



GORE BRANCH of the NZ SOCIETY of GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER – September 2009

CONVENOR	Carole Perwick	2038 548
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WEB SITE	www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsggb	
NZSG WEB SITE	www.genealogy.org.nz	

COMING UP
September Meeting - Tuesday 1 September 2009, 7pm
a popular recall - Tom McCord, on Gore
October Meeting - Tuesday 6 October 2009, 7pm
Heather Bray - Shipping
Venue - Hokonui Heritage Centre, Norfolk Street, Gore

August Meeting - Colleen Whitefield showed us some great examples of what we can do with our heritage and family photos with a little effort. Scrapbooking - the art of presenting our memorabilia in a most attractive way can really bring our ancestors to life. Incorporating certificates, newspaper clippings and regional photos and our own journaling can add depth to our genealogical statistics.

KEY TIPS FOR CENSUS SUCCESS

We're going to begin with tips that apply whichever census you're searching, and whichever site you're using.

* Always allow for mistakes - for example, it's rarely advisable to specify an exact year of birth, and we generally recommend allowing a margin of 2 years either side.

* Even if the age is shown correctly on the census, the year of birth can still be incorrect - that's because, by convention, the year of birth is calculated by subtracting the age from the census year. This is a very common cause of misunderstandings!

* Don't complete every box on the Search form - the LESS you enter, the MORE results you'll get. If you fill in lots of boxes then usually only one of them needs to be wrong on the census for you to completely miss the person you're seeking.

* It's often fruitful to search on first names alone, especially when one of the names is unusual for the period. The more unusual a surname is, the more likely it is to be spelled incorrectly. This is a particular problem when searching for people who have migrated from a country where a language other than English is spoken.

At FamilySearch.org you can specify two members of the household (the head of the household and one other) to cut down the number of results. It's even better at Ancestry, where you can specify the forename of a spouse, or the forenames of the parents. It's usually a good idea to search for one of the younger children as the lower the age the more likely it is to be shown correctly on the census.

But the *ultimate* solution is at findmypast.com, where you can search the England & Wales censuses for any two people in the same household (and they don't even need to be related!). You can also search by address and by occupation.

* Don't assume that every member of the household was at home on census night - many had to travel in connection with their work. Of course, it was the father and head of the family who was most likely to be away, which is why being able to search for any two members of the household at findmypast.com is such a powerful advantage.

Peter Calver, Founder, LostCousins.com

Tuatapere & District School Jubilee
1910 – 2010
January 15 – 17th 2010
Contact Secretary Margaret Thomas 03 2266 285
jubilee@tcc.school.nz

Kelvin Grove Cemetery Burials & Headstone Inscriptions
Completely revised 2nd edition, 1928-2008
25,000 names, burial records integrated with headstone inscriptions to reveal those additional burials.
Detailed maps of plot locations.
\$25 + \$5 p&p to Secretary, Palmerston North Branch NZSG,
PO Box 1992, Palmerston North
or PalmerstonNorth@genealogy.org.nz

The Dunedin Family History Group newsletter is now available on the Dunedin Family History Group website at www.dunedinfamilyhistory.co.nz/dfgh/moodle/

You can read, save or print your newsletter directly from the site but the first time you use the website you will be asked to register and be provided with a password. However if you don't want to use the website and would still like your newsletter emailed to you in the future then reply to this email saying 'PLEASE EMAIL NEWSLETTER IN THE FUTURE' and your newsletters will be emailed to you. *Heather Bray*

NZSG News: KIT

Kit is a newsletter put out by council of information. It is called 'Keeping in Touch' and is available for downloads on NZSG website under news.

National NZSG Conference in Dunedin in 2011

On Fri 3 June – Mon 6 June (Queens B/day) 2011 Dunedin NZSG will hold the National Conference in Dunedin. This is also the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Gabriel's Gully so a significant amount of time will be given to the migration & population explosion in Otago which occurred at that time.

The Dunedin Conference Committee is welcoming input from all Otago / Southland genealogical groups. If you wish to take a workshop, share resources, as a group host a social gathering (eg a wine & cheese post workshop, abt 4.30pm) or have any other ideas please contact Shirley Jack

473 1163 or 027 255 1904 shirley-jack@xtra.co.nz .

On Being a Branch Member – by Noeline McLaren

Here are some of the positives I enjoy as an NZSG branch member

Resources - both local, national and international

Good access to those resources - our branch holdings are in the public library and branch members can, during public library open hours, ask for the keys to our cupboards and research to our heart's content, in the warm .

Fellowship (only group of people I know of whose eyes don't glaze over when I talk about my ancestors - well not as quickly anyway!!)

You don't need to attend meetings - I do when I can but some don't - that's OK.

Round the Table - when we don't have speakers at meetings, we share our research triumphs and tribulations. This is one of the best aspects of attending branch meetings - the collective experience of the people gathered can often set you off on a productive research trail and it's always interesting to hear of a fellow member's exciting discovery.

Speakers and education

Opportunity to help others with their research if your interest, time and circumstance allows - you sharpen your own research skills as you go; you can learn heaps about the history of the community in which you live; you can get just as excited when you research someone else's family.

Opportunity to help with branch projects if your interest, time and circumstances allow - as above, you sharpen your own research skills and learn heaps about the history of the community.

Alternative Method of Searching Paperspast

I've had a couple of queries about searching Papers Past via Google so am posting this to the list. These remarks are based solely on my own experimentation when searching for phrases such as "W. SMITH" which you cannot search on PPast itself. Any further suggestions and refinements very welcome.

Results from PPast will come up on Google along with all the other Google results but if you want to search just PPast via Google, do a Google search in the normal way but add site:http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz (if you're using the Google Advanced search there is a special field lower down to add the site).

You cannot put the results in date (or any other) order unfortunately, but you can add a year to your search, so to find for example W. SMITH in 1877 papers on PP via Google type in site:http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz "w. smith" 1877

You get the Maori versions usually before the English but both should come up eventually. You can largely exclude the Maori results by also adding "-l=mi" [a minus sign plus "l=mi" which is the PPast code for language=Maori] so type in site:http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz "w. smith" 1877 "-l=mi"

Some of the recently added papers in PPast don't seem to be on Google yet, and the Google search is never complete anyway, BUT I have always found things this way that I have not found with a normal PPast search, especially if you are looking for a surname with an initial.

Many thanks to Rowan Gibbs, NZ Rootsweb List

STOP PRESS: Due to popular demand we will be continuing with our member's stories next newsletter. This is your chance to ask about a brick wall, tell us about your successes, or advertise your family names. Any format is fine – notes, lists, & focus on one branch / person at a time if you wish. Check out our website for previous member's contributions, or in the files upstairs.

Reading Between the Streets – why you should Revisit your Sources

(from 'Now Draw the Tree! Inter-marriage & Extended Families' by Michael Gandy, Family Tree Magazine, Oct 2003)

Most big families have interrelationships – cousins marrying cousins and often between people who were only relative of relatives. You won't notice the indirect ones unless you keep an eye on the families of the relatives you aren't descended from – the b-i-l of the s-i-l and the stepmother's children by her first husband etc. You can't always – but you should try.

This is one of the disadvantages of using indexes. You type in the name, up comes a likely answer and you wind the film to the right page to copy down the details or click on 'parent search;' and get all the children at once with no deaths and probably some wrong ones mixed in. All the context is lost and you don't get a feel for the real-life development which comes when you search each page of the register and see the families building up slowly.

Look not only once, but preferably often. When you first looked at the village you only knew about your Emma and wanted to find out about her parents and siblings. However, once you've found out who the sisters married, what the grandma's maiden name was, who the aunts and uncles married, then all sorts of people you passed over unthinkingly the first time around turn out to be connected – the other marriage that day was one of her aunts or the woman next door was her s-i-l's mother. Look again at the witnesses on the marriage certificate. One was obviously her sister, but now you realize that the best man was an uncle or a b-i-l, or became one later.

So never say you've 'checked the 1861' .. make time for a revisit and take a different approach to your search method and you might be surprised who you find down the street.

INDEXING – how you can help others .. from the comfort of your own home

The NZSG has an ongoing need for volunteers to index new projects and continuing the updating of old. At present there are some key areas such as shipping, cemeteries, and electoral rolls, where transcribers-indexers are required.

If you are interested, the index coordinator will support you in setting up the recording format on your computer and send you a batch of information. You type this into your computer at your own pace and return the batch to the collection.

The system used is 'double-entry' which means that two people input the same information, which is then checked for accuracy. Although this appears to be time-consuming, it is the best way to ensure we get the most accurate data in the end.

You can identify a preference for a particular type of record and this can be changed at any time to add variety. After you return your first batch the coordinator will forward the next batch to you and keep in regular contact to support and answer any questions you have.

To find out more email projects.indexing@genealogy.org.nz ●

The Invercargill City Council is testing an online cemetery database and welcomes comments about functionality from genealogists. The database contains more than 50,000 entries for the four Invercargill and Bluff cemeteries and the Crematorium. Note that this is stage one: the next development is likely to be the addition of inscriptions. Some features:

1. Quick start: just enter a surname and hit SEARCH.
2. Too many results? Your search can be refined by adding one or more of the following: forenames, gender, cemetery.
3. When applicable the database provides searchable records for other burials in the same plot.

Or go to www.icc.govt.nz and use the top navigation to select SERVICES, click on CEMETERIES the select CEMETERY SEARCH at left.

NB The Southland District Council search site for 58 cemeteries is <http://cemeterysearch.southlanddc.govt.nz/> – unable to global search over all cemeteries – must search cemetery by cemetery.