish seafarers from late Victorian times until 1974 online. The 14,000 new records are monthly returns of the Deaths of Seamen, which list Scots along with other crew members of all nationalities who were serving on British-registered vessels between 1909 and 1974. Also within the new records are the Returns of Deaths at Sea for the years 1902-1905: the lists of Scottish seamen and passengers reported to the Registrar General for Scotland as having died at sea. The full news release is [here](#).

**AncestryDNA** has just added something quite useful. It is called shared matches. If you click on one of your matches and then click the new box Shared Matches underneath the relationship, it will show you those people that you both have in common. For my third cousin and her father, we have in common one person who is predicted to be a 4<sup>th</sup> cousin to me. At least I know what side of the family this person matches me on and in fact it is far more specific – she has to match on my father's father's father's line. This is a big step forward for AncestryDNA; the [Legal Genealogist](#) deems it the “first really useful tool” Ancestry has given us. It should be noted that this capability has been available on FamilyTreeDNA (matches in common with) and GEDmatch for ages. Here is Ancestry's [blog](#) about this.

**The Forum:**  
**Questions. No new questions this week.**

**Were You Aware...**

**The RAF in WWII – Some Helpful Websites by Pat Javor**

I noticed your comment in this week's newsletter that your “to do” list includes looking for your father's squadron #. I have some websites to recommend.

By coincidence, a friend with an interest in WWII history just this week recommended the website, *Aircrew Remembered*, for obtaining the Squadron # for anyone who was injured, taken POW or killed in the RAF, RCAF or USAAF. Here is the link to search the database: <http://www.aircrewremembered.com/BomberCommandDatabaseSearch/>

In the “Search This” box, you should enter only the surname of the person you are interested in, then click the “Search This” button. The database will generate a listing of all aircrew members with that surname and you can scroll through the results (or you can use Ctrl + F and search the page for your specific person of interest).

The search results will include name, rank, sometimes a service #, which air force (RAF, RCAF, or USAAF), date of the mission, squadron, the type of aircraft, serial number of the aircraft, originating station, time of the mission, mission, incident, fate (POW, injured, killed) and if killed, location of any memorial.

For example, I was able to find details about my father's cousin, Sgt. Leonard Lobb, RAF. I learned that Sgt. Lobb, an Observer, was part of the crew of a Handley-Page Hampden out of Cottesmore, UK. The mission originated at 23:53 on July 31 to fly to Dusseldorf on a bombing run. Unfortunately the plane was shot down in the early morning hours of August 1, 1942. Interestingly, this database shows that Sgt. Lobb's squadron was 14 OTU (Operational Training Unit), and training units were not normally used in live bombing runs.

Additionally, once I had the serial number, by entering it in the “Search This” box (in Dad's cousin's case, N9062), the database generated a list of all crew members and showed what happened to them as a result of the crash. My father's cousin was one of four crew members; the other three survived the crash and became POWs, Dad's cousin was the only one who was killed.

Once you obtain the date of the mission, the following website was also recommended by my friend, in order to get a brief description of the mission from Bomber Command perspective:

[http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Bombing\\_of\\_Germany\\_during\\_World\\_War\\_II#1942](http://en.metapedia.org/wiki/Bombing_of_Germany_during_World_War_II#1942)

Missions are listed in date order. This website described the mission Dad's cousin was flying on **31 Jul 1942**: 630 British bombers (308 Wellington, 113 Lancaster, 70 Halifax, 61 Stirling, 54 Hampden, and 24 Whitley) attacked **Düsseldorf**, Germany with 900 tons of bombs, destroying 453 buildings, damaging 15,000 buildings, killing 276 civilians, and wounding 1,018 civilians; 29 bombers were lost on this attack.

Finally, my friend also recommended Military History Online for additional detail on 1941 and 1942 missions:

<http://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/wwii/bombercommand/default.aspx>

The information I obtained from this website told me "Düsseldorf, in the largest attack since the 1,000-bomber raids, was visited on July 31/Aug. 1 by 630 aircraft, a force that once more combined both operational and OTU units." Therefore, the answer to whether the squadron number for Sgt. Lobb was correct is that OTUs were, indeed, pressed into active service on an ad hoc basis.

I did a similar search for my best friend's father, an RCAF crew member, with similar informative results.

I hope this might help you or some other newsletter readers.

### **Google Searches – Finding a Search Word or Term in a Whole Website**

Some websites have a number of pages that you may wish to search for a particular name or place and you may find yourself going to each page in turn. Try this: (I follow each step with an example for one website I find difficult to search - Newfoundland's Grand Banks Site - although it is easy to search if you scroll down to the bottom of the page)

Go to the website's home page

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/>

Copy the web address

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/>

Open the Google search page by going to

<https://www.google.ca/>

Enter the word or phrase in quotes that you are looking for into the Search Box: *Alward*

Add a space and then *site* and a colon

*Alward site:*

Paste the website in

*Alward site:http://ngb/chebucto.org/*

Press enter to search and the results will appear as web pages to look at. At this point, I do a CTRL-F (control f for find) and enter the search term again – *Alward* and every occurrence will be highlighted.

I have used this for looking for monumental inscriptions and wills in Kent on the Kent Archeology website:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/>. Looking for my Mansfield ancestors I type the following into the Google search box: *mansfield site:http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/*. But it can be used for any website where the data is actually on a page of the website; it will not work for sites like Ancestry or FindMyPast.

### **PostMortem Photos & Memento Mori**

In a macabre vein, Eve Richardson writes: "I just came across this article on Facebook -

<http://thechirurgionsapprentice.com/tag/postmortem-photos/>. I'd never before heard of post-mortem photographs and I

thought it might be of interest to Bulletin readers. Have any readers found such photos?" Wiki says that "Post-mortem photography (memorial portraiture or mourning portrait) was the practice of photographing the recently deceased. These photographs of deceased loved ones were a normal part of American and European culture in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries... They often represented the only visual remembrance of the deceased and were among a family's most precious possessions." While I have no post-mortem photos, my sister has a piece of memento mori jewelry passed on to her. It is an attractive brooch with woven hair of the deceased. Apparently pieces of jewelry have been made to remember the dead for centuries. Online sellers, like eBay, have thousands of items like this for sale, although why anyone would want to collect photos of other people's dead relatives is puzzling to me.

### **Church of Ireland Parish Register Search Forms**

What use are these records that were released on FindMyPast two weeks ago? When the Old Age Pension was introduced in 1909, those applying had to go back to the parish records and census information to prove their eligibility for the OAP as civil registration had not started until 1864. These search forms were filled in by PRO staff and contain information that may have been destroyed in the 1922 fire. For a complete description of what you might find in the search forms, read the [blog](#) by FindMyPast.

## **The Challenge**

I challenged readers to write a story about one of their relatives to publish in the Bulletin. I have received the following submissions this week. David has used records online at Ancestry and free online newspaper accounts at the [National Library of Wales](#) to write about a convict relative. Don has written an account of a frightening incident in his childhood and makes it come alive again. I have enjoyed reading these diverse stories and would love to receive more. What story can you write this week?

### **From Felon to Respected Police Officer by *David Morgan***

One of my ancestors spent much of his life engaged in illicit behaviour, but it's the story of his younger brother Valentine that's perhaps the more interesting. Both hailed from the small rural town of Abergavenny in Monmouthshire, Wales and both had minor brushes with the law in the 1850's that increased exponentially, when they moved to the larger port city of Swansea in Glamorgan. Valentine was only eighteen when bizarrely, as he'd worked as a trainee clerk in a court office in Monmouthshire as a younger teen, he first fell afoul of the law. Both brothers were charged and frequently convicted for various criminal acts including burglary, theft and receiving stolen goods, but it was a second conviction for counterfeiting that really changed Valentine's life.

In 1861, when not yet twenty three, he was jointly convicted of "Feloniously having in his possession a mould for coining" and was subsequently sentenced to ten years Penal Servitude, i.e. transportation. On April 6<sup>th</sup> 1861, the *Monmouth Merlin* reports: "DESPERATE ATTEMPT OF CONVICTS TO ESCAPE. - On Monday last, a daring attempt at escape was made by two prisoners who had been convicted of having moulds for the manufacture of coin in their possession, and who were sentenced at the present assizes to penal servitude. It appears that the desperadoes were conveyed, with the remainder of the prisoners, in the van to the gaol, about a quarter past seven in the evening of the above-named day. The van door was opened at the gaol in order that the prisoners might pass out, but this was no sooner done, than the two convicts, whose names are John Loveridge and Valentine Trew, made a simultaneous rush - having by some means slipped their handcuffs, and jumped out of the van. Fortunately, a supernumerary turnkey, who was near the door, had the presence of mind to collar the pair, but was compelled to let one go, who, as soon as he could recover his feet, made off, pursued by the other officers. Evans, the officer who collared them in the first instance, now had a severe struggle with his man, but succeeded at length in lodging him safely in the prison. The other prisoner was caught a few yards from the gaol up the old Hereford road, but we regret to state that William Cowles, an efficient officer, received an injury to his arm by falling over the prisoner, so as to incapacitate him at present from following his duty. Great credit is due to the officers engaged in capturing these determined fellows, but more especially to Evans and Cowles." Valentine did not escape and his transport ship, the *York II*, set sail October 1862 from Portland, Dorset and along with 298 other male souls arrived in Western Australia, the last day of December 1862, some twelve weeks later.

After serving his sentence Valentine met Jane, a lady from Edinburgh, Scotland either in Australia or perhaps Mauritius the small island nation in the Indian Ocean. England census records suggest they married about 1872. Census records also suggest that sometime between completing his sentence in 1871 and 1877 they lived in Mauritius, their eldest child having been born there in 1877. What he did in Australia and Mauritius after his sentence was served I've yet to fully discover, but Valentine made a voyage from Port Louis in Mauritius to Melbourne, Australia in 1878 with his wife and three children and his occupation on the passenger list shockingly states he is an "Inspector of Police."

They went on to have seven children all born in Mauritius, the last one being born there in 1900 and by 1901 the England census shows them living in the rather desirable Kingston upon Thames in Surrey, England. The census also reveals Valentine as a fifty nine year old "pensioner, civil service." More intriguing given Valentine's very chequered past and perhaps confirming the 1878 passenger listing, is in the 1911 England census where he is still in Kingston upon Thames and in the Personal Occupation column he has written "police pensioner."

He died in 1931 in Kingston upon Thames at the age of ninety three leaving his widow Jane seventy eight, his life seemingly having come full circle.

### **An En-Lightening Story...Sauble Beach Ontario by *Don Harris (Toronto FHC Director)***

While I was growing up, my parents owned six cottages at Sauble Beach on Lake Huron so I was used to various families renting our facilities, and our family usually stayed in one of the cottages for part of the season. One July day it had been sunny and pleasant until quite quickly a thunderstorm rolled in at suppertime. As a young boy, I greatly feared thunderstorms and anxiously awaited this storm to pass by. Suddenly a terrific flash of lightning occurred immediately followed by a crack of thunder so loud it shook all the windows and walls of our cottage. Even as a child I knew that the lightning had struck very close by.

Within minutes there was much shouting outside and a frantic knock at our door from one of our tenants. They announced that the lightning had struck a nearby tall tree and the electricity had flashed along a clothesline into their cottage. Their young daughter whose birthday it was, had been in the kitchen drying a bread knife and she had been thrown across the room by the bolt of lightning. She was barely alive and completely paralyzed. The family was shocked and terribly frightened.

My parents and I ran through the rain to help. There were no telephones or electricity at the beach in those days. We were the rescue team.

My father immediately picked up the girl and carried her outside into the rain and laid her face up on the wet sand and encouraged us to quickly dig up handfuls of sand to cover her up to her neck. We all began to work very fast but none of us understood why we were being asked to do such a thing or what was being accomplished. We waited about 20 minutes talking calming words to the girl and her family. Soon she began to move and then wiggled out of the sand and was soon upright...talking and walking and fully recovered. There was much relief and happiness all around. That day would likely be her most scary birthday ever.

My father explained that as a senior teenager, he had witnessed a hydro worker receive a severe shock and his co-workers put him on the ground and packed earth over him. The explanation was that the earth drew out the electricity from his body and he was grounded and had no residual electricity to interfere with the normal electrical nerve operation of heart or other muscles.

In my mind my father Alden saved the girl's life with his knowledge and he was my hero.

The tall tree died!

#### **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](#)

*If you decide that you no longer wish to receive this Bulletin, reply to this email with the word "**Delete**" in the subject line.*

Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3V 3V4 Phone: 416-422-5480 Ext. 111

Email: Toronto\_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca