



# Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**This week marks the Tenth Anniversary of the Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin. The start of this Bulletin is a tribute to Peter Goddard and the legacy he created.**

Ten years ago Peter came up with the idea of sending out a weekly newsletter to patrons of the Toronto Family History Centre. The Bulletin was his brainchild. To start with, he requested that patrons write down their name and email address on a sign-up form; the first emailed Bulletin was sent to about 25 people on Thursday, September 22, 2005. Over the following year Peter fine-tuned the Bulletin to include the major sections that still form the basis of the Bulletin ten years later.

The Bulletin continues to be sent out on Thursday. I remember going into the family history centre on Thursday evenings when it was a hub of activity with ideas flowing back and forth between Peter and James Thomson, James typing madly away on one computer and Peter on another. I did have to laugh when I saw that for a number of Bulletins Peter signed himself TSW – Toner Stained Wretch! This brought back memories of a huge piece of equipment that made paper copies of film pages. The copies were almost uniformly horrible and Peter spent hours trying to coax the machine to produce legible copies. Much time was spent shaking the toner cartridge which often resulted in disastrous results. We tend to forget the good old days now that we often have access to digital online images. While there are still millions of records available on film from the Family History Library that are not yet digitized, our computer copier is a huge advance on the machine that made Peter the Toner-Stained Wretch.

Here are a few historical markers during the first year of the Bulletin's development.

**Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 01/2005**

This is the first of what is intended shall be a weekly bulletin sent out by email every Thursday evening. Your comments on this bulletin and suggestions for future bulletins are welcomed.

**Announcements**

**New Additions to Our Permanent Collection**

**Films order by Patrons received in the 7 days ending 22 September 2005**

25 films listed

**Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 02/2005**

This is the second of what is intended to be a weekly bulletin. Many thanks to everybody who sent in encouraging comments and for making suggestions, some of which have been incorporated into this bulletin. Several patrons have asked that a comprehensive list of all of our holdings be made available on-line. This is not possible at the moment but is under consideration.

*[This was "**under consideration**" until Peter convinced/coerced Diana Davies and I to tackle this monumental task. One can now see a list of our thousands of resources at the Family History Centre by clicking on the link at the end of each Bulletin or [here](#).]*

**The third Bulletin included the first Were You Aware...? Section.**

**Were you aware.....?**

That we have in the Family History Centre Probate Calendars, mainly covering the second half of the Nineteenth and the first half of the Twentieth Centuries for England & Wales, Scotland and Ireland and these contain immensely valuable information. Here's an example, taken at random from the 1920 England Probate Calendar:-

"Hadden, Margaret of 7 Collingwood Street, Felling, County Durham, widow died 18 May 1920. Probate Durham 17 August to Henry Edward Hadden railway shunter and Ellen Eliza Hadden and Rose Alice Hadden, spinsters. Effects £254.6s"

So it is not just wealthy people that appear in these calendars. In the case given above it would be possible to view the actual will by ordering in a film from Salt Lake.

*[Now these probate calendars are easily available on both Ancestry and FindMyPast but it should never be forgotten that films of the actual record-copy willsup to 1925 are available from Salt Lake City. FHC volunteers can help you find the correct will film.]*

#### **Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 12/2005**

##### **News from the trenches**

This is a new item which I hope will become a regular feature. Your TSW (Toner Stained Wretch) thought that readers of this Bulletin might like to share stories of their recent discoveries where they are of general interest. So please, let me hear about them.

#### **Interesting statistics from Bulletin 07/2006**

The popularity - if that is the right word - of divorce has been growing over the years. In 1861, for the whole of England & Wales, 196 divorces were granted. In 1901, 477 were granted escalating to 25,394 in 1961 and to 143,818 in 2001.

In Canada in 1900 just 11 divorces were granted, in 1961 the figure was 6,563 and in 1998 it was 69,088.

#### **Toronto Family History Centre Bulletin 27/2006**

No matter how experienced one is, no one person has the answers to all the genealogical problems that the 300-odd recipients of this Bulletin encounter - certainly not without carrying out an amount of research. But taken together those 300 people can muster a tremendous amount of knowledge that could be utilised for the benefit of all.

What we are proposing is that each week, starting next week, we will publish a question raised by a reader and at the same time invite our readers to suggest an answer which we would publish the following week. We have, of course, no idea of how many questions might be submitted – or indeed whether anybody has got the answer - so we can't guarantee to publish every question but we will do our best to deal with them and if we get too much of a backlog we will call a temporary halt until we have caught up. We will not publish the name of the questioner or the respondent(s).

*[The Forum has been a popular feature over the years and many readers have benefited from the experience of others. The Bulletin is currently sent to approximately 1100 email addresses.]*

In 2007, Peter Goddard became ill and he died the following year. Before Peter died I wrote to him: "Your initiation of the Bulletin was brilliant in concept and execution. It connects so many people, passes information on quickly, and has always been full of useful and new information. I do my best to maintain it to the level you have set but it is a pretty high bar." I still miss his wise advice, his incredible breadth of knowledge, his dedication to making the FHC the best it could possibly be, and, most of all, his sense of humour. I took over writing the Bulletin in 2007, eight years ago. It is time for me to retire to pursue other interests, including travel and hiking the Bruce Trail, an 894 km trail along the edge of the Niagara Escarpment. My last Bulletin will be sent on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Other Items In This Bulletin**

- **Announcements** – OGS Toronto Meeting Monday evening
- **What's New** – FamilySearch (Warwickshire PRs, Germany BMDs); Ancestry (Gloucestershire Wills & Inventories); FindMyPast (Irish Newspaper Updates, British Directories & Almanacs); DeceasedOnline (more Lewisham records added)
- **The Forum** – No new questions, suggestions for one question
- **Were You Aware...** – FamilySearch Warwickshire Records, Wages in Britain in the Nineteenth Century, The Challenge: *Fire? What Fire?* and *Elizabeth J'ans and her Family*

## Announcements

### OGS Toronto Monthly Meeting, Monday 7:30pm, North York Centre

Lesley Anderson will be speaking on *What's New on Ancestry*. Ancestry has launched a new look to its website and released autosomal DNA testing in Canada. There are new Parish Records, Census and Military collections plus newer immigration records from the Colonial Office 384 and 385 and British Army records relating to Canada created by the UK War Office - if you've got any British, Irish or early 1800 immigrants to Canada, you'll want to check this out. Lesley will review how to find and search these new databases that can help you discover more about your ancestors! Visitors are welcome. For more details about the meeting, click [here](#).

## What's New

**FamilySearch** has updated or added to the following collections:

- Warwickshire Parish Records – New (1.2 million indexed records with images) See *Were You Aware...*
- Germany Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths & Burials 1558-1900 – 53 million records, probably taken from the old IGI (Index only to selected Germany data. Only a few localities are included and the time period varies by locality. Due to privacy laws, recent records not displayed. The year range represents most of the records.)
- Mississippi Enumeration of Educable Children 1850-1957 – New (14 million records)
- US Passport Applications 1795-1925 (2 million records)
- More browse only images for Italy, Denmark & New York

**Ancestry's** updates or additions include:

- Gloucestershire England Wills & Inventories 1541-1858 – Updated (86,000 records)
- US School Yearbooks 1880-2012 – Updated (300 million records)
- Pennsylvania Death Certificates 1906-1963 – Updated (7 million records)
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**FindMyPast** has added the following datasets

- Irish Newspapers – Updated (6 new newspapers & 724,000 new articles)
- Britain Directories & Almanacs – New (112 volumes of trade directories, county guides, almanacs and general directories)

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

[DeceasedOnline](#) has added 90,000 records for Ladywell Cemetery in the Lewisham London Borough Council. Ladywell cemetery opened in 1858 and contains the burials sites of such notables as Sidney Henry Perman, the late captain of Lewisham Park Football Club in 1891, Ernest Dowson, a poet and novelist, and my grandparents and great-grandparents! Brockley and Hither Green Cemeteries will be added over the next few weeks, bringing the total number of Lewisham records to 400,000 burials.

## The Forum:

**Questions. No new questions this week.**

## Suggestions.

### Q2015/35/01. Middle Names.

No suggestions were received for the Bulletin reader wondering what "Pudor" as a middle name meant. Perhaps **Pudor** was the surname of a friend or relative. Amalia Pudor Rhynas's parents were John Rhynas and Elizabeth Eldridge Jones. She had older siblings with middle names of Jones (mother's maiden name) and Simpson (also a common surname). There seem to be a number of *Pudor's* with German ancestry in the Ancestry databases. Perhaps the **Pudor** name honoured a friend or relative or was a surname in Elizabeth Eldridge Jones's family.

## Were You Aware...

### FamilySearch Warwickshire Records

The new database of Warwickshire parish records on FamilySearch has images that one can download at home. FamilySearch requires you to login with your user name and password (which is the same as for film ordering). Creating a user name and password is free. I found that when I found a record I wished to look at and clicked on the little camera icon, the image would not download. But going to the index and then clicking on download original image did work. I would love to know why these things differ with each database.

## **Wages in Britain in the Nineteenth Century**

Looking at a will dated 1803 this week, I remarked how wealthy the testator was. He left property and about £100 pounds to each of his six nephews and nieces, as well as £25 to a friend of his wife and £10 to his housekeeper. I suggested to the patron that this housekeeper was given the equivalent of two year's wages. Was this correct? The [Old Bailey Online website](#) has the following discussion of wages in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. "During the eighteenth century wages could be as low as two or three pounds per year for a domestic servant, plus food, lodging and clothing... Female domestic servants earned less than men. Wages for eighteenth-century women could range from £2 or so to between £6 and £8 for a housemaid, and up to £15 per annum for a skilled housekeeper. By contrast a footman could expect £8 per year, and a coachman anywhere between £12 and £26. Because they had to provide their own food, lodging and clothing, independent artisans needed to earn substantially more than this. £15 to £20 per year was a low wage, and a figure closer to £40 was needed to keep a family. The middling sort required much more still and could not expect to live comfortably for under £100 per year, while the boundary between the "middling sort" and the simply rich was in the region of £500." So the testator, who was a schoolmaster, was leaving his nephews and nieces with enough to live on comfortably for a year, plus land that would have provided an income. My nephews and niece should not expect such generosity from me!

## **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. Jerri made good use of local newspapers when searching for her fire. Monica writes: "Most of what I found on the family came from very persistent use of search engines, though I've also read as many wills as I could find. I have discovered them hidden under various spellings, also. J'ans, Jans, Janns, l'ans, L'ans, lans, Janes, as well as Eyans, and Yans, which makes me wonder how they pronounced their name." I am enjoying these diverse stories and look forward to receiving more. What story can you write this week?

## **Fire? What Fire? - Submitted by Jerri Grimley**

When I was researching my great great grandfather Robert Newton (1821 - 1895) I thought I would look to see if there were other Newtons in the area that might be related. All I knew was that he was Irish, he was a Protestant and he was a farmer. He lived in Albion, Peel County, Ontario in 1851 according to the Census. By 1855 his first wife Margaret Fallis had died, he had married Isabella McKnight in 1857, and had moved to Wallace, Perth County and then to Huron County.

I found 4 other potential Newtons: William Newton born about 1826, George Newton born about 1821 Maria( Newton) Holt born about 1828 all living in Waterloo County and Henry Newton born about 1828 in Peel County and Huron County. All were born in Ireland, Protestant and farmers. I did some more digging and found that William, Maria and Henry Newton (1828) were related and their parents were listed as Henry Newton and Mary Bryan(t). I also found that when George Newton married, Robert Newton was a witness.

Robert Newton was the father of at least 16 children. His oldest child from his first marriage Ester Ann Newton (1849 - 1933) married Thomas Campbell (1841 - 1927). Ester Ann Newton Campbell died 15 November 1933. Her obituary appeared in The Recorder, Boissevain, Manitoba. The article states that Ester Ann Campbell was living with her daughter Mrs. Rice in Brandon, Manitoba at the time of her death, while a lot of her family had remained in Huron County. I was in contact with a lady who was researching Ester Ann Newton and I asked her if she needed a copy of the obituary from Manitoba. She asked me this simple question: "Is it the obituary that mentions the fire, because I have that one?"

## **Fire, what fire?**

In January 1864 a fire started in a store owned by Henry Newton (b 1828) in Howick, Huron County. Further investigation revealed another article in the Huron and Bruce Advertiser - Semi-weekly Signal newspaper that it was a two-storey house and store owned by Henry Newton. This article indicates that Susan Newton is a niece of Henry and Lydia Newton and Ester Ann Newton is described as a "relative". Apparently Ester Ann Newton escaped by leaping through a window while the others perished in the house. How sad. It was thought the fire had been set deliberately.

And there was my link! Susan Newton (b 1853), age 11 was the daughter of Robert Newton and Margaret Fallis. She is listed as the niece of Henry and Lydia Newton. That makes Henry Newton her paternal uncle which makes Robert and Henry et al siblings. I now feel confident adding Robert's parents as Henry Newton (senior) and Mary Bryan(t).

## **Elizabeth J'ans and her Family - Submitted by Monica Kanellis**

My great great grandmother was an Emma Carder, daughter of a well-known Bideford potter, William. William had a number of shares in ships, and came from a family of mariners who also had part ownership of these ships. I was curious to see that his grandfather, another William Carder, a "mariner of Penzance" had married a "Mrs J'ans" in Bideford. What did that mean? Had she been married before? And why the unusual name? I suspected they might be Flemish weavers or something.

It turned out that Mrs J'ans was not married before, she was Elizabeth J'ans, the daughter of Thomas J'ans, a customs collector for Bideford. His will of 1758 mentioned his Carder grandchildren as well as a grandson named Wrey J'ans. Wrey was another curious name and when I googled it, I came across an entry by Burke for "J'ans of Whitstone, descended from Robert J'ans, Esq., Master of the Ordnance to Queen Elizabeth, and one of Her Majesty's Privy Council for the kingdom of Ireland. The father of Wrey J'ans, Esq., now of Whitstone, married the sister of the late Sir Bouchier Wrey, Bart., and settled at Whitstone." His coat of arms features three Cornish choughs. One of Wrey's daughters married the eccentric Robert Stephen Hawker, poet and divine, best known for his Song of the Western Men. His wiki reads "Other eccentricities attributed to him include dressing up as a mermaid and excommunicating his cat for mousing on Sundays. He dressed in claret-coloured coat, blue fisherman's jersey, long sea-boots, a pink brimless hat and a poncho made from a yellow horse blanket, which he claimed was the ancient habit of St Padarn. He talked to birds, invited his nine cats into church and kept a pig as a pet."

Something else that intrigued me about the will was the mention of Thomas' eldest son, Walter, then dead, and the latter's unfortunate son, also named Thomas. Thomas the elder writes "First I Give and bequeath one Shilling and no more unto my Eldest Grandson Thomas J'ans the Eldest Son of my late Eldest and most beloved Son Walter J'ans who in my three months absence (Anno 1718) was Drawn into Marry under Age not only without but contrary to my Advice and consent as well as to his very many and often repeated promises to me also in a most Clandestine manner about Midnight (with an Old and forged license for which parson Jope of Huntshaw was suspended by the then Lord Bishop of Exon).

Looking into this very gothic-novel like marriage of the underage Walter, I found it in the IGI. It took place in Huntshaw, Devon on Christmas Eve, 1718 (I wonder if the bells rang out at midnight), and the Lord Bishop of Exon who suspended the accommodating parson Jope was Lancelot Blackburn, who had the reputation of having been a pirate! The Dictionary of National Biography mentions "his reputation for carnality" and "the laxity of his moral precepts", while Brewer's Rogues, Villains and Eccentrics comments that "[his] behaviour was seldom of a standard to be expected of an archbishop. In many respects his behaviour was seldom of a standard to be expected of a pirate." He was famously ejected by John Disney, the vicar of St. Mary's Church, Nottingham, after a confirmation service when he asked for his pipe, tobacco and ale. One local legend in York even claimed that Dick Turpin was his butler. Horace Walpole called him 'the jolly old archbishop, who had all the manners of a man of quality, though he had been a buccaneer, and was a clergyman, who retained nothing of his first profession except his seraglio.'

As to why young Thomas was cut off with a shilling, it appears he had offended his grandfather by taking his position too much for granted. As eldest son of Thomas' eldest son, it seems he was to have been the heir. But he had the bad sense to chide his grandfather for decisions he made regarding his property, considering them as detrimental to his inheritance. This must have infuriated the elder Thomas.

Although I could not find any marriage for the elder Thomas or christening for him, I did find that he started his customs officer career at Hull in Yorkshire, where the previous clerk had been a Christopher J'ans. Christopher J'ans of Tradath Ireland had married a Dorothy Hodson in Liverpool in 1670. Thomas had a daughter named Dorothy and a grandson named Christopher. With the unusual name and the common occupation, I felt sure that these must be his parents. Christopher had been previously sent to the Isle of Man to prevent smuggling. An unenviable job. Smuggling was considered, in the Isle of Man, as indeed in all the west country, as a perfectly acceptable way to make some money. Even the local lawmen and the clergy participated. J'ans seems to have ruffled some feathers there as a complaint was made of "Mr. Christopher Jans, his Majesty's surveyor, waiter and searcher, sent into this Isle" concerning "the great hindrance of commerce and trade here, by having such an officer placed amongst us, to the utter destruction and ruin of the natives and inhabitants as also the great prejudice to your Honor in your customs."

Tracing back to Robert has been more difficult. I suspect Christopher to have been the son of Walter J'ans (hence the name of Thomas' firstborn), who was one of the great grandsons of Robert J'ans of Dublin, Master of Ordnance. Though it seems he was Master in Ordnance before the time of Queen Elizabeth as he died in the reign of her brother, Edward VI. Walter was mentioned in his father Edward Jan's will of 1653 according to Betham's extracts. Both Edward and his father, James, a prosperous merchant, had been mayors of Dublin. But it seems that they were devout Catholics and the family lost its status in the reign of the Protestant Elizabeth. James had been implicated in at least two conversions of prominent Protestants and was sent to prison at least once. Though, it seems he warned authorities when, during a trip to Spain, he became aware of the preparations for invasion being made there. "Advertisements delivered by James Jans, of Dublin, merchant and alderman, upon his return from Spain to the Lord Deputy. Great preparations in Spain for invading Ireland with 20,000 men. Certified under the hands of the Lord Deputy and Council. [Sent by Chichester. Mentioned August 4, p. 407, No. 29.] pp. 7.> Calendar of the state papers relating to Ireland" Curiously this appears on a page dated 1591, three years after the defeat of the Armada. Had James hoped for a Spanish coup and the return of a Catholic monarch?

Perhaps one day more details will be available on this family.

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, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#).**

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Toronto Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

24 Ferrand Drive (Don Mills & Eglinton) M3V 3V4 Phone: 416-422-5480 Ext. 111

Email: Toronto\_FHC "at" bellnet "dot" ca