

Gore Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists March 2009 Newsletter

Next Meeting 8pm 7 April 2009 at 8pm

Hokonui Heritage Centre, Norfolk Street, Gore

Speaker Kevin Hammond from Southern Funeral Services.

BDM Index Now On Line

Contrary to the skepticism of critics this index is now online for Historical records.

<http://bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz/home/> You can put in a surname and date and get all the records for that name.(that is the theory)

The new birth, death and marriages index which is now on line has many anomalies. I tried last night and copied and pasted the DIVETT/DEVETT family and there are dozens of spelling mistakes, some which are very simple.

The indexes have been re entered from the original registers, so the folio numbers are totally unrelated to those on the BDM fiche, and there are hundreds of missing names. It appears it may still be added to, so although it is online, it is to be hoped that it is far from complete or I will never find them..

Some people have had great success but others are discovering that transcribed indexes have mistakes..

It is brilliant to have the bride and groom names showing together in the later marriages, but matching was not done for earlier marriages. The missing partner entry can be found if you know the name, but the problem is they have a different registration number from their partner. Always remember you can go back to the wonderful Matching Brides and Grooms work done by NZSG, available in NZSG Index Version 5.

Genealogists with ancestors in New Zealand are so very fortunate with the many CD's which have been created by volunteers of the NZSG and St Johns Branch. Double entry is used which lessens the mistakes, because no one is perfect when entering data. St Johns branch is to be congratulated for their protracted work in creating the burial locator version one and two, plus the 1893 Electoral Rolls, and WW1 All of these CD's are in the Hokonui Research Centre and they are invaluable.

NZSG Index Version 5 – If you've got yours, hang on to it! Both the member's and public versions of this excellent resource have regrettably been withdrawn from sale due to privacy issues. It is absolutely amazing for probates and school records, but the Matching Brides and Grooms is much easier to use for marriages.

NZSG Dunedin Branch is progressing well with the transcribing of the Otago Nominal Indexes. You can access this via Hocken Library

<http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/hocken/index.html> Enter ONI into the site search box (lower left of page). This will take you to the search results page and from there click on 'Find Records – Otago Nominal Index'. Enter as much or as little information into the detailed search boxes and go for it. When the results come up, you can view the full transcription by clicking on the surname link.

Sincere thanks to Balclutha branch for much of this article.

Useful Websites

If you are new to family history, or even an experienced researcher, this list of English genealogical websites will aid your research.

A team of professional genealogists have compiled a list of 500+ essential websites titled 'Expert Links' English Family History and Genealogy which can be found at www.pricegen.com/english_genealogy.html. The website is free to access and a colour code system shows you at a glance which of the listed websites are free to access.

The list is divided into categories such as baptism, marriage and burial indexes, occupations, religious sources, military records and emigration lists to name a few. This website is an excellent resource and could save you hours of searching for relevant websites or trying to remember web addresses.

The National Archive's pay-per-view website Documents Online www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline has added seamen's wills to the range of documents available.

The free English and Welsh birth, marriage and death (BMD) index website FreeBMD <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com> has begun indexing vital events that took place in the 1920's. The BMD indexes are also available free of charge at www.ancestry.co.uk

The pay-per-view website ScotlandsPeople www.scotlandspeople has added images of birth marriage and death records for 1907, 1932. and 1957 respectively.

Transcriptions of births, marriages and deaths in West Galway are now available online on a pay-per-view basis at <http://galwaywest.brsgenealogy.com> the 11th site accessible via the Irish Family History Foundation's online Record Search at <http://ifhf.brsgenealogy.com/index.php?&set=yes>

The counties of Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Rutland and Sussex have been added to the 1871 Census at the subscription/ pay-per-view www.findmypast.com. The site has also added a dataset of men in the Royal Navy Division (sailors and marines fighting as infantrymen) who died from 1914 to 1926.

AFFO Congress Jan 2009

Every three years AFFHO holds a congress and this year, the 12th one, was held at King's College, Otahuhu, Auckland hosted by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG) - the third time they have done so.

This year 440 people attended the congress coming from such far away places as England, USA, Canada, Ireland and over 100 from Australia.

Many attended stayed on site in the boarding houses of the school, but I had the challenge of traveling in and out from Remuera with the aid of GPS.

The speakers were from New Zealand and abroad including such well-known personages as John Grenham, Michael Gandy, Chris Watts, Dick Eastman, Sherry Irvine and David Hey. They enlightened, educated and entertained us on a wide-ranging variety of subjects from how to make the best of particular records to forthcoming material available through commercial providers such as FamilySearch and Ancestry.com, digitization projects, DNA

and conservation.

Each day began with a plenary talk from 8.30-9.30am, however, the plenary talk which was absolutely amazing for me was that given on Sunday morning by Elaine Collins, Commercial Director of findmypast.com about the newly released 1911 census.

Elaine was unable to attend in person because she was stuck in London so, instead, spoke to us via satellite, and answered questions from the floor. The index is currently available free of charge at: www.1911census.co.uk <http://www.1911census.co.uk/>> (it will later move to findmypast.com) but transcriptions and viewing of the original entries are pay per view. The project is currently 83% complete with Wales, parts of Yorkshire and some northern England counties still be added.

One of the new pieces of data available with this census is that it includes how long a couple have been married.

While our days were full with the more serious side of research our evenings after dinner was more relaxed with visits to the NZSG Research Centre at Panmure, films from the NZ Film Archive, light-hearted talks and Speed Genealogy.

The latter was an opportunity for attendees to spend 10 minutes discussing research problems on a one to one basis with one of the international or NZ experts.

Many old friendships were renewed and new ones forged as well as information shared along with plenty of light-hearted banter and laughter. At the banquet on Monday night Michael Gandy regaled us with fun in song.