



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-05

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



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### In This Bulletin

**Announcements** – Snow day reminder

**What's New** – Ancestry (West Yorkshire Tax Valuation, Rhode Island Vital Extracts), FamilySearch (Pennsylvania county marriages 1885-1990), DeceasedOnline (Kensal Green Cemetery & West London Crematorium), Origins.net (York Peculiar Probate Collection 1383-1857)

**The Forum** – Two new questions and a few suggestions for last week's questions

**Were You Aware...** – WWI: How did 12 million letters a week reach soldiers?; FamilySearch – Did You Know...? A Smattering of Statistics & What Does That Little Camera Mean?; Will Indexes and Wills Online for England at Origins.net

### Announcements

On Wednesday, it snowed in Toronto, and snowed, and then blew. The Toronto FHC was closed due to the driving conditions. We remind patrons to call if the weather looks dubious. Even if you have a booking, we may not be able to make it in to check who is booked and to alert you that we are closed.

### What's New

**Ancestry** has added West Yorkshire Tax Valuation in 1910 and Rhode Island Vital Extracts. They have updated Netherlands birth, marriage and death records from the 1500s to the 1900s and Vermont birth, marriage and death records from 1909-2008.

**FamilySearch** has added more databases to browse from the Philippines, Spain and the US. Their indexed Pennsylvania county marriages 1885-1950 now include well over two million records.

**DeceasedOnline** has made all 330,000 records for Kensal Green Cemetery and West London Crematorium available. The records include all burial and cremation records from 1833 to 2010. There are scans of the original burial books from 1833 to 2010, details of those buried in each grave, and scans of the cremation records up to 1993 and computerized records after that.

**Origins.net** has added an index to over 25,000 wills proved in the 54 peculiar courts of the Province of York in the 500 year period from 1383 to 1857. The index usually gives name, occupation, place, date type of document, the court, and the Borthwick Institute reference. The originals of all the probate documents are held at the Borthwick Institute for Archives. This will help researchers as the Peculiar system is just that – peculiar. For a description of the Peculiar Courts included, click [here](#). For a good description of the English probate system, go to the FamilySearch Wiki – [Probate](#).

### The Forum:

#### Questions:

#### Q1/2014/05. Ontario. York (Toronto Area).

I am trying to find the marriage of a George Barton and Frances (Fanny) Fewster Whitehead in Ontario. On 26 November 1857 George Barton and Fanny Barton witnessed the marriage of her sister Jane in Etobicoke. (Fanny would have been about 19 years of age born in Latherthorpe, Yorkshire, England, 25 March, 1838). It appears that she and her family immigrated to Canada between 1846 and 1857. On 11th of February 1860 letters of administration were granted to Frances Barton, widow of the said intestate, for George Barton of the village of St. Andrews, York, Butcher, who died on or about the ninth day of January 1860 at St. Andrews; at the time of his death his abode was in the Village of St. Andrews, York (Toronto). Frances remarries in 1863 – Frances Whitehead Barton, born England, living Etobicoke, age 24, parents John Whitehead & Sarah Fewster) to John Gregory. Where might I find the earlier marriage of George Barton and Frances Whitehead?

## Q2/2014/05.

Where would I go for service records of a great uncle (George Elliott) who served in the Metro London Police between 1900 and 1914?

### Suggestions:

#### Q1/2014/01. Poland.

My maternal grandfather, Boleslaw Zabielski, was born in 1894 in either in Kolechowice, Lubelski, Poland or in Ostrov Lubelski (both east of Lublin) in 1894. The family had a coat of arms over the gate of the estate called ZABIEL. The estate was taken over by the Russians in the early 1900s. My grandfather's parents were Joseph Zabielski & Josephine Gorunska. Both Boleslaw & his older brother Antoni (born 1891) were smuggled out of Poland in 1912 by Jewish traders to prevent their being taken into the Russian army. Joseph Zabielski was then sent to a Siberian forced labour camp where he died. My grandfather Boleslaw Zabielski married Maryanna Wodynska (born in Porkow, SE of Kielce) and settled in Toronto. Where might I find more information about the Zabielski family?

The marriage of Boleslaw and Maryanna in Toronto indicates that both were born in Kunz/Rumz?, Poland and that they are Catholic. The FamilySearch [catalog](#) has hundreds of films of both Roman Catholic and Greek Catholic church records for the appropriate time period for this area of Poland. No results were found for Kolechowice or for Ostrov (Ostrov) Lubelski. Did these towns have churches? There is a Cultural Center in Ostrov Lubelski and they may be able to help. Many Polish records are coming online [here](#) but there are millions not yet available. The FamilySearch Wiki has a long article on Poland with links to other articles and maps [here](#) and I would suggest that the researcher start here.

Jacob Psutka writes: "Researcher may look at <http://www.moikrewni.pl/mapa/kompletny/zabielski.html> which shows the distribution of persons with the name Zabielski. Possibly concentrating on the heavy areas may lead to more information if desire to learn more about family in Poland." Other suggestions from readers with Polish Catholic ancestors would be very welcome.

## Q2/2014/02.

My great-great grandfather, Henry or Harry Ewing (originally Scottish and born in Edinburgh), was supposedly a British officer stationed at a military or pseudo-military (maybe police) base in Dublin. His daughter, Kathleen or Katherine Ewing, was born in Dublin at the base. Where I should look for her birth record? Where I should look for my GGgrandfather's service records? It has been said he was a major. He would have been stationed in Dublin between 1880 and 1900.

There are military service records for eight Henry (with variations) Ewings on FindMyPast (available at family history centres – Chelsea Pensioner's records) but with this amount of information it is difficult to determine if one of these men is the correct Henry/Harry Ewing. A birth year for Henry would help. The birth of Katherine/Kathleen Ewing could be found in two places: British Overseas births (available on FindMyPast) and in the Irish birth indexes (available at FamilySearch [see Bulletin 2014/03]). The researcher has to start with what he knows. If he has Kathleen's marriage certificate, it should show her age. This will enable him to narrow down the time period as there are several Kathleen/Katherines born between 1880 and 1900 in Ireland. Once a probable birth index for Kathleen has been found, the birth certificate should be ordered. The birth certificate of Kathleen may well mention Henry's rank, if he were a major. If Henry Ewing were in the Royal Irish Constabulary, the researcher should go to their [website](#) for more information but it seems unlikely that Henry was in this force. Ancestry has the RIC records filed in their *Schools, Directories & Church Histories* section for Ireland and there are no likely candidates there, but the researcher should check. Has the researcher searched for this family in censuses? The Irish censuses for 1901 and 1911 are available [here](#) and Scottish and English censuses are available at FamilySearch. Siblings for Kathleen/Katherine may prove easier to track.

### Were You Aware...

#### WWI: How did 12 million letters a week reach soldiers?

This week's LostCousins [newsletter](#) had a link to a BBC NewsMagazine article about the delivery of huge amounts of mail to soldiers at the front. It can be read [here](#).

### FamilySearch – Did You Know...? A Smattering of Statistics

[Most of this information was taken from Sharon Hinske's podcast from the National archives Kew and from a recent press release of FamilySearch.]

- FamilySearch is the name of the Family History Department of the LDS Church
- It was founded in 1894 with a directive to collect records of genealogical interest

- It started with a donation of 300 books
- 7% of its records are online
- 93% are basically on microfilm
- 220 groups are currently microfilming new records in more than 70 countries
- Filming is faster than records can be put online; the 7% figure is decreasing
- The key to the 93% of records not online is the FamilySearch Catalog (formerly the FHL Catalog)
- They have 2.4 million rolls of microfilms, most of which can be ordered to be viewed at your local FHC
- They have one million fiche, which can similarly be ordered
- There are more than 4700 family history centres in more than 130 countries
- Family History Books is a collection of more than 100,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from the archives of some of the most important family history libraries in the world. (online)
- At the current rate of progress, it will take up to 300 years to index the 5.3 billion records that they already have.
- There are another **60 billion** records that still need to be digitally preserved.
- FamilySearch has started partnering with other organizations to make the currently available digital resources available online.
- Partners include Ancestry.com, Archives.com, findmypast, Fold3, and MyHeritage

### FamilySearch – What Does That Little Camera Mean?

The camera that you see beside a collection of records in FamilySearch means that there are digital images associated with that collection. Unfortunately it has five different interpretations:

1. The image is available at home with no log-in
2. The image is available at home if you are logged in as a public member or an LDS member
3. The image is available at home if you are logged in as an LDS member
4. The image is available at a Family History Centre through the free subscription websites
5. The image is available at Family History Centres via FamilySearch

Anyone can create a login code for #2 by clicking CREATE ACCOUNT in the top right-hand corner of the FamilySearch screen.

### Will Indexes and Wills Online for England at Origins.net

Wills can be an incredibly helpful source for establishing family relationships before civil registration started in 1837. Origins can be helpful in determining whether a will exists for an ancestor. For some of the places listed below, one can search the index for free and actual will documents can be downloaded at a moderate cost. A 72-hour subscription is only £7 – think of all the fun you can have for three snowy days!

- Archdeaconry Court of London Wills Index 1700-1800, over 5,000 names
- British Record Society Probate Collection 1320-1858, over 2.3 million names, images available
- Cheltenham Probate Abstracts 1660-1740, over 2,000 names across 537 abstracts, images available
- Chester Wills Collection 1519-1940, over 189,900 testators, 449,300 names, FREE index
- Chichester Consistory Wills Index 1482-1800, over 22,100 testators
- Court of Husting Will Abstracts 1258-1688, over 3,850 abstracts, images available
- Devon Wills Project 1312-1891, over 132,540 names, FREE index
- Gloucester Wills Index 1801-1858, over 14,190 names
- Hertfordshire Wills Index 1415-1857, over 27,600 names, FREE index
- Kent Probate Indexes 1440-1857, over 55,800 wills & inventories
- Lancashire Wills at Chester 1736-1844, over 40,000 testators, FREE index
- Lancashire Wills at Richmond Index 1457-1812, over 39,100 testators, images available
- Lichfield Consistory Court Wills Index 1650-1700, over 28,300 records
- London & Middlesex Will Abstracts 1700-1704, over 2,800 abstracts and inventories
- Oxfordshire Wills Collection 1516-1857, over 56,700 names, view original document image online, FREE index
- Prerogative & Exchequer Courts of York Probate Index 1688-1858, over 263,800 images available
- Somerset Wills Abstracts 1385-1556, over 1,600 abstracts, images available
- Surrey & South London Will Abstracts 1470-1858, over 562,700 names
- Surrey Peculiars Probate Index 1660-1751, over 2,000 names
- Surrey PCC Will Abstracts 1736-1794, over 15,300 names
- York Medieval Probate Index 1267-1500, over 10,000 wills, copies of originals can be ordered online
- York Peculiars Probate Collection 1383-1883, over 25,000 wills, copies of originals can be ordered online

**Films received in the week ending January 30<sup>th</sup> and due for return about the end of March.**

Film Content	Film No
DEU Kirchenbuch Evangelische Kirch Ankenshagen	0068943
DEU Kirchenbuch Evangelische Kirche Peckatel	0069433
IRL Parochial Registers of Dranmore	0979690
POL Metrical books Jewish Congregation	2405326
LTU Vil'na Orthodox Consistory: Metrical books, 1789-1942	2101298

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 & Leslie pm); 6:30pm to 9:30pm (Helen)

Thursday 9:30am to noon (Don & Roberta); 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm (Don & Roberta)

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](#)

[FamilySearch OLD Catalogue](#)

[FamilySearch Film Ordering](#)

[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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