



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-21

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



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In This Bulletin

- **Announcements** – OGS Toronto Genetic Genealogy Workshop this Saturday
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Ontario Birth, Marriage & Death record images online); Ancestry (Canada – Index to Alien Arrivals 1904-1944, Surrey Calendar of Prisoners and Mental Hospital Admissions, NSW Parramatta church Records, Virginia Birth, Marriage, Death & Divorce Records); FindMyPast (Additional baptism and burial transcriptions for Cambridgeshire and Kent), More DeceasedOnline Black Country records
- **The Forum** – No new questions, some suggestions for last week's question
- **Were You Aware...** – Ordering England & Wales Wills – Easy and Quick, Genetic Genealogy, List of Films Discontinued

Announcements

Genetic Genealogy Workshop, This Saturday June 6th, 9:30am-4:45pm, North York Central Library

<http://torontofamilyhistory.org/learn/workshops/genetic-genealogy/>

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Ontario Birth, Marriage & Death records – **Images now available FREE**. Births 1869-1912, Marriages 1869-1927, & Deaths 1869-1937. Be sure to check for second pages in the case of some marriages. The image quality is excellent.
- Utah Mormon Pioneer Overland Travel Database 1847-1868 – Has really interesting stories about the migration. Easy to spend a lot of time here. (58,000 records)
- Quebec Index to Civil Copy of Church Records 1642-1902 (just a few areas available to browse so far)
- Additions of images to various Mexican Church Records

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Canada – Index to Alien Arrivals at Canadian Atlantic & Pacific Seaports 1904-1944 (4.3 million records)
- New South Wales, St John's Parramatta Church Records - Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths and other records (about 43,000 records)
- Surrey England Calendar of Prisoners 1848-1902 (25,846 records)
- Surrey England Mental Hospital Admissions 1867-1900 (11,670 records)
- Virginia Births 1864-2014, Marriages 1936-2014, Deaths 1912-2014 & Divorces 1918-2014; Index entries only after 1914 for Births and after 1990 for Marriages, Divorces & Deaths. (Approximately 25 million records available to search.)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets for this Friday's release:

- Cambridgeshire Baptism & Burial additions – over 8,000 records added to the 1.2 million records for Cambridgeshire
- Kent Baptism & Burial additions – More than 42,000 baptisms & 30,000 burials added. There are now more than 540,000 baptism records and 385,000 burial records. If you find an ancestor in these transcribed records, go to your local family history centre to see the actual images. They often contain more information.

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

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added more burial records for the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, an area to the east of Birmingham, in the heart of England's Black Country. Records for eleven cemeteries and crematoria are being added. They have just added 190,000 records for Rowley Regis Cemetery and Crematorium, Fallings Heath Cemetery in Wednesbury, and Sandwell Valley Crematorium (previously known as West Bromwich Crematorium) to records for Heath Lane, Oldbury and Tipton Cemeteries. Records at DeceasedOnline can be searched without charge but downloading the original registers and maps require a modest payment.

The Forum:

Questions. No New Questions.

Suggestions.

Q1/2015/20. Cornwall to Ontario.

I have a great grandfather named Barton Butcher. It is recorded that he was born in Cornwall England May 6th 1828 and immigrated to Canada in 1834. On May 17th 1855, he married Eliza Jane Cooke in Wellington Square, Halton, Ontario. She was born in Ireland. In 1861 he is listed as living in West Flamborough in Wentworth County and has 7 children. By 1871 he owns a farm in the Teeswater area in Culross Township, Bruce County. He died there in 1910. I have tried to find his parents whom he must have come to Canada with. I wonder if they came by way of the U.S. first. Until I find his elusive parents, I am not sure where in Cornwall he came from or where to start a search there to find his family line. Any suggestions as to where to start in Cornwall or elsewhere?

As the researcher's grandfather has an unusual name, it would probably be useful to check the baptism records for Cornwall that are available as indexes on FindMyPast. However, this was done and Barton did not appear. Barton is Methodist in his later censuses in Canada, so he may be registered in a non-conformist register. These can be searched for free at BMDregisters.co.uk; unfortunately he does not appear here either. [BMDregisters has records for Methodists, Wesleyans, Baptists, Independents, Protestant Dissenters, Congregationalist, Presbyterians, Unitarians, Quakers, Dissenters and Russian Orthodox; Maternity Records; Overseas Records.] The unusual first name could be his mother's surname and even if the family were non-conformist, the couple would have to have married in a Church of England parish. So Barton/Butcher marriages were searched in Cornwall on FindMyPast; but no marriages found. The only place where Barton is described as being born in Cornwall is in his death certificate in 1910. Does the informant, George Butcher, know that this is factual?

Barton says in the 1901 census that he immigrated in 1834 when he was only six years old. The 1841 and 1851 censuses should be carefully searched for Butchers in the area where Barton first appears. Are there sections of those censuses missing for that area?

Barton says that his religion is Free Church in 1861, Church of England in 1871 and Methodist after that. Can obituaries be found for Barton or his parents in the books of Methodist obituaries: *Obituaries from Ontario's Christian Guardian* by Donald A McKenzie? Several of these books covering the years 1836 to 1870 can be found at the Toronto Family History Centre. Others can be found at the Toronto Public Library. Obituaries often have more information than death certificates. Also try local newspapers when looking for his parents' deaths. This may require some patience as Barton's parents' names are as yet unknown.

Were You Aware...

Ordering England & Wales Wills – Easy and Quick

This week I tried ordering a will from the UK government website - <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>. I first had to find the relevant probate index and then enter the information in the index to a form on the right hand side of the page – easy. I requested the will late on Tuesday evening and the will was promised to be delivered within three weeks. Imagine my surprise when I received email notification on Friday morning that the will was ready to be downloaded – fast! This is a beta or test website that has been available for some time and I have used it to look for probate records for ancestors who died after 1966, when the Ancestry probate indexes end. Some of the links to the indexes are not correct but for most I found a work-around. One will index I could not find and emailed them through the Feedback link and had a response within a few hours with the answer.

I was particularly interested in this will because I had seen that my step-great-grandmother, whom I had only met once as a child, had left an estate worth around £145,000, which had quite surprised me as she had been widowed for 24 years and lived in the bottom half of a row house in London England. My mother had kept in touch with her over the years but they

were not close as my parents had emigrated not long after she married my great-grandfather, when he was already 73 years old. I thought that it was worth £10 to find out who she had left her estate to and whether she mentioned any of her siblings who were young children in the 1911 census. I was somewhat surprised to find that her executor was a neighbour and that the bulk of her estate, including her property, was left to the neighbour's wife "who has been like a daughter to me" or to her neighbour's son should the neighbour predecease her. But she did mention a sister, three nephews and a niece. Small bequests were made to St Thomas's Hospital (where I was born), the Salvation Army and another neighbour.

Genetic Genealogy

Adrian Hetherington found the article in Peter Calver's Lost Cousins' [Newsletter](#) entitled ***Which DNA test should you take?*** to be "*interesting if only because it is a short and succinct piece on the various options. I also liked that it was quite clear that getting cousins to do the testing does improve one's chances of finding answers that make sense. [How many times has Linda Reid said this in the Bulletin?] I didn't like the suggestion that just because some of the databases have a large US representation that they may not be as valuable to Europeans. A significant proportion have European ethnicity even if the family line is traced back to the Mayflower or Conquistadors.*"

Peter Calver also emphasizes another point that Linda has mentioned numerous times – upload your results to [GEDmatch](#).

Ancestry Canada will shortly be selling their autosomal DNA test kits in Canada and I have seen a price of \$150 mentioned but now I cannot find that reference, so forgive me if I am wrong. This is somewhat more than the \$99USD that the same kit sells for in the US and more than FamilyTreeDNA Family Finder test.

At the Toronto OGS workshop on Saturday, FamilyTreeDNA test kits will be available for purchase from Dr. Maurice Gleeson, and Lesley Anderson from Ancestry.ca will be giving away 10 test kits and providing more information on AncestryDNA's testing service.

Listing of New Films at the Toronto FHC has been discontinued.

We received a question from a reader wondering why this list has been discontinued. There were two reasons. The first was that it was a lot of work for the volunteers and used old software that had become unnecessary now that the film orders are being placed directly through Salt Lake City. The second reason was that over the last five years the volunteers have had very few requests for other people's films; so it appeared that no-one was looking at the list and then looking at one of the films.

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, 2nd & 4th 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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