



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-33

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

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Announcements

Labour Day Holiday Celebrated with Free Searches

Ancestry.com is offering free access to its US records from now until September 7th. Take advantage of this to look for newly added collections of wills and probates of your relatives.

The New England Genealogical Historical Society is offering free access to a large group of databases within its popular Census, Tax, and Voter List category at AmericanAncestors.org collections until September 9th. Registration is necessary; please go to [AmericanAncestors](http://AmericanAncestors.org).

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- More indexed records for Italy, Peru and Brazil
- South Dakota Birth & Marriage Indexes 1843-2014 (693,000 records)
- Texas County Marriage Index 1837-1977 (1.7 million records)
- Argentina National Census 1869 (1.8 million records)
- Germany Prussia, Brandenburg & Posen Church Book Duplicates 1794-1874 (1.7 million indexed records with images)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Huge collection of US Wills and Probate Records by state - New (170 million records) To search these collections at the same time, click on **SEARCH** on the main page, then choose **TAX, CRIMINAL, LAND & WILLS** (from the list on the right hand side) and under WILLS, etc. select **United States** from the Collection Focus. The dates listed for each state's will & probate records extend to the late 1900s but the records themselves do not appear to go that far yet.
- Holocaust records from WWII – Updates of various collections
- West Yorkshire Removal & Settlement Records – New (14,000 records)
- Drouin Collection (Quebec Church Records 1621-1968 – Updated (15 million records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets

- Manchester Electoral Registers 1832-1900 – Browse only collection – New (330,000 records)

- Derbyshire Hospital Admission & Deaths – New (4,000 records from two hospitals in the 1890s)
- New Zealand, Nelson, Petition after the Wairau Incident 1843 – New (600 records)
- UK Prisoners of War 1939-1945 – New (over one million records)

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

Irish Family History Foundation Newsletter for September has been released. To read the newest *Clann* issue, click [here](#).

News from the Trenches

Never Give up: This Pries is Right!

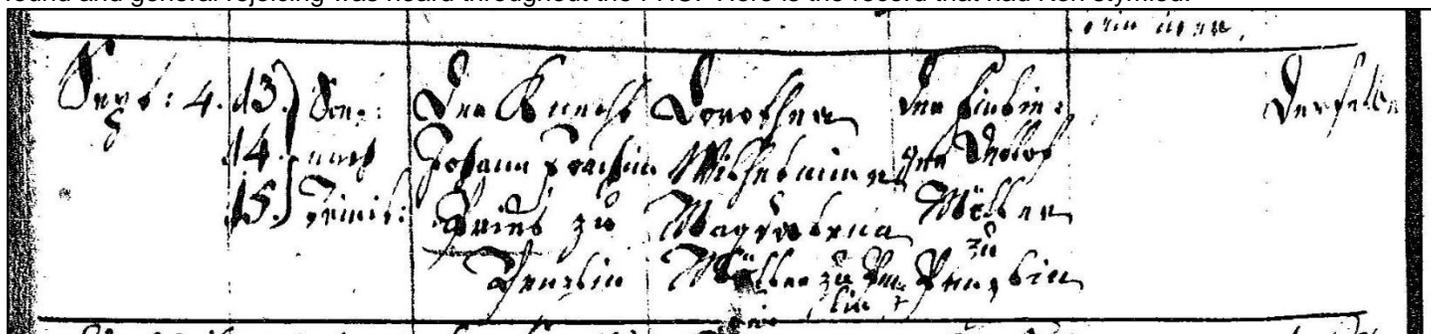
Ken Monk has been a regular visitor to our Family History Centre for many years. He has worked very hard and has tracked all lines of his family back six generations – except one. In the late 1850s, these ancestors emigrated from Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which is part of today's Germany. They came to Ontario, first to Waterloo County, then settled further north in Bruce County.

Ken found Ontario records for them. It was in the Lutheran church burial records for Bruce County, where he found that his great great grandmother, Luise Rody nee Pries, was born May 24, 1832 in "Zorn". As there is no "Zorn" in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Ken settled for the similar-sounding "Zahren" and was able to locate the baptismal records for Luise and her siblings: Fred born 1822, Wilhelmine born 1825, and Sophia born 1837. Her parents were listed in the baptismal record as being Johann Joachim Christian Pries and Wilhelmina Magdalena Dorothea Möller. Her mother's name was confirmed by the 1861 Ontario census record showing Luise Rody with her husband, three children, and her mother, Wilhelmina Pries, living together in Waterloo County.

Ken has spent two years quietly persevering in the search for the marriage of Johann Joachim and Wilhelmina about 1820. He believed that they were from the Mecklenberg-Schwerin area and he knew that he had to search through films of Lutheran church records to find it. To that end, Ken had ordered a large number of films in batches; he worked patiently through each batch and then ordered more films when his search was not successful. One of the difficulties of German records of that period is the challenging script and Ken got quite adept at deciphering and translating the records. Also, both surnames, Pries and Möller, were common in his search area. As was common in what is now Germany, many male babies were given the first name of "Johann". They were usually given a second name which was used as their call name.

Ken enlarged his search to a 20 km radius without luck. He increased the search radius again. Finally, last week, he found a marriage record of interest. It seemed to have the correct name of the bride. He could see that the groom's first and second name were "Johann Joachim" but try as he might, he could not figure out the surname. He sent it to a German message board – "German Genealogy" on Facebook -- and within a few hours he had a translation back. Everything was easily translated in the marriage record, but the translator, Anje, could not decide on the name of the father, D?? Möller. "Perhaps no Detleff back then?" Ken next sent the marriage record to Annette at "Old German Script" in Germany, <http://www.old-german-script.com/en/script/>. He received the identical translation with the name of the father, Detleff.

The groom's name was Johann Joachim Pries married to Dorothea Wilhelmina Magdalena Möller! The marriage had been found and general rejoicing was heard throughout the FHC. Here is the record that had Ken stymied.



4. September 1818 Aufgebot [Proclamation]: 13. 14. 15 Sonntag nach Trinitatis [Sunday after Trinity]
 der Knecht [the servant] Johann Joachim PRIES zu [of] Penzlin
 Dorothea Wilhelmine Magdalena MÖLLER zu Penzlin
 dem heisigen [the local] D... MÖLLER zu Penzlin

It was the capital "P" in "Pries" and in the village "Penzlin" that were really difficult to figure out.

Ken says he had probably seen this record a few times when going back through the microfilms. It was in a parish register in his original search area. In spite of his experience, he had missed it because of the difficulty in reading it.

He says that he has now finished his family history. So why was he back in later in the week, copying more records from the films he has? Perhaps he is pushing for a seventh generation.

The Forum:

Questions. No new questions this week.

Were You Aware...

Britain's Switch to the Gregorian Calendar

Today's **Moment in Time** in the *Globe and Mail* remembers "**The day that never was**". In fact, it was more than a week that never was. In 1750 the British parliament passed a law to adopt the Gregorian calendar, instead of using the Julian calendar. The Julian calendar was a little bit too long and over the years resulted in Easter moving further towards summer. Pope Gregory XIII introduced a new calendar in 1582 to make a small correction of 0.002% to the length of the year and this resulted in creating more rules for leap years (for example, no leap year if the year is divisible by 100). This new calendar was adopted initially by Roman Catholic countries and eventually by most Western countries.

Britain made the change starting in 1750. Prior to 1751 the calendar year ran from Lady Day, March 25th, to Lady Day the following year. For genealogists this is rather important because it sometimes resulted in the appearance of children dying before they were born or children being born to a couple before they were married. If a couple married in April of 1740 and had a child in February of the same year, to us it looks funny but the child is completely legitimate. So as genealogists we sometimes write the dates as April 1740 and February 1740/41; this prompts us to remember the year 1740 runs from March 25, 1740 to March 24, 1740 and the next year starts March 25, 1741.

The change from the Julian to Gregorian calendars in the United Kingdom & colonies, including areas of Canada and the United States, started in 1751 when the year started on March 25th and ended on December 31. But that still did not sync the calendar with the rest of Europe who had adopted the Gregorian calendar earlier. Easter was still close to summer. So 11 days were removed from September 1752 – the 3rd to the 13th. So as the *Globe and Mail* puts it: *Briton fell asleep on September 2, 1752 and woke up on September 14th.*

Middle Names

In my relatively poor English relatives, middle names did not start to be used until after about 1880; so I was surprised to see Ken Monk's ancestors in the early 1800s with three forenames. Were they more well-to-do or was it tradition? Then on August 24th I read The Legal Genealogist's blog, [Stop Middling Along!](#) In it she complains about family trees on Ancestry that have added a second forename to two of her early American ancestors, when there is absolutely no documentation to indicate that either of these individuals had more than one forename. One cited example is David Baker who is recorded as David Hollis Baker on 580 family trees on Ancestry. She has found many references to middle names being infrequent before the 1800s and quotes Rhonda R. McClure as saying "*Few Americans were giving their children middle names ... until the German immigrants introduced this naming custom to America*" in this [blog](#). This is talking about the United States; can it be generalized to other parts of the world?

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 Morgan has found that newspapers are an excellent source of details and Alan Billing has found archivists most helpful. I have enjoyed reading these diverse stories and look forward to receiving more. What story can you write this week?

From Felon to Respected Police Officer, cont'd by David Morgan

David spent some more time this past week looking at the FREE Welsh online newspapers at the [National Library of Wales](#) and found more about his convict relative, Valentine Trew. He writes: "Besides fleshing out some of the details of Valentine's counterfeiting activities and his cohorts these reports also reveal that John Loveridge the man who was sentenced to 10 years penal servitude with him, is one of Valentine's brothers under an alias. Valentine had four brothers as far as I know one of which was named John, presumably him. It seems I have more work to do and another convict to claim."

The MONMOUTHSHIRE MERLIN reported on the 23rd MARCH 1861 that “Uriah Weeks, John Loveridge, Valentine Trew, Mary Weeks, and Elizabeth Loveridge, were charged with uttering, possessing, and making counterfeit coin. It was stated that the real name of the male prisoner Loveridge, was Trew, that he was brother to the other male prisoner, a native of Abergavenny, and [that they] are turned convict, and [both] had figured somewhat conspicuously in the *Hue and Cry*.”

Is Sampson Busby, Methodist Minister in Carbonear NL in 1815, “My” Sampson Busby? By Alan Billing

I have long known that my great-grandmother, Ann Busby, was born in Ripon, Yorkshire. Ann’s Busby grandfather was named Sampson; this was a common first name for the Busbys, as I have found eight of them, born between 1713 and 1878. This Sampson’s second son was also named Sampson. He was baptized in 1790, and seemingly married Alice Pearson in 1810. The marriage entry in the parish register included what appears to be original signatures of both of these Sampson Busbys.

Over many years, I had found various records describing the lives of the extended Busby family in and around North Yorkshire, but had found nothing of the later life of the 1790 Sampson, with or without Alice. However, recent name searches of Rootsweb message boards found discussions about a Methodist minister called Sampson Busby who worked in Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada in the first half of the 1800s. A few said he was born in Ripon in 1790, and in any event the name was sufficiently unusual that (after finding extensive newspaper and Methodist documentation of minister Busby in Canada), I tried to find evidence that Sampson Busby the minister in Canada was the same person as the Sampson Busby born in Ripon in 1790. Documented information was sparse.

Although Sampson of Ripon married in Yorkshire in 1810, I found only one reference to the missionary in Newfoundland from 1813 to 1818 having a wife: his (unnamed) wife was involved in schooling there. His wife then must have died, since after further work in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, in 1817 minister Busby married Maria Bayard, daughter of a Nova Scotia landowner, and they had at least 10 children, born in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. When one of their children was married, a newspaper report indicated that father Sampson was born in Ripon, which was helpful. It began to seem likely that the two Sampson Busbys were one and the same person.

Later I chanced upon an online Google Book of local and private statutes of New Brunswick; one statute dealt with arrangements after 1840, when Charles Allison, a farmer in New Brunswick who was a Methodist, granted some land to three Wesleyan missionaries, one of whom was Sampson Busby. The property was at Mount Allison near Sackville, and was to be used to create an academy of learning; this later became Mount Allison University.

It occurred to me that such legal proceedings would have involved documents with signatures, so I looked for possible information from Mount Allison archives in hopes of comparing them to his signature at marriage in 1810. The website page on their archives included a photograph of their archivist, David Mawhinney, with an invitation to contact him if you had a question. So of course I did. The next day, David not only responded to my email, but included copies of all the documents his search could locate in his archives that mentioned a Sampson Busby. Regrettably, none included Sampson’s signature. Nevertheless, David’s alacrity in responding to what must have appeared a bizarre enquiry, and the pleasant interaction with him that I enjoyed, encourages me to keep hunting. In an email, he mentioned that the fine photograph [of him on the archives main page] that had first triggered the thought I should enquire, had been taken when he was a young teenager, while staying at Sherbrooke Village in Nova Scotia as one of “yesterday’s children”, an experience that helped lead him to a professional life as an archivist.



My enquiry reminds me that no real question is too silly to ask. And I am now looking for any original record of a marriage or baptism Sampson Busby performed in Atlantic Canada, in case it has his original signature. I have now found that the Methodist church in Carbonear where Sampson performed a number of marriages and baptisms between 1814 and 1817 has an archivist and I am hoping an enquiry there may lead to a successful conclusion in my search for the Busby signature.

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, 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](#)

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[Steve Archer IGI Batch Numbers](#)

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