



Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 2015-35

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

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Announcements

FindMyPast FREE This Weekend!

This weekend FindMyPast is offering free access to all of its records from 7am EDT on Friday, September 18th until 7am EDT Monday September 21st. This would be an excellent time to check out the newspaper content on the website and the many record collections not available elsewhere. If you are looking for records of a particular county in England, for example, go to the Search All Records button that drops down from the main search menu and enter the county/place you are looking for. FindMyPast has over four billion records; perhaps there is something for your family.

OGS Toronto Events

OGS Toronto September Meeting – September 28th at North York Memorial Hall

This month's meeting features Lesley Anderson, speaking on What's New at Ancestry. For the full meeting details, please click [here](#).

Courses – Basic Genealogy & Family History – October and November

Choose between the Wednesday afternoon or Tuesday evening courses lasting eight weeks. For the course details, click [here](#).

Atlantic Canada Genealogy Workshop – October 17th, 9:30am – 4:30pm, North York Central Library

This full-day workshop will help you learn about the resources available to find your ancestors in the four Atlantic provinces. Terrence Punch is the keynote speaker and Roberta Clark and Terri Raymond will also be presenting. The early-bird registration of \$60 will expire on Tuesday. Click [here](#) for full details and to register.

What's New

FamilySearch has updated or added to the following collections:

- Italy Potenza Civil Registration (State Archive) 1697-1923 – Large browse only collection (3 million images)
- Italy Rieti Civil Registration (State Archive) 1840-1945 – Browse only (395,000 images)
- Italy Trapani Civil Registration (State Archive) 1906-1928 - Browse only (230,000 images)
- Honduras Civil Registration 1841-1968 – Browse only (337,000 images)

Ancestry's updates or additions include:

- Canada WWII Service Files of War Dead 1939-1947 – New (29,126 records) This collection contains case files of Canadian military personnel killed in the Second World War. The files include attestation papers, death certificates, and photos of the soldiers. Information found on the documents varies, but can include a wide variety of details. Use the arrow keys to make sure you see all the pages related to your ancestor. John Reid gives this collection [Three Stars](#).

- Passenger Lists of Vessels arriving in Mississippi 1903-1964 – New (3,700 records)
- Nebraska Homestead Records 1861-1936 – Updated (77,000 records)

FindMyPast has added the following datasets

- Kent Canterbury Archdeaconry records from 1538 added – 15,000 baptisms, 9,000 marriages, 8,000 banns, & 11,000 burials
- Kent Canterbury Archdeaconry Parish Registers Browse only collection except for the four parishes of Cheriton, Harbledown, Ramsgate & Shepherdswell.
- New York Genealogical & Biographical Society records contain a wide variety of information including census fragments unpublished elsewhere, marriage & death abstracts, baptism registers and fascinating historical diaries.

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

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added its first set of burial and cremation records for the London Borough of Lewisham. All the records for the Borough of Lewisham will be available by mid-October. The records for Grove Park Cemetery (1935-1999), and Hither Green (Lewisham Crematorium) (1956-1995) are currently available, a total of 385,000 records. Brockley, Ladywell and Hither Green cemetery records will be available soon. At that point there will be nearly one million burial records for the borough of Lewisham. Nearby boroughs of Southwark and Greenwich also have records available on DeceasedOnline. Use the [Free Advanced Search](#) to specify the area and cemetery you wish to search.

The Forum:

Questions.

Q2015/35/01. Middle Names.

Re middle names, my great grandmother's name was Amalia Pudor Rhynas born on 13 Sep 1862 in Montreal to John Rhynas and Elizabeth Eldridge Jones. Nowhere have I been able to find out where the name Pudor came/comes from. The Rhynas family was from Scotland. Elizabeth Jones was from a long line in the US. In neither family have I seen a Pudor. It was once suggested to me that it is Welsh - a corruption of Ap Tudor, but online searches turn up only an "improper" word in Spanish unlikely to be the derivation of the name.

I wonder if Bulletin readers have any ideas.

Q2015/34/1. Ontario to Michigan?

My husband's great-grandfather was Valentine Kertcher, a German immigrant to Ontario who was born around 1836 (the 1861 Census has his age as 25 years). He married an English immigrant named Sarah Atkin in 1858 and lived in Milverton, Ontario, where they had 12 children. In the 1891 Census, his wife says she is a widow. I haven't been able to find a burial in Ontario, but there is one in Lansing, Michigan, of a Valentine Kertcher, born in Germany in 1841, who was married to Emma Kertcher, born in 1859. The 1890 US Census says she was born in New York. They had a daughter, Alice, born in 1898 in Lansing. The Lansing Valentine Kertcher is listed in the 1898 city directory as a commercial traveller, then in 1902 as an optician. His obituary in 1910 on the front page of the Lansing newspaper says he was born in Germany and resided in Lansing 18 years which would get him there in 1892. The 1900 census for Lansing City, Michigan says Valentine Kertcher has been married 8 years and was married in 1892. I can find no marriage record. If there are two Valentine Kertchers, where was our Ontario one buried? If the Lansing Valentine Kertcher is my husband's great-grandfather, what proof is there that he left his wife and family, moved to Michigan and started a new life with a younger woman? When Sarah Atkin Kertcher died in 1900, the Milverton Sun says she was buried in the Methodist cemetery and that she "married Mr. V. Kertcher."

This is a complicated problem with no solution (as yet) but a few suggestions. The first suggestion is that every single piece of information has to be examined and re-examined for any further clues. The children should be tracked for any more information.

Censuses need to be looked at very carefully. The 1861, 1871, & very faint 1881 censuses for Valentine were found, and the ages of Valentine and his wife diverge. In the 1881 census, Valentine is 43 and Sarah is 49 and they are living with 10 of their 12 children in Milverton; Ancestry has mistranscribed the name as Heitcher. Because Sarah is older than Valentine, they probably fudged their ages in earlier censuses. There is an 1851 (1852) census for a Valentine Cartshaw in Wilmot County, some 35km from Milverton; this Valentine is 15 years old, consistent with his age in the 1881 census –

born 1837/8, could this be him with a bad transcription of his name as it was pronounced? In the 1891 census, Sarah says that she is widowed but her death registration (Hertcher) in 1900 says that she is a MARRIED lady. These inconsistencies need to be thought about – are they mistakes or truths?

Leslie Dorschell took the information that she collected and created a timeline to see if anything popped out.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
1	Milverton Valentine				Lansing Valentine				
2	Year	Event	Details	Location	Year	Event	Details	Location	
3									
4	1832	birth	Sarah Atkin	Pickering Twp (or England)					
5	1837	birth	Milverton Valentine	Germany					
6					1842	birth	Valentine - from 1900 censuses (2)	Germany	
7	year ?	immigrati	born Germany - when immigrated						
8	1851	census	Valentine Cartthaw - age next birthday 15 - with Eichlers - Wilmot Twp						
9	1856	move	Sarah moved to Mornington Twp Ontario						
10					1857	immigration	said immigrated to USA in 1857		
11	1858	marriage	Sarah Atkin	Ontario - Milverton					
12					1859	birth	wife Emma (born Canada or New York from censuses)		
13	1859	birth	Maria - first child of Milverton	Ontario - where?					
14	1861	census	on the agricultural census						
15									
16	1871		councillor for County of Perth						
17	1873		reeve in Milverton until 1875						
18	1878	birth	Walter - 12th and last child of f	Mornington Twp., Ont.					
19	1878		Milverton Valentine again the						
20	1880		Perth County warden						
21	1881		auditor for Milverton						
22					1892	marriage	Valentine and Emma per 1900 census -	no marriage record found	
23	1884		the auditor for Milverton						
24	1885	directory	listed in Milverton - spelled Kertcher						
25									
26	1891	census	Sarah says she is a widow						
27					1892		obit said he moved to Lansing, MI	Lansing, Michigan	
28					1898	birth	Alice - daughter of Valentine and Emma	Lansing, Michigan	
29	1900	death	Sarah - died March 24 - buried			1900	census	married, 8 yrs, renting, optician	Lansing, Michigan
30			death reg - married lady			1900	census	Valentine, boarder, married, Pedlar	Flushing, Michigan
31							both censues give Oct 1842 as birth		
32							imm - 1857 or 1855		
33					1910	census - April	Emma, widow?, no Valentine found		
34					1910	death - Sept	photo of tombstone on FAG and Billion Lansing, Michigan		

From this, Leslie created a Look For list: passenger lists for immigration of both Valentines, marriage record of Valentine & Sarah, birth or christening record of first child, land records for the Kertchers available from the land office in Stratford, probate for Sarah (probably the researcher has this), church records for Milverton, the death registration for the Lansing Valentine and the probate records for him. Did Emma Kertcher in Lansing have connections to Canada as she indicated in the 1910 census; here she is born in Canada of Canadian German and Irish parents and she immigrated in 1885.

Passenger Lists: Leslie has found a passenger list for a Valentin Kercher arriving in 1854 on the ship, *Oscar*, he is 17 years old (born about 1837). This is consistent with the birth date of Milverton Valentine and consistent with the arrival date of the Lansing Valentine. How confusing! I always suspect the ages given in censuses, when the spouses are quite different in age. The passenger lists can be found on FamilySearch [here](#). You can put in a name like Valentin Kercher but if it does not appear, try browsing through the 428,944 images currently available. Leslie has found some gems in this collection that have not been indexed on FamilySearch or on Ancestry.

Burial records should be sought for in the church records; many grave markers may have disappeared over the years. Do not depend on FindAGrave or BillionGraves or similar; they will only have existing markers.

From internet trails left, it is obvious other people have not yet found an answer but one of Valentine's gg granddaughters claims to have knowledge that the Milverton Valentine moved to the States. Where did that knowledge come from and is it reliable? Do any other researchers have suggestions?

Were You Aware...

More about Middle Names

Jerri Grimley has read with interest and reports to following:

“When I was researching my DOWN family also from Devon, I found not only did they use the mother’s maiden name as a middle name, but also they used brother-in-law surnames. Amelia DOWN (b 1831) was born in Tavistock and emigrated to Australia in 1849 where she married George WALKER. Her sister Elizabeth (b 1828) was also born in Tavistock and remained in England where she married George KERSWELL. Amelia named one of her children Richard Kerswell WALKER while Elizabeth named one of her children Laura Amelia Walker KERSWELL. This enabled me to follow through on my research to identify these 2 ladies as sisters. Amelia went one step further and named one of her children Emma Eugenia Josephine WALKER. Eugenia was the name of the ship that took Amelia to Sydney Australia.”

Bert Parsons, archivist of the Bethany United Church in Carbonear NL, said that it was his observation or belief that children commonly acquired a given name from the surname of the minister as a respected person.

RockStar Genealogists

For the fourth year, John D. Reid is publishing the “Rockstar Genealogists” on his blog, Anglo-Celtic Connections. His blog of the [Superstar Rockstars Genealogists](#) of 2015 in various categories are CeCe Moore, Jill Ball, David Obee, Kirsty Gray, and Claire Santry. Check out John’s blog for all the other categories: [Silver & Bronze Awards](#), [Australia/New Zealand Top Ten](#), [Canada Top Ten](#), [England, Scotland & Wales Top Ten](#), and [Ireland’s Top Five](#). Check out his blog tomorrow for the top USA and genetic genealogists.

The Challenge

I challenged readers to write a story about one of their relatives to publish in the Bulletin. I have received the following submission this week about a serendipitous incident. What story can you write this week?

The Search to Know My Great Grandmother Hannah – Submitted by Roberta Harris

Many years ago, I found a number of old photos in a dresser drawer in the basement of my parent’s home. Most were in old albums on black pages and some had been identified with white writing under them. One photo seemed to jump out at me. It was a woman who looked quite serious and had definite familiar features to my mother and myself. The name Hannah was written underneath the photo. When shown the picture of this woman named Hannah, my mother said she was her grandmother, her mother’s mother who had lived with them until my mother was 8 years old. She remembered her grandmother as kindly, a bit forgetful and eventually needing care by her daughter. She also remembered hearing that Hannah Higgs Jenks had had a lot of sorrow in her life, having moved from the Birmingham area in Staffordshire England to the U.S. where her husband Thomas Jenks sought out work in steel companies. My mom had heard that some of Hannah and Thomas’s children had died in the U.S. and when they finally moved to Hamilton Ontario with 6 children and her youngest just 10 months old, she stated emphatically that she would NEVER move again! She passed away at age 73 in 1918.

This was all I needed to get me going to find out more about Hannah. I started looking for more photos and records in my parent’s home; I talked to more family members who might have some information and wrote for certificates from England. I was becoming a so-called detective in trying to put the pieces together in Hannah’s life but I didn’t have everything yet. I wanted to know more about the sorrow in her life.

Then one day out of the blue, there was a knock at our door in east Toronto and a woman stood there smiling at me. She was a complete stranger but said she lived down the street, and she had a parcel for me. It was packaged in brown paper and tied with a string. She mentioned that it was from the couple who my husband had boarded with years before when he moved to Toronto to teach but who we had lost contact with. They had received it from a cousin of my mother who lived in Hamilton who had met them at a church gathering. Somehow they had found my neighbor and now she had found me. Whew! This was a gift arriving in a very convoluted manner! I thanked her very much and proceeded to open it. Lo and behold...it was a very large old Jenks family Bible with the middle pages filled out starting with Thomas and Hannah’s marriage in 1866 and all the genealogical information I had been searching for! It was all there! I was struck with the realization of why my great grandmother had sorrow in her life. There were all the happy births of her 11 children recorded but on the last page the deaths of 7 of those children. 6 were babies and small children but the last was a married daughter who died in childbirth. The realization swept over me. Hannah treasured the 5 children who she got to raise but her heart never got over the grief of burying the 5 young ones in various states in the U.S. and 2 in Hamilton. Finally, I got to better know my Hannah.

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](#)

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