



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2013-25

July 4, 2013

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



Editor:  
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### In This Bulletin

**Announcements** – New summer hours

**What's New** – FindMyPast (Hertfordshire parish records); Ancestry (Jewish records, Biography database), FamilySearch (NYC Public Records Index, Belgian Civil Records); TheGenealogist (UK Railway Records)

**The Forum** – One new question, some suggestions for the handwriting puzzle

**News From the Trenches** - Male Criminal Labelled F.S. (Female Servant?)

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### Announcements

Don't forget our new summer hours are:

Tues:	9:30am to 2:00pm	
Wed	9:30am to 3:45 pm	6:30pm to 9:30pm
Thurs:	9:30am to 3:45pm	6:30pm to 9:30pm

### What's New

**FindMyPast.co.uk** has added nearly two million new Hertfordshire parish baptisms, marriages and burials 1538-1990. These are indexed records with images of the actual register. There are 803,000 baptisms 1538-1910; 164,000 banns 1653-1928; 298,000 marriages 1538-1928; and 606,000 burials 1538-1990. This collection also includes the parishes of Chipping Barnet, East Barnet and Totteridge which have been part of the London Borough of Barnet since 1965. You can view the parishes which are covered by reading the news release [here](#).

**Ancestry** has added several small collections of Jewish records at the time of WWII. To see what is available, look at the list of [new collections](#). Ancestry has updated its collection of UK Extracted Probate Records 1269-1975; it now contains nearly two million records, mainly very early probate records. Another updated collection; U.K. and U.S. Directories 1680-1830, now contains over 2.5 million records. Originally published under the name of Biography Database 1680-1830 by Avero Publications, Ancestry.com has renamed it online to help researchers better understand what it contains. It is a massive collection of U.K. and U.S. biographical records, directories, and lists from the following sources: national, town, and trade directories of the United Kingdom and United States; all known book subscription lists; all birth, marriage, death, promotions, and bankruptcies from a number of regular journals, including the Gentleman's Magazine 1731-1870; All extant society membership lists from the period; and a number of miscellaneous additional biographical sources contributed by individual academics.

**FamilySearch** has added a Public Records Index that is an index of names, birthdates, addresses, phone numbers, and possible relatives of people who resided in the five boroughs of New York City between 1970 and 2010. These records were generated from telephone directories, driver licenses, property tax assessments, credit applications, voter registration lists and other records available to the public acquired from a third party aggregator. FamilySearch has added a number of collections of civil registration records for Belgium that date from about 1600 to about 1900. These collections are browse-only at the moment (waiting for indexers) and are huge – over ten million images. There are nearly three million images for Antwerp for example but these are divided into smaller town areas.

**TheGenealogist.co.uk** has added records of nearly 1.5 million railway workers, with exact details on their job role and their date of birth. The new records encompass all levels of railway worker, from train driver, guard, signaller, office staff to labourers, who worked on the railways in England and Wales. TheGenealogist is available to search without charge at Family History Centres.

**The Forum:**

**Questions:**

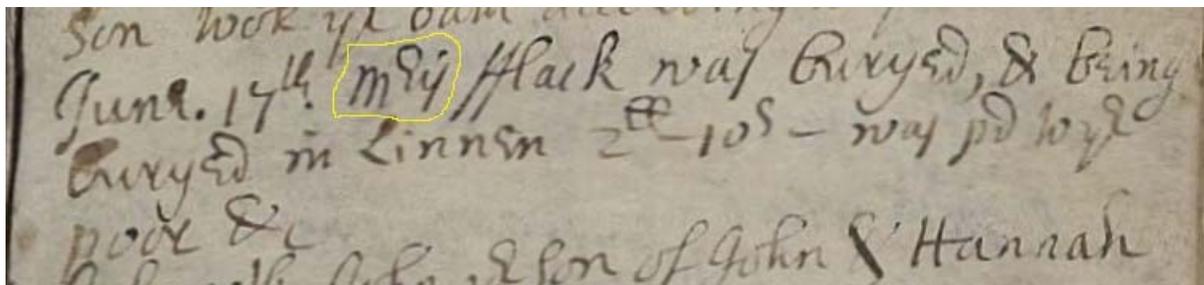
**Q1/2013/25. Essex Town.**

Many of the records I am looking at in Arkesden, Essex on the [SEAX](#) website (Essex Ancestors Online) say the person is from Woodhall. Sometimes it is listed as two words and sometimes one. One of my grandparents is listed as a servant from Wood Hall. I've done a Google search and cannot find it. Is it called something else now? I'm assuming it was perhaps near to Arkesden....but ...I'm stuck.

**Suggestions:**

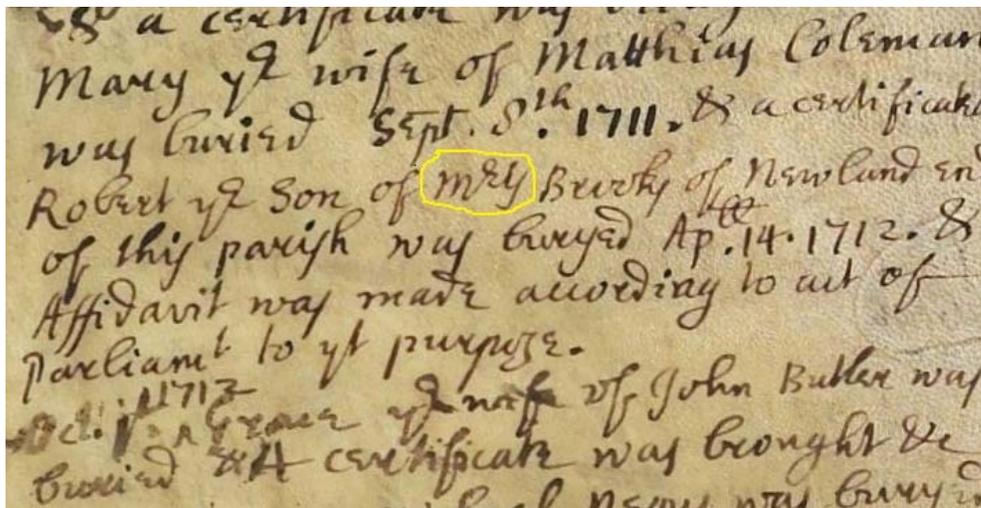
**Q1/2013/24. A Puzzle for Readers. UK.**

A reader would like to know what the following item in yellow says:



June 17<sup>th</sup> ?? Flack was buried, & being buried in Linnen £2 10s was pd to ye ...

Another page of the same register in 1712 has the same character in yellow below.



Mary ye wife of Matthias Coleman was buried Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1711 & a certificate &c.

Robert ye son of M?? B??? of Newland End of this parish was buried April 14 1712 & affidavit was made according to act of parliam't to ye purpose.

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 1712 Grace ye wife of John Butler was buried & a certificate was brought &c.

The researcher thinks that the item in yellow reads Mrs. What do you think? Both pages can be seen by downloading [here](#). Helpful reading may be [Old Law Hands](#) or [Secretary Hand](#).

Several readers sent suggestions for this question. Jill Marshall thought that the item in yellow was "M'ry" with the "ry" raised, short for Mary, but she had one suggestion for the second surname – *Bursey*. Paul Jones thought that the puzzling text is "Mrs" at a time when this was understood to be an abbreviation of "Mistress", which may account for an extra squiggle or two by modern standards. Rhoda Spencer felt that Mrs was probably the answer. She suggested that "the surname in the second puzzle question is tough. It looks like *Brooks*. The B looks good, the second letter looks like the r's in the recorder's word 'brought' which occurs several times in the phrase "certificate was brought". If one blocks the Br, the next 2 letters look like open o's. I would look for more of the same surname entries with the same construction." I believe that Rhoda's suggestion of Brooks is probably correct, but then maybe it is *Burks* with an excess twiddle at the start of the "u". For item in yellow, I think that the final two letters are "is" from the look of "parish" in the line below the second example and other similar items on the page. But it does not make sense with "M?is".

Rhoda took me to task for my transcription: "I would like to comment on the transcription of the word "ye". In puzzle entry one, the word is "the", not ye – 'was paid to ye (the) poor &'. In puzzle entry two, the word is 'that', not ye – 'according to act of parliam't to yt (that) purpose'. The following is a quote from "Reading Tudor and Stuart Hand-writing" by Lionel Munby and published by Phillimore for British Association for Local History: "When that or the or them was abbreviated, an old Anglo-Saxon letter called the 'thorn', written at first like a modern y, was used for th; but soon thorn was written like the Secretary Hand y. The best modern practice is to transcribe thorn as th, not as y which was the habit of older scholars." There is a word 'ye', meaning 'you' in the plural and spelt with a 'y'. We know that y was often written as i. Words like yf and yt, if and it respectively, should be transcribed as yf and yt." I stand corrected.

The National Archives has an online tutorial on Palaeography: reading old handwriting 1500 – 1800 that can be taken [here](#).

I thought it interesting that Mrs. Flack in the first example was "buried in Linnen £2 10s was pd to the poor &c". In 1678 an act was passed requiring that coffins had to be lined with wool and the shroud had to be made from wool. "No Corpse of any person (except those who shall die of the plague) shall be buried in any shirt, shift, sheet, shroud ... other that what is made of sheep's wool only." This was because there was a glut of wool on the English market. An affidavit had to be sworn by a relative before a JP with two witnesses that the burial was done in wool and then the affidavit (or certificate, as above) was brought to the church. A fine of £5 was levied if the burial was not compliant – half of which went to the informer and half to the poor. People of position who desired to be buried in linen would sometimes leave directions in their Will as to which of their servants should act as informer and secure the fine, as a sort of legacy. While the practice had died out by the mid-1700s, the act was not repealed until 1814. Mrs. Flack's relatives paid the fine to the poor. As £2 10s was a significant sum of money in those days (1699), Mrs. Flack must have been well-off to be buried in linen.

## News From the Trenches

### Male Criminal Labelled F.S. (Female Servant?) in Tasmania

Alan Billing writes: "I was recently browsing Tasmanian burial records for 1803 to 1933, finding the record for my wife's criminal and transported ancestor. I was challenged by the column listing "quality or profession", where the ancestor convict, pardoned before his death at age 68, was listed, like many others, as "F.S.". This wasn't the same abbreviation commonly seen in English censuses (female servant). I had to scan many pages to find it written in full – "Free by Servitude" indicating a free convict.

"I am used to English records, where the common occupation is "Ag Lab": but here the common occupation at burial was "Convict", with a few variants such as "Convict and Lunatic". Legal niceties were not observed either: John Clague was "Found near Cleveland, Murdered by Rocky Whelan"; clearly a trial was not going to be needed."

## Were You Aware...

### Autosomal DNA Testing for Genealogists – By Linda Reid

Since AncestryDNA is only open to Americans at the present time, Canadian genealogists have two main choices if they wish to take an autosomal DNA test. This is the test that looks for ancestors on all your family lines, back about five or six generations. Prices have been dropping over the last couple of years. At present (all prices American):

- Family Tree DNA [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com) \$99 plus \$7 for mailing to Canada- until **July 26**.\* You pay the return postage. You scrape inside each cheek for a minute and then put the ends of the scrapers in tubes of solution they provide before mailing back to the company. I have tested a number of relatives and had no problems with the samples.
- 23andMe [www.23andme.com](http://www.23andme.com) \$99 plus \$59 return express shipping to Canada. When your specimen is ready, you call for the express company to pick it up. The number they give you on the DHL express customer service list that comes with your kit is out-of-date. Canadians should call 1-855-345-7447. There is a discount if you order more than one kit at a time. This test requires that you spit into a funnel that puts your saliva into a test tube. Then you close the funnel lid and that discharges a preservative into the saliva. Then you replace the funnel with a cap for the test tube and shake for 5 seconds. Be sure to read and to follow the directions carefully. My husband's saliva sample was satisfactory but my mother and I both had to provide a second specimen. Fortunately 23andMe sent the second kits to us at no charge.

Which to choose?

- Until July 26, Family Tree DNA's Family Finder Test is cheaper when shipping cost is considered
- 23andMe also provides health data
- 23andMe does not provide email addresses of cousin matches -- you have to contact them through the company

- Family Tree DNA provides easier tools for comparing your matches. Many people tested at 23andMe download their results and then upload them to Family Tree DNA (\$69), giving them the ability to look for cousin matches on both databases. You can't do a transfer the other way (FTDNA to 23andMe).

I manage a number of kits on Family Tree DNA. Older relatives have generously provided a cheek scraping sample for me but I do everything else. I upload a GEDCOM for each person that allows people who match to examine a pedigree chart and a list of surnames. I provide my email address and I respond to all queries. I am comfortable about asking my relatives to test with Family Tree DNA since the company only concerns itself with matching related "cousins". Apart from my mother, I would not be comfortable at asking relatives to give me access to their health information that would be available if they tested at 23andMe and I were managing their kits.

\* **There is a sale on all FTDNA products until July 26.** [www.familytreedna.com](http://www.familytreedna.com)

**No films were received in the week ending July 4<sup>th</sup>.**

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 catalog 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 pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Don & Roberta)

Thursday 9:30am to 3:45 pm (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Helen)

Closures: If you do not have a booking, call before you come.

**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](#)

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