

Gore Branch of New Zealand Genealogists February 2010

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Next meeting
Hokonui Research
Centre
2 February 2010
8pm
Speaker Archivist
Stephanie Herring

Branch News

The December meeting was fun, and the skit by Joy Johnston and Convener Carole had an amusing twist.

Hopefully you all had a wonderful Christmas. It is very much a family time, which the children and grandchildren will remember for years. Photographs from the day, or from holidays are very important and need to be named and dated.

Work on compiling the Russell McDonald (and my own) story has been making good progress, but it is annoying when photos are not dated – the names of humans and even animals are easily remembered and identified, but the date!!!!

We have received an updated version of the Order of Services (funeral) collection index from Heather Bray. This will be added to the CD in our collection for you to search from.

March meeting - 2nd March

Rebecca Amundsen, Southland Oral History Project officer from Invercargill Library - this is to be confirmed.

Tapanui School Records 1882 – 1975

Shirley Hay from Dunedin has donated comprehensive Tapanui school records with parents and guardians listed. Even if your ancestors were not from this district it is worth doing a search. Thanks to Shirley for her continuing generosity to our Branch.

I, who can not even win the Gore Branch raffle, won the massive Balclutha Branch Christmas Hamper. It was a wonderful surprise and I could not believe it. I am still eating the many goodies. Thank you Balclutha.

Edendale Crank Up Day

Many sincere thanks to Rosalie for her wonderful dolls house of a family tree, and for everyone who assisted in any way. It was a busy two days with lots of enquiries and the CDs were very popular and well used. Thank you Barbara for organizing this, and to Rhonda for taking the display down and back.

Ireland

For Irish family historians the most important news is the completion of 32 counties of the 1911 Census which is available free at www.census.nationalarchives.ie Full transcriptions of all data on the household forms should be available now. Waterford Central Library has acquired the Roman Catholic parish registers for the city and county.



New Irish data online.

Three Northern Ireland organizations release important new data.. Street directories of Northern Ireland from 1819 – 1900 are available at www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/street_directories.htm Among the directories are 16 editions or parts of *The Belfast and Province of Ulster Directory from 1858 – 1900* and 13 others between 1819 – 1952. They mainly cover Belfast but some cover Armagh, Londonderry and elsewhere. They include free only collections of Ulster Covenants, freeholders records and will calendars.

A name index of 36,000 records is expected to add another 46,000. The Irish Family History Foundation has added 800,000 baptism, birth marriage, death and census records for County Derry to its website www.brsgenealogy.com this brings the total number of records covering both Northern Ireland and the Republic to more than 16 million. Records cost 5 pound each but basic searches are free to registered members of the site.

1911 Census

Findmypast has made the 1911 census available as a subscription lot. The data was completed earlier at www.1911census.co.uk but was only available on a pay per view basis.

Free Welsh Wills.

The National Library of Wales has now on line around 190,000 wills that were proved in Welsh ecclesiastical courts before civil probate registration began in 1858. You can search the wills index by date, location, occupation and name for FREE at <http://cat.llgc.org.uk/probate> At the date of launch probate records covered the following courts. Bangor. 1635-1858; Brecon 1543-1858; Chester (Welsh) 1557-1858; Hwarden, 1554-1858; Llandaff (Cardiff), 1568-1857; St Asaph 1565 – 1857; and St David's 1556-1858.

Rotorua District Council Cemeteries.

You can find it at:

<http://cem.rdc.govt.nz/CemeterySearch/default.html>

You will need Silverlight 3. This is explained when you go to the link above.

Otago Witness, 18 April 1895, page 17, may shed some light on the state and whereabouts of graves at the Napier Cemetery.

"A remarkable state of affairs in connection with the Napier Cemetery is disclosed in a report by Mr Humphreys, commissioner of Crown lands, who was appointed by the Government to hold an inquiry. The report says :

"From death registers and cemetery records I find that as near as possible 3200 have been buried since 1857. The present sexton has held his position 17 years, during which period 2070 interments have taken place, yet, strange to say, he can only point out 1554 known and suspected graves in the whole cemetery, and this includes a large number interred before his time. One thousand six hundred and fifty graves, being more than half the total number of the interments in the cemetery, are not to be found, and it can reasonably be assumed that at least 700 belong to the present sexton's term.

The total area of the cemetery as fenced is 4 acres 1 rood 20 perches. Of this, 1 acre 3 roods is taken up with pathways and ground too steep for interment, leaving 2 acres 2 roods 20 perches as available ground, of which about one acre is absorbed in the purchase plots. As there is apparently about half an acre of undisturbed

ground, the conclusion forced upon us is that 3200 interments have been made in a little over two acres."

And this from the Otago Witness, 5 April 1900, page 2. The Napier Cemetery is said to be so overcrowded that the sexton is compelled to use the footways for interment purposes.

NEW ORDERING SYSTEM FOR LDS FILMS

For those new to genealogy, LDS stands for the Church of Latter Day Saints and the 'IGI' (International Genealogical Index) is a useful index developed by the LDS to search for some records held by their extensive library and borrowable to read at the nearest Family History Centre (ours is in Fenton Crescent, Dunedin. The following will explain the new ordering system. Thank you to Jan Gow for permission to use this LDS approved press release in our newsletter.

"You will be aware that genealogists are always encouraged to 'go back to the original record'. For many years, to get access to billions of original records, we have ordered films of Parish Registers etc into LDS Family History Centres and so we are able read the original record.

"For some years now FamilySearch has licenced some Affiliate Libraries to offer a similar service. We have four ALs in New Zealand. One at the Family Record Centre (NZSG) in Panmure; one at National Library in Wellington and another at the Canterbury Branch of the NZSG in Shirley, Christchurch. All three under the umbrella of the NZSG. And the fourth at Auckland City Library - Auckland Research Centre.

"Previously, to order a film, you had to visit the FHC/AL and place and pay for your order. You would receive an email/phone call when the film had arrived and would go back to the FHC/AL to read the film.

"From 4 January there is a new system!

FamilySearch's Microfilm on-line Ordering service is the gateway to a vast collection of genealogical and historical records. Now you order on-line and the film is sent to your nominated Family History Centre or Affiliate Library. There is a service fee to cover costs etc.

"Ordering is simple:

1. Go to <https://film.familysearch.org>. Sign up for a free account.

Select your FHC/AL (you can change this anytime). Click on Help for Training, handouts, demos.

2. Locate the microfilm number(s) you want to order from the Family History Library Catalogue or IGI (located on www.FamilySearch.org).

Always a good idea to check with your FHC/AL in case the film is already available - saves double shipping, handling and costs - and time!

3. Select your loan type, enter the microfilm number, and click Search.

Repeat this step for additional items

4. Pay for your order by credit or debit card. If you don't have a card, or don't want to pay online, then you will have to contact/visit your nominated FHC/AL to see what arrangements they have made to help you.

There are two types of loans:

Short-term loans apply to microfilms only, and the films must be returned within 90 days (\$8.50).

A 60-day renewal option is available after your short-term loan expires (\$2).

Microfiche (\$5) (on automatic extended loan). Do check with your nominated FHC/AL before ordering fiche (they will need storage space and may already have the fiche you require)

5. When you are ready to submit your loan order, click the shopping cart in the upper right portion of the screen. You will then have a chance to review and confirm your order. After you submit your order, all films will be delivered to your designated FHC/AL.

6. You will receive confirmation of your order by email. You can track the order. You will receive email/phone notification when your film arrives. There may be a one time per film/fiche viewing fee to pay at the AL.

Extended microfilm loans (\$21.25) are only available when special approval is given (email jangow@genealogy.net.nz).

“Please email me if you have any questions.

“Jan Gow, NZSG/FamilySearch Liaison Officer”

Sincere thanks to Balclutha Branch for this item

New Research Service on Offer

Peter Nash is offering a new research service as a professional genealogist – website www.genealogyresearch.co.nz

HAVE YOU TRIED...?

It's obvious when you think about it - but have you ever thought about it? From 1912 onwards the General Register Office birth indexes show the mother's maiden name - which offers a new way to search for young twigs on the branches of your family tree, because at some sites you can search on maiden name alone. Even if you don't know who your female relatives married, you may still be able to find the births of their children - just so long as the surname isn't a common one.

FreeBMD has very good coverage up to 1931, so this is one tip that won't cost you a penny to try!

Scotland – break through your brick walls with Kirk Session minutes. These are available at The National Archives of Scotland, but there are plans to make them available online at www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Scottish ministers had an obsession with investigating antenuptial fornication! (horror horror)

We are pleased to announce that we have now released the new years statutory images containing records from the Statutory Register of Births for 1909, the Statutory Register of Marriages for 1934, and the Statutory Register of Deaths for 1959.

NZ] Obtaining actual dates from the DIA Website

For every person/event you want the date for, click the 'Order Product' link to the right of the record. Select a quantity of 1, and then click 'Add to Basket'. Click 'Continue Shopping' and add more births, marriages, and deaths. When you've added the final event to the basket, click 'Proceed to Checkout'.

You will see that the 'Date of Event' column has been completed, so click the Print button to print the contents of your shopping basket.

Finally, click the Delete checkbox on the right of each record, to clear the basket. Or simply close the browser to end the session.

This method is great when you need quite a few dates, but I now use it for all date checks.

This all happens before you are asked for personal details or credit card details, so it's very safe. I have done a lot of checks over the past six months. *From the NZ List*

Dates : Anything pre 1875 for my family only gives 1 January but anything post 1880 does give the correct date. There is a grey area between 1875 and 1880 when you get 1 January for some areas and not others. I have also found some births in this period have parents list on the index while others don't.

Thanks to Heather Bray, NZ List

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