

CLIENT NAME
Ford1012 R10160
13 April 2011

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

OBJECTIVES

- Extend the ancestry of Allan Ford.

RESULTS

- Completed a survey of research done by others for all the ancestral line of Allan Ford.
- Spent time researching the family more in-depth.
- Found that John Nelson Ford came to Canada from England as a young bachelor between 1842 and 1851 with his mother, possibly father, and at least some of his siblings. Learned about many of the details of his life in Canada.
- The Ford family came from Eynsham, Oxfordshire, England and the surrounding area. We found out much about their lives there for several generations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue looking for information about the immigration of John Nelson Ford and his family.
2. Continue the search for the marriage of John Nelson Ford and Elizabeth Wright in Canada, possibly in Haldimand County, Ontario, as it may give information about Elizabeth Wright's parents.
3. Prospects for extending the Ford and Wilsdon lines in England look very good; continue research in parish registers, probate records, and other records.

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RESEARCH REPORT

The objective of this research session was to extend the ancestry of Allan Ford, using a rounded approach, including finding ancestors' occupations, causes of death, war participation, and placing them in the historical context of where and when they lived.

Our strategy for this session involved, first, doing a general survey of research performed by others, to see what had already been found about the ancestors of Allan Ford. Checking for research done by others is an important first step in extending any family tree. Once that task was complete, we began researching individual ancestral families more in depth, as time permitted.

Ford

At the outset of this research project, it was known that Allan Ford's paternal grandfather, John Nelson Ford, was born 21 November 1825, possibly in Yorkshire, England, and that he died 6 November 1912 in Halton County, Ontario, Canada. He married Elizabeth Wright in about 1848. Family information indicated that John Nelson Ford was the son of Jonathan Ford (born 20 April 1788 in Eynsham, Oxford, England) and Susannah Wilsdon (born 19 August 1798, also in Eynsham). Jonathan and Susannah married 29 October 1817 (location unknown). Not much was known about their deaths except that Jonathan died in about 1851 and that Susannah died in England. Jonathan Ford's parents were Jonathan Ford and Sarah Willedon; all that was known about them was that they both died in about 1841. A search of family trees other genealogists have posted on the Internet, especially at Ancestry.com, did not reveal any new or different information, with one exception: one Ancestry.com family tree claims that John Nelson Ford was the son of Johnathan [sic] Ford Sr. and Ann Sanders (born in 1812 in Freeland, Oxfordshire,

England and died in September 1891 in Witney, Oxfordshire, England); she was presumably the daughter of Valentine Wilsdon and Hannah Barrat.¹ We kept this in mind as research progressed.

We began our more in-depth research of the Ford family by working backward in time. We located the original death record of John Nelson Ford in Ontario records.² It gave the following information:

Municipality: Oakville
County: Halton
Full Name of Deceased: Ford John Nelsen
Sex and Race: Male White
Date of Death: Nov 6 1912 2am
Date of Birth: Nov 12 1825
Age and Place of Birth: 87 years [no place of birth given]
Place of Death, City, Town, Village or Concession: Bronte
Occupation: Laborer
Single, Widowed, Divorced: Widower
Full Name of Father: [left blank]
Birthplace of Father: [left blank]
Full Name of Mother: [left blank]
Birthplace of Mother: [left blank]
Name of Physician who attended Deceased: R O Fisher
Certified by: Chas. Taylor
Address: Bronte
Day: 6 Nov 1912

Medical Certificate of Death

Name: John Nelson Ford
From: Nov 4 12
To: Nov 6 12
Time I Last Saw Alive: 5 Nov 12
Time the Death Occurred: 2 A.M. 6 Nov 12
Primary Cause of Death: Apoplexy
Duration: 3 Days
Physician's Name: R. O. Fisher
Address: Oakville
Date: Nov 1912

¹ Ancestry Trees, <http://ancestry.com>, "White Family Tree", owner: pushymummy: Family Group Sheet of Johnathan Ford Sr and Ann Sanders. DOCUMENT 1.

² Ontario, Canada Deaths, 1869-1936 and Deaths Overseas, 1939-1947, <http://ancestry.com>: John Nelson Ford. DOCUMENT 2.

John's cause of death was apoplexy; this can be a somewhat vague term but usually referred to a stroke. The death record confirmed John's birth and death dates (though the birth date here is given as the 12th, instead of the 21st) and revealed that he worked as a laborer and died in the small town of Bronte in Halton County, Ontario. Bronte lies on the northern shore of Lake Ontario and is part of the larger Trafalgar Township. It is very close to the town of Oakville, which is the area where John spent most of his adult life. Oakville is also right on the shore of the lake. The village became an official town in 1857. It has a good harbor and early industries included shipbuilding and lumber as well as wheat farming. Early on, the area became a popular tourist destination and spot for summer homes because of its nice summer weather and beautiful shoreline. The area was also important in the Underground Railroad before the Civil War. Runaway slaves were taken across Lake Ontario from the U.S. to Oakville.

Census records expanded our view of John Nelson Ford's life. In the 1911 Census of Canada, he is listed in Bronte in the household of his son-in-law and daughter, Charles and Helen Taylor. The entry for the family is as follows:³

1911 Census of Canada								
Village of Bronte, Sub-District 21 – Trafalgar, Halton, Ontario								
Dwelling 153, Family 158								
Name	Sex	Rel	Status	Birth Date	Age	Birthplace	Religion	Occupation
Taylor Charles	M	Head	M	Mar 1844	67	Scotland	Presbyterian	Manufacturer
Helen	F	Wife	M	Apr 1854	57	O[ntario]	Presbyterian	
Anne	F	Dau	S	Apr 1893	18	O[ntario]	Presbyterian	
Charles V.	M	Son	S	Feb 1895	16	O[ntario]	Presbyterian	
Anson	M	Son	S	Feb 1898	13	O[ntario]	Presbyterian	
Ford John	M	Fath in Law	W	Nov 1924	86	England	Methodist	

³ 1911 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Sub-District 21 – Trafalgar, Halton, Ontario, Charles Taylor household, Dwelling 153, Family 158. DOCUMENT 3.

Ten years earlier, in 1901, John Ford was living Oakville in the home of William and Mary C. Truman, but was not listed as part of their family. The Trumans still may have been relatives of his, or he may have simply been a boarder. John's information is given as follows:⁴

1901 Census of Canada								
Oakville, Halton, Ontario								
Dwelling 58, Family 51								
Name	Sex	Rel	Status	Birth Date	Age	Birthplace	Religion	Occupation
Ford John	M	H	Wid	21 Nov 1925	75	England	Spiritualist	Bill Poster

In addition to the above information, the census records that John's earnings (presumably annual) as a bill poster were \$150.

When the census was taken in 1891, John's wife, Elizabeth, was still living. The couple, along with their son William, was living in Oakville:⁵

1891 Census of Canada							
Oakville, Halton, Ontario							
Family 352							
Name	Sex	Rel	Status	Age	Birthplace	Religion	Occupation
Ford John	M	Head	M	65	England	Methodist	Gardner
Elizabeth	F	Wife	M	62	England	Methodist	
William	M	Son	--	30	Ontario	Methodist	Farm Laborer

This census also tells us that John and Elizabeth's parents were all born in England.

The 1881 census gives similar information. John Ford and his wife Elizabeth were living in Oakville with their youngest sons William, George (the ancestor), and James:⁶

⁴ 1901 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Oakville, Halton Ontario, John Ford, Dwelling 58, Family 51. DOCUMENT 4.

⁵ 1891 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Oakville, Halton, Ontario, John Ford household, Family 352. DOCUMENT 5.

⁶ 1881 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Oakville, Halton, Ontario, John Ford household, Dwelling 17, Family 17. DOCUMENT 6.

1881 Census of Canada Oakville, Halton, Ontario Dwelling 17, Family 17						
Name	Sex	Status	Age	Birthplace	Religion	Occupation
Ford John	M	M	55	England	English Ch	Farmer
Elizabeth	F	M	45	England	English Ch	
William	M		19	Ontario	English Ch	
George	M		16	Ontario	English Ch	
James	M		13	Ontario	Eng Church	Going to school

In 1871 John and Elizabeth were again living in Oakville, along with their six children.⁷ Interestingly, this census tells us that Elizabeth could read, but was unable to write.

1871 Census of Canada Oakville, Halton, Ontario Dwelling 46, Family 46						
Name	Sex	Status	Age	Birthplace	Religion	Occupation
Ford John	M	M	45	England	C of England	Labourer
Elizabeth	F	M	42	England	C of England	
John N	M		21	Ontario	C of England	
Hellen	F		17	Ontario	C of England	
David	M		15	Ontario	C of England	Going to school
William	M		10	Ontario	C of England	Going to school
George	M		8	Ontario	C of England	Going to school
James R	M		3	Ontario	C of England	

We were unable to find a good, clear match for John and Elizabeth and their family in the 1861 Census of Canada, but we did find them in the 1851 Canadian census, living in Haldimand County, Ontario (then known as Canada West).⁸ Haldimand County is just southwest of Halton County.

⁷ 1871 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Oakville, Halton, Ontario, John Ford household, Dwelling 46, Family 46. DOCUMENT 7.

⁸ 1851 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Haldimand County, Canada West (Ontario), John Ford household, Enumeration District 2. DOCUMENT 8.

1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Haldimand County, Canada West (Ontario) Enumeration District 2					
Name	Occupation	Place of Birth	Religion	Age	Sex
John Ford	Farmer	England	Church of England	27	M
Elizabeth		England	Church of England	23	F
John Nelson		C[anada] W[est]	None	2	M

Of special note are the other Fords who appear on the same page of that 1851 census:⁹

1851 Census of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Haldimand County, Canada West (Ontario) Enumeration District 2					
Name	Occupation	Place of Birth	Religion	Age	Sex
Susan Ford		England	Church of England	56	F
Emma		England	Church of England	22	F
Joseph		C[anada] W[est]	None	5	M
Edwin Ford		England	Church of England	30	M

It is very likely that this Susan Ford is John Nelson Ford's mother, Susannah Wilsdon Ford, meaning Susannah probably did not die in England after all, but immigrated to Canada with her son. We searched for her in the 1861 Canadian census with no luck, perhaps meaning she had died before then. We also searched some cemetery records in Haldimand and Halton Counties, but have not yet found record of her burial. The fact that John's father Jonathan was not with the family suggests he may have died by this time. Emma was later identified as Susan's daughter, but the 5 year old Joseph has not been identified and may be a grandchild. Edwin was the right age to be a son of Susan, but he is later found in the household of George Ford in 1841, and is not found among the children of Jonathan and Susan in the christening records.

⁹ 1851 Census of Canada, <http://ancestry.com>: Haldimand County, Canada West (Ontario), Susan Ford household, Enumeration District 2. DOCUMENT 8.

The Canadian censuses in which John Nelson Ford and his wife Elizabeth appear reveal much about their lives. Although they were members of the Church of England when they arrived in Canada, they had apparently converted to Methodism by 1891. It was not uncommon for English immigrants to change religions; the Methodists and Baptists experienced enormous growth in the United States and Canada during the 19th century. Especially interesting is the fact that John was recorded as a Spiritualist in the 1901 census. Spiritualism was in its heyday during this time. Members of the Spiritualist Church believed in communication with the spirits of the dead and often held séances in which a medium would seek to speak with those on the other side.¹⁰

Also note that John Nelson Ford's occupations as recorded in census records included farmer, laborer, gardener, and bill poster. It appears he had many kinds of skills, but always had to work hard at whatever work he could find to make a living. We searched several histories of the area and found one entry which we believe may refer to the ancestral John Nelson Ford. Speaking of town improvements implemented by the new Town Council of Oakville, elected in 1876, it reads as follows:¹¹

Indeed, it was not until five years later that five more lamps were erected on Colborne Street, one at each intersection on alternate sides between the bridge and Dundas Street. The Kerosene lamps sat in glass cases mounted on posts and for many years John Ford tended them every day, carrying with him a ladder, rags, and a can of coal oil. Gradually, the lamps were extended along Dundas Street to the railway station and, late in the afternoon, the lamplighter would start on his rounds to tend the thirty-one lamps, arriving at the station about six-thirty. "Fortunately," he told the council, "I have a comfortable sleeping place at the end of Dundas Street." Starting on the return trip around ten o'clock, Ford extinguished the lamps and those citizens who arrived by train after eleven-thirty found their way home in the dark as best they could. John Ford was a rugged individualist who took matters into his own hands and settled them as he saw fit. He became tired of carrying a ladder with him each day, and lowered the lamps, so that he might reach them from the ground, by sawing off the tops of the posts. As Ford was an exceptionally short man, after this reduction the lamps stood little more than five feet off the ground.

¹⁰ See Wikipedia: Spiritualism, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualism> and Wikipedia: Spiritualist Church, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiritualist_Church.

¹¹ Hazel C. Matthews, *Oakville and the Sixteen: The History of an Ontario Port* (University of Toronto Press, 1953), Family History Library book 971.3533/O1 H2m. DOCUMENT 9.

We cannot be absolutely certain that this was John Nelson Ford since we know there were other John Fords living around Oakville around this time, in addition to the the ancestor's son, John Nelson Ford Jr. However, the 1871 census only shows two John Fords in Oakville, John Nelson Ford and his son, and the 1881 census shows these two and one other. This other was born in 1881 and is therefore disqualified as a possibility. The description of the lamplighter in Oakville in the 1870s and 1880s seems to fall in line with the varied occupations of the ancestor John Nelson Ford Sr. over the years. It seems quite likely to this researcher that this is indeed the ancestral John Nelson Ford.

We know John Nelson Ford and at least his mother and some siblings came to Canada from England sometime between 1841 and 1851, since we found them in England in the 1841 census. John was living in Eynsham, Oxfordshire, (known as *Ensham* until 1848 when the post office officially changed the spelling because it was so often confused with *Evesham*; for consistency we will use the spelling *Eynsham*) with his father Jonathan and his older sister Emma.¹² Listed next-door was the household of George Ford, likely a brother of Jonathan (we later found that Jonathan had a brother named George this same age). This record appears to indicate that Edwin and Jonathan were George's sons.

1841 Census of England				
Ensham, Oxfordshire				
Folio 15, Page 23				
Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born in County?
Jonathan Ford	51	M	Independent	Y
Emma	16	F		Y
John	15	M		Y
George Ford	40	M	Farmer	Y
Jonathan	21	M	Ag[ricultural] Lab[orer]	Y
Edwin	19	M	Ag[ricultural] Lab[orer]	Y

Note that Jonathan had no occupation, but lived through independent means, probably some kind of inheritance. It would be very interesting to search for probate records involving Jonathan Ford in the future. The fact that John's mother, Susannah, is missing from the household probably led

¹² 1841 Census of England, <http://ancestry.com>: Ensham, Oxfordshire, England, Folio 15, Page 23, Jonathan Ford and George Ford households. DOCUMENT 10.

other researchers in the past to believe that she died in England before this time. Knowing, however, that she later traveled to Canada, we searched deeper in the 1841 census and found her listed as a visitor in the household of John and Rebecca Curtis in the adjacent parish of North Leigh, Oxfordshire.¹³ Information found later indicated Rebecca was likely Susannah’s sister.

1841 Census of England North Leigh, Oxfordshire Folio 9, Page 9				
Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born in County?
John Curtis	32	M	Farmer	Y
Job	5	M		Y
James	3	M		Y
George	1 ½	M		Y
Rebecca	31	F		Y
Jane Neal	19	F	F. L. [Farm Laborer?]	Y
Susanna Ford	44	F	Visitor	Y

The parish and village of Eynsham is located on the river Thames in Oxfordshire just on the border with Berkshire and is about five miles north-west of Oxford.¹⁴ The town’s population was 1705 in 1821 and by 1871 it reached 2,177.¹⁵

¹³ 1841 Census of England, <http://ancestry.com>: North Leigh, Oxfordshire, England, Folio 9, Page 9, John Curtis household. DOCUMENT 11.

¹⁴ Cecil R. Humphery-Smith, *The Phillimore Atlas and Index of Parish Registers* (Chichester, England: Phillimore & Company Ltd., c2003), Family History Library book 942 E7pa. DOCUMENT 12.

¹⁵ “Eynsham”, British History Online, <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=5203>.



Eynsham Centre¹⁶



Acre End Street, around 1900¹⁷

Many of the Church of England parish records for Eynsham have been extracted and can be found in the *International Genealogical Index* database. Here we found record of John Nelson Ford's christening, along with the christenings of three other children of Jonathan Ford and Susannah Wilsdon.¹⁸

¹⁶ "Eynsham," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eynsham>.

¹⁷ Eynsham History Group, <http://www.eynsham.org/histgroup.html>.

¹⁸ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Children of Jonathan Ford and Susannah in Eynsham, Oxfordshire (Batch Number C033431). DOCUMENT 13.

Eliza Ford ¹⁹	born 6 October 1818	christened	6 October 1818
Jonathan Ford ²⁰	born 29 February 1820	christened	23 May 1820
Emma Ford ²¹	born 27 August 1823	christened	21 Sep 1823
John Ford ²²	born 21 November 1825	christened	12 January 1826

Note that the couple's first son was named Jonathan and was born in 1820. This child surely died in infancy and later the ancestor, John, was given the same name when he was born in 1825. It was a very common practice among English families of the time to give a child the same name as an older sibling who had died.

Interestingly, it appears John Nelson Ford and his older sister, Emma, were both christened again as adults on 21 July 1842.²³ Re-baptism was not a common practice at all unless there was some question as to whether the christening actually took place in infancy. It would be interesting to look at the actual parish registers (which, unfortunately, are not available on microfilm at the Family History Library) to see if any comments about the situation were made. The Bishop's transcripts for Eynsham (a copy of the information in parish registers made regularly and sent to the local Bishop) are available at the Family History Library; there is a slight possibility they may mention something about these adult christenings. We can look into this if there is an interest. These adult christening dates are helpful in that they tell us that John Nelson Ford did not leave for Canada until after July 1842.

We attempted to determine if John Nelson Ford's father, Jonathan Ford, died in England before (or possibly after) his family went to Canada. The British government began registering births, marriages and deaths beginning in 1837. We searched the indexes to this civil registration and found only one John Ford who died in the Whitney district (of which the registration district

¹⁹ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual record of Eliza Ford. DOCUMENT 14.

²⁰ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual record of Jonathan Ford. DOCUMENT 15.

²¹ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual records of Emma Ford. DOCUMENT 16.

²² *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual records of John Ford. DOCUMENT 17.

²³ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Adult Christenings for Emma Ford and John Ford. DOCUMENT 18, 19.

Eynsham is a part) between 1837 and 1855. This John Ford died around December 1851.²⁴ We would have to order the actual death record to find out exactly which parish this John died in, but we know that no John Ford burials were recorded in the Eynsham parish registers for that year. Unless he died outside of Eynsham or the Whitney registration district or his death was somehow missed by civil registration, it appears possible Jonathan Ford may have gone to Canada with his wife and family, and died somewhere there, probably before 1851, when he was not found with his wife in the Canadian census. It would be interesting to find immigration records for John Nelson Ford, his mother and possibly his father, as well as his other family members. We did search some large immigration databases online for both the United States and Canada but found no clear records for the Fords. A more in-depth search session would be needed to find record of their travels, but may prove insightful.

So far we have found no information to indicate that John Nelson Ford could have been the son of Johnathan [sic] Ford Sr. and Ann Sanders, as was submitted by another researcher to Ancestry.com. In fact, all the evidence seems to clearly support Susannah Wilsdon as the mother of John Nelson Ford.

According to family information, Jonathan Ford and Susannah Wilsdon married 29 October 1817 in an unknown location. We found their marriage in the *International Genealogical Index*, which indicated the information for their marriage had been extracted from the *Oxfordshire Marriage Index* compiled by J. S. W. Gibson, with the bride's name given as Susannah Wilsdon.²⁵ We also found the marriage in the transcribed copy of the Eynsham parish registers available on microfiche at the Family History Library.²⁶ Interestingly, the entry gives the bride's first name as Sarah, not Susannah. We suspect this is merely a transcription error, since everything else suggests Jonathan's wife's name was Susannah and that this was their correct marriage date. The entry indicates they were indeed married on 29 October 1817, by license. In

²⁴ Civil Registration Index, <http://free.bmd.ork.uk>: John Ford, Death December Quarter 1851. DOCUMENT 20.

²⁵ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Jonathan Ford and Susannah Wilsdon marriage. DOCUMENT 21.

²⁶ F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: marriage of Jonathan Ford and Sarah Wilsdon. DOCUMENT 22.

England at this time there were two ways to qualify for a legal marriage. The first was by banns, which meant the impending marriage had to be announced in the parish for three Sundays in a row before the marriage could be performed. The second way was by license, which required a fee, but the couple could be married right away instead of waiting at least three weeks. The fact that Jonathan and Susannah married by license suggests they were more well-to-do than most. It was usually those with money to spare who married by license. Jonathan was a bachelor and Susannah was a minor, but had consent from her parents (according to her known birth date of 19 August 1798, she was 19 years old at the time). There were several witnesses, including Mary Ford, Mary Wilsdon, Ann Wilsdon, and a Wilsdon with an illegible first name. These were probably all siblings or other close relatives of the bride and groom.

It was known at the onset of the project that Jonathan Ford was the son of Jonathan Ford (we will differentiate this Jonathan from his son by calling him Jonathan Ford Sr.) and Sarah Willedon and was christened 20 April 1788 in Eynsham. We found record of this christening, along with the christenings of many other children of Jonathan and Sarah Ford, in the extracted Eynsham parish records found in the *International Genealogical Index*.²⁷

Jonathan Ford ²⁸	christened	20 April 1788
Robert Ford ²⁹	christened	4 October 1789
Elizabeth Ford ³⁰	christened	25 September 1791
Richard Ford ³¹	christened	27 October 1793
Mary Ford ³²	christened	9 August 1795
Josh. Ford ³³	christened	31 March 1799

²⁷ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Results for search for children of Jonathan Ford and Sarah, Eynsham, Oxfordshire (Batch Number C033431). DOCUMENT 23.

²⁸ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Jonathan Ford. DOCUMENT 24.

²⁹ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Robert Ford. DOCUMENT 25.

³⁰ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Elizabeth Ford. DOCUMENT 26.

³¹ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Richard Ford. DOCUMENT 27.

³² *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Mary Ford. DOCUMENT 28.

³³ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Josh. Ford. DOCUMENT 29.

George Ford ³⁴	christened	31 August 1800		
Charles Ford ³⁵	christened	15 August 1802	died	21 January 1806
Sarah Ford ³⁶	christened	6 January 1805	died	1 March 1807

Though the family pedigree suggests that Jonathan Ford's wife was Sarah Willedon, we suspected her surname was actually *Wilsdon*, since that was a common surname in the parish. The *International Genealogical Index* records their marriage the same way, as Jonathan Ford and Sarah Willedon, in 1787 in Eynsham,³⁷ but the transcribed parish registers record the bride's name as Sarah Willsdon, and this is probably correct.³⁸ The couple was married by license on 31 May 1787. The witnesses were James Ford and Ann Wilsdon. We have yet to determine if Sarah Wilsdon was closely related to the family of Susannah Wilsdon, wife of Sarah's son, Jonathan Ford Jr., but it is likely they were.

There is a wonderful database compiled by the Oxfordshire Family History Society which records the tombstone inscriptions for the cemetery of the Parish Church of St. Leonard in Eynsham. Not only are the inscriptions recorded, but photographs are available for each tombstone. Family information had indicated that Jonathan Ford Sr. and his wife Sarah Willedon (now known to be Wilsdon) both died in about 1841. We suspect previous researchers used this date simply because Jonathan and Sarah could not be found in the 1841 census (the first British census) and were assumed to have died by then. We found both of their tombstones in the parish church cemetery database and discovered they had both died before 1841. Sarah's headstone

³⁴ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for George Ford. DOCUMENT 30.

³⁵ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Charles Ford. DOCUMENT 31.

³⁶ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Individual Record for Sarah Ford. DOCUMENT 32.

³⁷ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Jonathan Ford and Sarah Willedon marriage. DOCUMENT 33.

³⁸ F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: marriage of Jonathan Ford and Sarah Willsdon, 31 May 1787. DOCUMENT 34.

reads as follows, and reveals much about other members of the family who are buried in the same area.³⁹

Sacred
to the memory of Sarah
Wife of Jonathan FORD
who died August 11 1823
Aged 59 years
Also of Mary their Daughter who
died July 13th 1796 Aged 11 months
And also Charles their Son
died Jany 21. 1806 Aged 3 Years
Likewise Sarah their Daughter
died March 1. 1807 Aged 2 Years
Also Joseph their Son
died April 20. 1816 Aged 17 Years
Also Elizabeth wife of
James Badcock – Daughter of
Jonathan and Sarah FORD
Died May 5th 1824 Aged 32 years.

This tombstone tells the sad story of the reality of life and death at the time. Four (Mary; Charles; Sarah; and Joseph, recorded as “Josh.” at his christening) of Jonathan and Sarah’s nine known children died before they reached adulthood, and another daughter, Elizabeth, died at age 32.

Jonathan Ford Sr. died 9 September 1834. His headstone reads as follows:⁴⁰

In
Memory of
Jonathan FORD
Who died Sept. 9 1834
Aged 71 years
Also of
Richard his son

³⁹ Oxfordshire Family History Society, *Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish Church of St Leonard, Eynsham, Oxfordshire*, Family History Library CD-ROM # 2046: Inscription C007, Sarah Ford. DOCUMENT 35.

⁴⁰ Oxfordshire Family History Society, *Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish Church of St Leonard, Eynsham, Oxfordshire*, Family History Library CD-ROM # 2046: Inscription C006, Jonathan Ford. DOCUMENT 36.

Who died Nov 21. 1834
Aged 41 years

So yet another child of Jonathan Ford Sr. and Sarah Wilsdon, Richard, died relatively young, in the same year as his father. That leaves only the ancestral Jonathan, Robert, and George (note that he was found next to Jonathan in the 1841 census) living beyond 1834.

Another tombstone in the cemetery leads us to believe that Jonathan Ford Sr. may have remarried a woman named Elizabeth after his wife Sarah died in 1823:⁴¹

Sacred
To the Memory of
Elizabeth wife of
Jonathan FORD
Who died March 27th
1849.
Aged 85 years.
Also of George
James GILES.
Who died in his
Infancy

This Elizabeth is about the same age as Jonathan Ford Sr. She was probably the widow of a Mr. Giles before she married Jonathan Ford, hence the George James Giles, probably her son from her first marriage, who died in infancy.

We checked the transcriptions of the Eynsham parish registers to see if any other information was given about Jonathan and Sarah's deaths, such as a cause of death. Sarah was buried 14 August 1823 at age 59; no other information was given.⁴² Jonathan Ford was buried 12 September 1834 at age 70 (this is one year younger than the age given on his tombstone); again no other information was given.⁴³

⁴¹ Oxfordshire Family History Society, *Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish Church of St Leonard, Eynsham, Oxfordshire*, Family History Library CD-ROM # 2046: Inscription C017, Elizabeth Ford. DOCUMENT 37.

⁴² F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: burial of Sarah Ford. DOCUMENT 38.

⁴³ F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: burial of Jonathan Ford. DOCUMENT 39.

We know from his headstone that Jonathan Ford Sr. was born in about 1763. We could not find a christening entry for a Jonathan Ford around this time period in Eynsham in the *International Genealogical Index*, but a headstone in the Eynsham parish cemetery gives some good candidates for Jonathan Ford Sr.'s parents, yet another Jonathan Ford (we will distinguish him by his birth date of about 1734) and his wife Elizabeth:⁴⁴

Sacred
To the memory of
Jonathan FORD
Who died Oct. 19. 1811
Aged 77 Years
Also of
Elizabeth his wife
Who died Aug. 15, 1787
Aged 60 years.
Also of Mary his second
[wife] who died June 17 1808
Aged 56 Years.

Jonathan and Elizabeth's burial entries in parish register transcriptions did not give any new information.⁴⁵

Eynsham parish register transcriptions reveal that this couple, Jonathan Ford and Elizabeth Green, were married 2 June 1760.⁴⁶ The witnesses were Richard Cox and John Pentycross. We also found three children of this couple christened in Eynsham, according to the *International Genealogical Index*:⁴⁷

⁴⁴ Oxfordshire Family History Society, *Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish Church of St Leonard, Eynsham, Oxfordshire*, Family History Library CD-ROM # 2046: Inscription C017, Elizabeth Ford. DOCUMENT 40.

⁴⁵ F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: burials of Elizabeth Ford and Jonathan Ford. DOCUMENT 41 and 42.

⁴⁶ F. R. L. Goadby, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire Parish Registers* ([Headington, England]: Oxfordshire Family History Society, [199-?]), Family History Library microfiche 6142035: marriage of Jonathan Ford and Elizabeth Green. DOCUMENT 43.

⁴⁷ *International Genealogical Index*, <http://familysearch.org>: Results of search for children of Jonathan Ford and Elizabeth in Eynsham, Oxfordshire (Batch # C033432). DOCUMENT 44.

Mary Ford	christened	13 September 1761
Jas. Ford	christened	19 January 1766
Richd. Ford	christened	13 August 1771

Note that there are big gaps between each of these children's christenings, suggesting there may have been other children of this couple christened in another nearby parish. The ancestor Jonathan Ford Sr., born in about 1763, would have fit nicely between Mary and James. Also note that one of the witnesses for Jonathan Ford Sr.'s marriage was named James Ford, who would have been his brother if this is the correct family. All of these are good indications that Jonathan Ford Sr. was probably (though we cannot be completely certain without additional research) the son of Jonathan Ford and Elizabeth Green.

Conclusions

It has been interesting to learn more about the immigrant ancestor, John Nelson Ford, and his life in Canada. We know now that he came to Ontario as a young bachelor with at least some of his family, including his mother, married and had a family, and lived out his life in or near the small town of Oakville on the shores of Lake Ontario where he farmed and worked at various other occupations. His roots in the small parish of Eynsham, Oxfordshire are deep; it appears his family lived in Eynsham and the surrounding area for many generations and was fairly successful there.

There is still much we can learn about the Fords, both in Canada and England. A plat map of Trafalgar Township in 1877 shows land owned by John Ford and many other Fords.⁴⁸ It would be interesting to determine for certain, through deed and probate records, if this was indeed John Nelson Ford's land and how he was related to the other Fords who lived nearby. It may also be possible to find records regarding the immigration of John Nelson Ford and his family from England and to find out whether his father came with them. Prospects look very good for extending the Ford lines even further back in England; the family likely lived in the area of

⁴⁸ *Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Halton, Ontario* (Stratford, Ontario: Cumming Atlas Reprints, 1976), Family History Library book X Large Folio 971.3533 E3c. DOCUMENT 45.

Eynsham for generations. It appears the family was of at least some means, working as farmers, with Jonathan Ford Jr. recorded to be of “independent” means in the census, and therefore more family information may be found in wills and probate records. These types of records could prove very interesting and insightful.

In summary, this research session has been very successful in beginning the research of Allan Ford. We have found that other descendants have researched many of the family lines, extending some of them back incredibly far.

Thank you for this opportunity to research your family’s history in Canada and England. We hope to be able to continue in-depth research on the other family lines related to this pedigree in the future.

REM/mjs
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