



## Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2014-07

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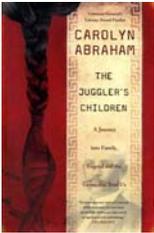
**What's New** – FamilySearch (Australian probate), DeceasedOnline (Aberdeenshire burials), Welsh Newspapers Online (27 new publications)

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

**Were You Aware...** – Genetic Genealogy (by Linda Reid), Online Magazines, FamilySearch Cornwall Guide

### Announcements

**OGS Toronto Meeting – Monday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**  
**North York Memorial Hall**



Author, Carolyn Abraham, will discuss the research for her book, *The Juggler's Children: A Journey into Family, Legend and the Genes that Bind*, and how DNA testing helped her to identify her family origins. Copies of the book will be available for sale for \$25 (cash only please). The short presentation is by Branch member Cathy McNamara on "Looky, Looky, I'm So Booky...old books about my ancestors".

### OGS Conference 2014 – May 1-4, St. Catharines, Ontario

The annual OGS Conference usually has a great line-up of speakers and this year is no exception. This year's theme, "Genealogy Without Borders," is based on the simple idea that genealogical research can be done almost without ever having to leave your home. Whether you're looking for a headstone picture in England or a 1921 Canadian Census data image, the Internet provides access to billions of documents for many thousands of people. More recently, there has been an explosion in the use of social media sites like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, to connect family researchers to both sources of information and family members - around the globe. The **early-bird pricing** ends on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Please click [here](#) for all the information. The Niagara Region is well known for its wineries and Niagara Falls tourist attractions - but more importantly to attendees - is the Region's historical significance to the War of 1812, the Welland Canal and the Underground Railroad. Tours are being offered to explore the region's history.

### Additions to Our Permanent Collection

Three new books have been added to our library to help Scottish researchers:

#### **Discover Scottish Church Records – Chris Paton**

This guide explores the history and records of the various churches in Scotland prior to 1855, the year in which civil registration commenced within the country. Paton describes the theological changes imposed by the Reformation of 1560, the nature of the state's battles with the Kirk, and the Kirk's subsequent battles within itself. He discusses the nature of the records generated by the various Scottish churches, how to interpret them, and above all else, how to find them.

#### **Discover Scottish Land Records – Chris Paton**

Records for land- and property-based research in Scotland are very complicated. For centuries property transactions within the country were governed by feudal tenure, a system which continued in Scotland until 2004. But feudalism was not the only method by which land was held, with udalism, duthcas, leasehold and other forms of tenure across the country at different times. The rules surrounding property transactions were also those associated with the inheritance of land and heritable estate. This guide will help you understand sasines, skat, retours, precepts of clare constant, apparent heirs and heirs apparent. [If you have Scottish ancestors and you do not know what these terms mean, come in and look at this guide.]

### **Discover Scottish Civil Registration Records – Chris Paton**

Scotland commenced the statutory registration of births, marriages and deaths within the country in 1855, later than England and Wales. However, Scottish registration records are the most detailed of all those found within the British Isles. The book discusses what was the law behind Scottish registration; how it differed from England, Wales and Ireland; who was obliged to do what and when; what were the penalties for default; and where the records not found online via ScotlandsPeople are. It also notes what vital records does the General Register Office in England holds for Scots as far back at the 1760s, and beyond Britain's shores.

### **What's New**

[FamilySearch](#) has indexed over one million indexes to probate registers 1841-1989 in Australia. Perusing them, it appears that only those probates in the State of Victoria are currently in the database..

[DeceasedOnline](#) has started uploading all burial records for all of the 200+ burial grounds managed by Aberdeenshire Council. So far additional records for 20 burial grounds have been included to the database joining those for Peterhead's historic St Peter's Churchyard and main cemetery. They are Belhelvie, Essie, Forbes, Glass, Huntley, Kinnior, Kinnernie, Leslie, Midmar, Oyne, Rhynie, Ruthven, Slains, Tullynessle, Wallakirk, and Ythanwells. In most instances, the records comprise: digital scans of burial, mortality or lair (grave) registers and lair details indicating all those buried within each lair. They will be adding further burial grounds over the next few months.

### **Welsh newspapers**

Several blogs including John Reid's Anglo-Celtic Connections on Wednesday have mentioned a major update of records on the [Welsh Newspapers Online](#) website from the national Library of Wales. This website is free to use. Twenty seven new publications were added this month and the site contains 6.8 million articles on 630,000 pages from over 100 publications. The dates run from 1804 to about 1910 and it also includes newspaper content that has been digitised by [The Welsh Experience of World War One](#) project.

### **The Forum:**

**Questions:** No new questions were received this week. Your editor would gratefully receive any helpful hints that readers can offer on any questions that are posted here.

### **Suggestions:**

#### **Q1/2014/06. France.**

I'm trying to find out about Agnes Stephanie Zelig Parasote, born at Caestre, France on the 19th of February 1899. She was my mother's half sister. My mother's name was Marguerite Johnson (nee Defever) born 1890 at Caestre, France and she died September, 1940 at London, England. Agnes Stephanie Zelig Parasote's parents were Rene Cappelle and Honorine, Sabine Parasote. They were married the 11th of April, 1899 in Caestre, France, two months after the birth of Agnes. This was Honorine Parasote's second marriage. Her first husband Henri Desire Defever died in 1897 at Caestre, France. The present-day family know nothing about Agnes Stephanie Zelig Parasote, and we cannot find any records of marriage or death. Maybe she was adopted or placed elsewhere in care, but there is a rumour she was alive in the Hazebrouck, France area in the late 1950's.

Caestre and Hazebrouck are both in the old French "department" called Nord (one of 83) and are currently in the Region of Nord-Pas-de-Calais. This is a shame because the old Pas-de-Calais department has put all their records online at [Archives du Pas-de-Calais](#).

One option is to check for LDS films to see what is available for Caestre and Hazebrouck. There are church and civil registration records for Hazebrouck and Caestre but the most recent records are only up to 1892 – much too early for Agnes. In this case, the researcher may need to write to the city hall of the town in which they believe an event took place – marriage or death.

The name Parasote does not appear to be very common and currently there is a M. Edgar Parasote running a catering business in Hazebrouck. There is a family tree in the Ancestry public family trees of a Parasote family and another family tree on FamilySearch but it is not immediately obvious that there are any connections between this family and either of those. This seems to be grasping at straws.

## **Q2/2014/06. Cobalt Springs Mine?**

I have a great uncle (William Elliott) who apparently worked and died at Cobalt Springs Mine. I have no idea whether this was in Canada or somewhere else. I searched through Cobalt Ontario references and contacted their history society and neither led to any clues. Would there have been a Cobalt Springs Mine in New Zealand or Australia where his mother and sisters ended up?

While this may appear not to be a genealogical question, it is often very helpful to find where a place is to direct one's search. No suggestions were received from readers and after looking around, I contacted a couple of geologist friends. They searched specialist databases for Cobalt Springs Mine, contacted other geologists, and found no clues. They suggest: "Mines are notoriously ephemeral so it is not surprising that it is so elusive." There is a mineral data site [here](#) that indicates that there was a cobalt mine near Cobalt, East Hampton, Connecticut, with a water course nearby but unfortunately not named Cobalt Springs Mine.

## **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 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?

Sue Reid had some interesting comments about this question: "Re the question about St. Andrews Village in York, is there any chance it was the ward of St. Andrews, in Toronto? To the best of my knowledge, the only village called St. Andrews in Ontario was in Glengarry. The other possibility is the area around what used to be E. P. Taylor's Windfields farm, which was apparently also called St. Andrews-Windfield at one time, around Hoggs Hollow, although I've not seen any documents that refer to it as the Village of St. Andrews.

"I didn't find him in the 1842 Upper Canada Census, the 1851/2, or the 1853 tax assessment rolls. The Toronto branch of the OGS has transcribed the 1853 Toronto Tax Assessment Rolls to serve as a substitute for the missing 1852 Upper Canada Census returns, which had been lost or destroyed--they chose 1853 as the information would have been collected in 1852, in preparation for the 1853 property tax.

"The search engine can be found [here](#). St. Andrew's is the first ward on the drop-down menu. But you don't have to enter the ward name unless you're trying to narrow the search.

"It's a great resource. So are the property tax assessment rolls for other years. The microfilms of the tax assessment rolls are at the Toronto Archives, and I think also at the Ontario Archives but best for the researcher to check before hiking out there. Some of the information on the rolls can be quite interesting--even whether or not the family had a dog.

"People tended to go to the churches that were relatively nearby. If they were Anglican or Catholic, there's a good chance the records still exist. If they were Methodist, the odds aren't favourable, but some marriage announcements were published in church newspapers (Christian Guardian, Canadian Church, etc.). The books of Christian Guardian announcements can be found at the United Church Archives, now moved to Oak St. in Toronto." [George Barton was not found in the books of Christian Guardian Death Notices at the FHC which cover 1836-1870.]

Sue brings up a good point. All of the Toronto district census data is missing for the 1851/2 census and large parts of other districts as well. If you have not found someone in the 1851/2 Canadian census, go to the Library and Archives website to check if the census records in the District or Sub-District where you expect them to be living have survived.

<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/census/1851/Pages/canada-west.aspx>

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

### **Genetic Genealogy, by Linda Reid**

If you have taken an autosomal DNA test (Family Finder) on Family Tree DNA and aren't having any fun yet, try testing a relative. A parent, aunt or uncle would be best, but if you no longer have any of those, choose a first or second cousin. Then you can look at matches in common. You do that by clicking on the crossed arrows symbol (the rightmost of the four symbols under the names of your matches). People who match you and a paternal cousin would be related on your father's side of the family. A match shared with a second cousin would be on a particular grandparent's line.

Dr. Tim Janzen, one of the leading people in genetic genealogy, recommends:

Test as many of your aunts, uncles, first cousins, 2nd cousins and 3rd cousins as you can afford for purposes of chromosome mapping and for purposes of finding additional genetic cousins.

He made a presentation at RootsTech on "Advanced Techniques for Use Autosomal DNA Tests to Break Through Genealogical Brick Walls". You can download his slides from: <http://tinyurl.com/lbd9xm8>.

His presentation gets increasingly more complicated but the early slides have great graphics showing how autosomal DNA tests work.

There is also a new book out called Genetic Genealogy: The Basics and Beyond by Emily D. Aulicino. It is available on amazon.ca and the Family History Centre has a copy on order.

Two of my elderly relatives who provided DNA samples to test are now deceased. One is a first cousin of my mother who is a far closer match to my 3rd cousin on the Irish line than either my mother or sister is. I am hoping that someday one of their "matches in common" will be the breakthrough on my Irish brick wall.

### Online Magazines

Another issue of *Irish Lives Remembered* and *In Depth Genealogy* are now available for reading online or downloading. Irish Lives Remembered for February is available [here](#). The magazine, Going In Depth is available [here](#) and contains an article entitled *Before 1865: Immigration Records in Canada* written by blogger Elizabeth LaPointe. With 63 pages in this edition, it is packed with information.

### FamilySearch Cornwall Guide

[The FamilySearch Blog](#) has announced a new online guide to tracing ancestors in the County of Cornwall England in the FamilySearch Wiki. "Features of the guide include articles on each of Cornwall's 350+ Anglican parishes with descriptions of records available online at major websites Ancestry.co.uk, Cornwall Online Parish Clerks, Cornwall Parish Register Index, FamilyRelatives, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.co.uk, FreeReg, TheGenealogist.co.uk, Google Books, and Internet Archive. Most Cornish parish registers are now available online, if you know where to look for them. Genealogists will find tables describing where to find parish registers online, maps to pinpoint places Cornish ancestors lived, and learn how to find and use major Cornwall archives and libraries, such as the Cornwall Record Office, The National Archives, and the Society of Genealogists Library."

### No films were received in the week ending February 20<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 & 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](#)

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[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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