

## Evidence Analysis Assignment: Pascal Fortier and Oscar Furkey: One and the Same Man?

Research Question: Are Pascal Fortier and Oscar Furkey the same person? Oscar Furkey was my husband's great great grandfather who was born in Quebec. Variations of anglicizing the Fortier surname also included Firkey/Ferky/Forkey/Furkie/Furkee and Ferguson.

Background: Pascal Fortier was part of the generation of French Canadians that migrated south to New England and New York before the Civil War. Oscar Furkey was a long time resident of Addison County, Vermont when he died in 1904. Many French Canadians altered their surnames soon after migrating to better fit in. There were often changes to given names as well, such as Amos for Aimable, Nelson for Narcisse, and Paul for Hyppolite

Source: Pascal Fortier Baptism Record

<i>Citation</i>	Paroisse de St-Vallier (Bellechasse, Quebec), Baptêmes, 1825, n.p., Paschal Fortier, Quebec, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967; database online, Ancestry.com ( <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 25 May 2013.)	<p><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>Until the late 1900s, church registers in Quebec served as civil and vital records. A copy of church records, from all denominations, was sent annually to the appropriate courthouse. During the 1940s the vital record collections in courthouses throughout Quebec were filmed by the Institut Généalogique Drouin and became known as the Drouin Collection.</p> <p>As they are filmed records of the originals, of which the Quebec records have since been indexed and digitized on Ancestry, their credibility is high.</p> <p>This record establishes the birth of a Paschal Fortier in French Canada in the time period that is consistent with Oscar Furkey. The county of Bellechasse is southeast of Quebec (city) and shares a border with Maine. St-Vallier and St. Gervais parishes are located in Bellechasse.</p> <p>A baptism five days after birth is not common but as it was February, it may have been difficult to travel to the church due to weather.</p> <p>Basile Gagnon may be maternal uncle; Marie Fortier may be paternal aunt.</p>
<i>Original/Derivative</i>	<i>Original</i> – created at the time of the baptism and recorded by the priest in the ledger	
<i>Primary/Secondary</i>	<i>Primary</i> evidence of birth and baptism; parents would know when child was born and priest would know baptism details.	
<i>Direct/Indirect</i>	<i>Direct</i> evidence of the birth and baptism	
<i>Content</i>	Paschal Fortier born 11 February 1825 in St. Gervais parish, Bellechasse, Quebec, to Paschal Fortier, laborer, and Francoise Gagné; baptized 16 February 1825 at St. Vallier parish, godparents Basile Gagnon and Marie Fortier.	

## Source: 1870 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont

<i>Citation</i>	1870 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont, population schedule, Ferrisburgh Post Office, p. 7 (penned), dwelling 53, family 55, Forter Firkie household; images online, <i>Ancestry.com</i> ( <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> “ accessed 20 May 2013), NARA publication M593, roll 1614.	<i>Analysis</i> Both Forter and wife Lucy are born in Canada with parents of foreign birth, establishing them as emigrants to Vermont before the birth of their oldest child about 1854. There are no values in the columns for the value of his personal estate or real estate. Was this an oversight or was there so little value it was not considered worth reporting?  Neither Porter nor Lucy could read or write, nor could the older children, Antonie [Antoine], Amos, Henry, or Rosa. None of the children is listed as attending school.  Many neighbors are also of Canadian birth and appear to have French sounding given names. Immediate neighbors are two Wing families.  The children’s names and ages are consistent with the known children of Oscar Fortier based on their birth, marriage and death records.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	<i>Derivative</i> as informant is unknown	
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	<i>Secondary</i> for age and birthplace; <i>primary</i> for residence	
<i>Direct /Indirect</i>	<i>Indirect</i> as it does not answer the question but does provide information	
<i>Content</i>	Forter Firkie household: Forter, age 48, b. Canada, cooper Lucy, age 36, b. Canada Antonie, age 16, b. Vermont Amos, age 14, b. Vermont Henry, age 12, b. Vermont Rosa, age 10, b. Vermont Charles, age 8, b. Vermont Ida, age 6, b. Vermont Lewis, age 2, b. Vermont	

## Source: 1880 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont

<i>Citation</i>	1880 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont, population schedule, Ferrisburgh, Enumeration District (ED) 5, p. 22 (penned), dwelling 201, family 210, Paschal Turkey [Furkey] household; digital images, <i>Ancestry.com</i> ( <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 23 May 2013), NARA publication T9, roll 1340.	<i>Analysis</i> Paschal and wife Reusta are both born Canada with parents of born Canada. This is likely the same family as the occupation is consistent. Lewis is now 13, the older children probably in other households of their own or as servants. The neighbors are the same two Wing families so despite the variation in given name and surname it appears to be the same family as in the 1870 census.  And the use of Paschal for the given name is a connection to the Pascale Fortier named in the 1825 Quebec baptism record.  Ancestry indexed as Turkey but appears to be Furkey.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	<i>Derivative</i> as informant is unknown	
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	<i>Secondary</i> for age and birthplace; <i>primary</i> for residence	
<i>Direct/ Indirect</i>	<i>Indirect</i> evidence as it does not answer the question on its own.	

<i>Content</i>	Paschal Furkey household: Paschal, age 54, b. Canada, cooper Reusta[?], age 48, b. Canada Lewis, age 13, b. Vermont Mary, age 6, b. Vermont Lucie, age 4, b. Vermont	
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Source: 1900 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont

<i>Citation</i>	1900 U.S. Census, Addison County, Vermont, population schedule, Ferrisburgh, Enumeration District (ED) 5, sheet 13A, p. 62 (stamped), dwelling 284, family 286, Joe Furkey household; images online, <i>Ancestry.com</i> ( <a href="http://www.ancestry.com">www.ancestry.com</a> : accessed 23 May 2013), NARA publication T623, roll 1689.	<i>Analysis</i> Joe and Rosanna were born in French Canada; they cannot read or write, but they speak English. They rent their home.  While the given name of Joe has not been associated with Pascal/Oscar, the age and residence in Ferrisburgh is consistent. No occupation is listed. One of the Furkey's immediate neighbors is a Wing family. No other reasonable matches for the couple in Vermont.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	Derivative as informant is unknown	Sons Antoine, Louis and daughter Ida (Furkey) German also reside in Ferrisburgh.
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	Secondary for age and birthplace; primary for residence	
<i>Direct/ Indirect</i>	Indirect evidence as it does not answer the question on its own.	
<i>Content</i>	Joe Furkey household: Joe, age 70, b. Canada (Fr.) Rosanna, age 65, b. Canada (Fr.)	

Source: Oscar Furkey Death Record

<i>Citation</i>	Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954, Deaths, 2:29, Oscar Furkey (1904); images online, <i>FamilySearch</i> ( <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a> : accessed 25 May 2013); Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Montpelier, Vermont.	<i>Analysis</i> A centralized registration system was established in Vermont in 1919 and copies of the town vital records were sent to the state. This collection contains records compiled and submitted to the state by town clerks in response to the 1919 law. For events prior to that time, the information submitted was compiled from a variety of sources, including original town vital records where they existed, but also church records, tombstones, and other sources. Therefore for records prior to 1919 it should not be assumed that the source is original town vital records. There is generally no indication of the source used for these records.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	Original for death date and place; derivative for other information as informant is unknown, but is most likely his wife Alcina.	The record names his father as Oscar. If he
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	Since it cannot be certain it comes from original town records, it is secondary. It may well be primary but it cannot be ascertained.	
<i>Direct/ Indirect</i>	Indirect evidence as it does not answer the question on its own.	
<i>Content</i>	Oscar Furkey died 22 June 1904, age	

	85, in Ferrisburg, Addison County, Vermont. He was born in Quebec and parents were Oscar Furkey and Frances Firkey, also born in Quebec.	was named for his father and he changed his name from Pascal than it makes sense his wife would think his father's name was also Oscar. Frances is the English form of Francoise so it seems his parents' information is consistent with Oscar Furkey being the same person as Pascal Fortier.
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Source: *Enterprise and Vermonter* Death Notice Cooper Furkey

<i>Citation</i>	[Title not noted], ( <i>Vergennes</i> ) <i>Enterprise and Vermonter</i> , 30 June 1904, p/col. unk. Copy provided by Bixby Memorial Library, Vergennes, to author 24 June 2004, does not include page and is enlarged so that column is unclear.	<i>Analysis</i> The report of death is consistent with the date of Oscar Furkey's death from his death certificate. Calling him Cooper may have been due to his occupation as a cooper.  Oscar Furkey died before his wife and left six children (4 sons, 2 daughters) living in 1904: Antoine, Henry, Ida, Lewis, John and Mary.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	Derivative as informant is unknown, may have been town correspondent for the newspaper.	
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	Secondary as informant is unknown.	Like most Vermont residents of French Canadian heritage, he was Catholic so funeral services at the Catholic church in Vergennes (St. Peter) fits with our profile of Oscar Furkey.
<i>Direct/ Indirect</i>	Indirect, does not answer the question by itself.	
<i>Content</i>	Cooper Furkey died Wednesday (June 22) in Ferrisburg, leaving a wife, 4 sons and 2 daughters. Funeral services at the Catholic church, Vergennes.	

Source: Amos Firkee Birth Record

<i>Citation</i>	Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954, Births, Amos Firkee (1857); images online, <i>FamilySearch</i> ( <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a> : accessed 25 May 2013); image 03574; Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Montpelier, Vermont.	<i>Analysis</i> A centralized registration system was established in Vermont in 1919 and copies of the town vital records were sent to the state. This collection contains records compiled and submitted to the state by town clerks in response to the 1919 law. For events prior to that time, the information submitted was compiled from a variety of sources, including original town vital records where they existed, but also church records, tombstones, and other sources. Therefore for records prior to 1919 it should not be assumed that the source is original town vital records. There is generally no indication of the source used for these records.
<i>Original/ Derivative</i>	Original for birth place and date. <i>Derivative</i> informant unknown, if mother she would have known her birthplace and maiden name.	
<i>Primary/ Secondary</i>	Since it cannot be certain it comes from original town records, it is secondary. It may well be primary but it cannot be ascertained	
<i>Direct/ Indirect</i>	Indirect, does not answer the question by itself.	

<i>Content</i>	Amos Firkee born 27 January 1857 in Monkton, Addison County, Vermont to Beritt Firkee and May ____; parents' birthplace not known; father's occupation cooper	<p>Amos was the second child and second son born to Oscar Fortier and his wife, here listed as May. His wife's given name was also recorded variously as Alcina, Alsenia, Jane, Christina, and Lucy.</p> <p>The fact that the parents' birthplaces is noted as unknown suggests that neither of them was the informant for this record.</p> <p>The occupation of cooper suggests this is Oscar Fortier as does the appearance of Amos, age 14, in the 1870 Census, noted separately.</p>
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## Source: Henry Firkey Marriage Record

<i>Citation</i>	Vermont Vital Records, 1760-1954, Marriages, p. 28, Firkey-Laporte (1883); images online, <i>FamilySearch</i> ( <a href="http://www.familysearch.org">www.familysearch.org</a> : accessed 25 May 2013); Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, Montpelier, Vermont.	<p><i>Analysis</i></p> <p>A centralized registration system was established in Vermont in 1919 and copies of the town vital records were sent to the state. This collection contains records compiled and submitted to the state by town clerks in response to the 1919 law. For events prior to that time, the information submitted was compiled from a variety of sources, including original town vital records where they existed, but also church records, tombstones, and other sources. Therefore for records prior to 1919 it should not be assumed that the source is original town vital records. There is generally no indication of the source used for these records.</p> <p>A marriage record was created for each spouse giving parents' names and birthplaces for that person only.</p> <p>Lincoln is in Addison county. Henry was the third son and third child. Henry appeared in the 1870 census, age 12, so this record of marriage at 25 is consistent and places him in the household of Oscar Firkey.</p>
<i>Original/Derivative</i>	Original for the spouses, date and marriage place, parents names.	
<i>Primary/Secondary</i>	Since it cannot be certain it comes from original town records, it is secondary. It may well be primary but it cannot be ascertained	
<i>Direct/Indirect</i>	Indirect evidence as it does not answer the question on its own.	
<i>Content</i>	Henry Fortier, age 25, married Matilda Laporte 4 June 1883 in Ferrisburgh; groom born Lincoln; parents Oscar Firkey and Alcena LaBree; no parents' birthplaces given.	

Based on the evidence discussed, I believe Pascal Fortier, born 1825 in Québec is likely the same person as Oscar Firkey who lived in Addison County, Vermont and died in Ferrisburgh, Vermont in 1904. While his surname changed and his given name was not consistent, his occupation of cooper, his residence in

Addison County, especially Ferrisburgh, the evidence from his children's records and the family composition all lead to Oscar Firkey having started out as Pascal Fortier.