

Gore Branch of New Zealand of Genealogists

August 2010

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Next Meeting
2 September 2010
8pm – ISite building
Speakers - Valmai Redhead & Rosemary Smith – Winn
Hamilton Award 2009
Supper hostesses – Lynley Johnston & Alwyn Cavanagh

Branch News – July 2010

Three cars of enthusiastic members left the ISite car park at 6pm for a visit to the Invercargill Archives. Our very sincere thanks to Rebecca Smith, the archivist, who gave us an excellent tour of the two separate areas.

In the stack area there was a comprehensive number of district history books, so if your family lived in Southland, do remember to consult the library for such books of the area.

The room by the library had several diverse but very interesting displays of on early Invercargill map when the town stopped at the Waihopai river, old photographs in a large album, Lodge regalia, books, and records.

Elaine Scott discovered information on her husband's gr gr uncle who owned a farm at Tutarau, but was renting out a farm property at Oreti. The Children's Book club members had drawn a very realistic view from the soldiers monument on the corner of Tay and Dee street depicting what it was like from 100 years ago.

Hamilton Family Fair

This is an edited report from Diane Wilson – who is the instigator of the Burial and Marriages CDs.

The Governor General was very relaxed and spoke well and kindly about the Society.

I thoroughly enjoyed the three seminars I attended. I admit I used the notes I had made for the NZSG research opportunities.

I was impressed at how well everything ran to time and the efforts made to assist me understand the various topics.

The ability to get free certificates from the Scottish records was an amazing offer and I was interested to see the faces of those who were holding a pile of paper representing free birth death and marriage certificates. They were

thrilled. I got a will I needed and for no cost.

I am sure some almost got the cost of their registration back in certificates and help from the free sites.

The free access to Find my past etc was being very well used

The Irish help desk seemed to have the most queries of all and it was good to hear the discussions about how to get help and just where to try next.

The three new CDs published by the Society were available for purchase.

Having the various Govt Departments was just great and the Waiorū museum staff was patient and friendly. I was very taken with the certificates of service they will provide for the amazing cost of \$10. They are just beautiful and for WW1 and WW2 personnel.

The Maori Land Court stall was very very busy as were all the inspirational centre branch displays and indexes.

The NZSG bookshop seemed to be knee deep in customers and really I would find it hard to be unhappy. Sure there are always things you would do differently but for a first time Fair and for a function organised at what is very short notice all I can say to each and everyone involved THANK YOU
THANK YOU for all your efforts and generosity of time and talent and I look forward to another Fair with more and more being built on such a good foundation.
Diane Wilson

Branches Meeting at Hamilton Family Fair

Subscriptions will be raised \$3 from 1 August 2010

Genealogy Computing Group offer of a one-day roadshow had poor uptake by branches, and all they were looking for was billets and venue hire to be provided.

If branches asked councillors to come and speak, then travel costs will be paid for by council. Branch would look after venue and billet, and councillors needed to have some warning [ie weeks in advance], to have their travel and expenses approved in advance by a council meeting

Fiona Brooker (President) said she needed to travel at a weekend as she, as well as many of the councillors, worked full time.

Frequency of council meetings would be addressed next year in that they would probably be going back to 6 COUNCIL meetings per year, 4 at the FRC, and one in somewhere in North Island and one in South Island. Host branches would be looked for.

Barbara Pullar [Oamaru] would like to host South Island council meeting.

Friday night before council meeting would be available for members to talk to councillors, but some warning was needed. Advise the Office Manager about what subjects were to be brought up so that the councillors could give some consideration to the topic before the discussions.

Gore Branch provided an index of the Early Settlers for display in the Branches stand at the Family Fair. This was in an attractive folder with a map of the area from Tapanui to Lumsden and down to the Southern coast.

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Hints for new members

DO NOT do anything with requests for Passwords. The web site will NEVER ask you to change it. It is likely to be a spammed or spoofed message which is designed to extract personal and private information from you. Ignore it and delete it.

Some Myths

Our name never changed...

Surnames DID change because our ancestors were not all literate, they had an accent and the clerks wrote down what they thought they heard.

My family never moved..

Famine, plague, and opportunity for a better life were only some of the reasons they moved or immigrated.

I have found two children with the same name and same parents so one cannot be an ancestor...

High infant mortality resulted in the common practice of naming the infant with the same name as the dead sibling. This was very pronounced when it was a family name such as grandfather or grandmothers name.

We were always protestants

Many lords of the manor changed their religion to stay in favour with the current monarch, and because they were totally dependent on the lord, everyone followed suit.

The film I ordered was not mine – Alnefs is not the same as Alness..

Wrong. Scottish writing changed a double ss to fs..

I've done my family back to 829 and I am related to royalty

Not likely!!

It all reinforces the fact that we all need to be flexible and not have fixed ideas that 'facts' are set in stone.

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Webb Sites

To open, make sure the blue-lined name is complete (to steps/ <http://amyfindingmypast.wordpress.com/2010/07/23/trace-your-family-tree-in-10-steps/>)

Passenger list www.yesteryears.co.nz

A very good starting place for passenger lists, if the name of the ship is known is to do a Google search for 'shipstonz'.

For any genealogists who don't already know about this facility, the Online Parish Clerks can be a good place to look for ancestor information, freely.

<http://www.onlineparishclerks.org.uk/> is the umbrella website, where you can find participating counties to search through, which at present consists of:

-Cornwall <http://www.cornwall-opc.org/index.htm>
-Devon <http://genuki.cs.ncl.ac.uk/DEV/OPCproject.html>
-Dorset <http://www.opcdorset.org/>
-Essex <http://essex-opc.org.uk/>
-Hampshire <http://www.knightroots.co.uk/parishes.htm>
-Lancashire <http://www.lan-opc.org.uk/>
-Somerset <http://wsom-opc.org.uk/>
-Sussex <http://www.sussex-opc.org/>
-Warwickshire <http://www.hunimex.com/warwick/opc/opc.html>

-Wiltshire <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwopcp/index.html>
Each county has its own website, co-coordinator and system. Some are much easier to navigate and search than others, but perseverance may bring positive results. Hopefully other counties will come available, or be resurrected - Lincolnshire was a fabulous one but disappeared suddenly.
Remember - all information is FREE.

Also, if you have ancestors in the Lincolnshire county, you may not know about Jacky Clark's large collection of families she has in an online tree. Its not all official and 100% accurate, but I've found it to be a good starting point, especially if you get stuck, as you can then either prove or discard the information. She also has a message board which you could sign up to, via the 'home page' link within this website (where her tree is):

<http://awt.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=linlinks&recno=0&ti=5543> x to Michelle for this site

If you are a NZSG Member send your enquiry to Elaine at researchservice@genealogy.org.nz. She is an amazing,

tenacious and excellent researcher who is in the Family Centre one day a week.

School photos
<http://www.oldfriends.co.nz/> or www.facebook.com

Findmypast.co.uk and Ancestry.com are both subscription sites. Ancestry is free to view at any of Kapiti's libraries, and Findmypast is free to Kapiti branch members on computer number 2 at the Alison Procter Family History Centre.

New at Findmypast.co.uk

Improved birth records

Improved birth records
Findmypast has re-indexed and re-scanned births records for 1837 to 2006. Now the mother's maiden name can be included in the search (from December quarter 1911 on), and there's an option to search using the mother's surname as well.

Chelsea Pensioners Service records 1873-1900

The first 500,000 service records of men who were pensioned out of the British Army between 1873 and 1900 are now online. In time, more than six million images will be available of service records of soldiers in the British Army receiving a pension from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and discharged between 1760 and 1913. They include servicemen born outside the UK. You can now search [fully indexed birth records](#) for 1837 to 2006 on [findmypast.co.uk](#)

New at ancestry.com

Canadian city and area directories, 1819 -1906
London, England, non-conformist registers, 1694-1921

Nova Scotia, Canada vital records, births, marriages and deaths

Cleaning headstones

To find out how to clean headstones without damaging them, go to this site:
<http://www.everlifememorials.com/v/headstones/cleaning-cemetery-tombstones.htm>
Workhouse records, criminal registers, coroner's

reports and court orders -These records are all online at London

**Butchers, Bakers and
Candlestick makers -
Win Hamilton Award 2010**

This is open to everyone. 1500 words on a building or business in Gore, Mataura and surrounding districts from 1930 to 1980. Check with Heritage Center that your subject has not been covered. Entries to be in by 27 September 2010.

Dunedin Archives Visit

The Archives **DO NOT** photocopy even one page on the day. So there is nothing to be gained by asking. Even though you know you are there for a whole day reading the other 30 wills. It is logical when they make a listing of each one on a invoice, and one payment is made at the end of the day.

When you go into Archives, you have to sign in, write in your Archives #, obtain a locker key, put your handbag, coat etc in there, - only taking in pencil and paper, and if you have permission a camera, and submit your list of wills you wish to see.

Then you waituntil the assistants bring them out of the storeroom stack to the front desk.

The wills are ticked off your list, and then you are handed one at a time to read.

As you read each will, you fold over and paper clip a narrow piece of white paper (remember most wills are coloured or discoloured paper) on the selected page for photocopying, listing it as A3 or A4. You have to put it back in the order it was, but on the outside of the now perfectly folded will, you write on the A4 white acquisition paper how many pages of either size are required.

They do not retrieve any documents from the stack after 4.30pm, although they don't close until 5pm. Before that time you have to have paid for the photocopying, collected up your belongings, returned the locker key and be out of there.. Whew!!! No wonder genealogists like Hocken... it is easier to search in, but of course it has no wills, mining rights etc..

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Researching Army Ancestors

First website should be www.cwgc.org which has over two million service personnel and civilians who died during both world wars. Another one is www.westernfrontassociation.com. The medal index can be found at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/medals.asp and pension records of almost one million WW1 Soldiers through www.ancestry.co.uk/military. However you need to seek permission to view records of soldiers whose service ended after 1921. contact the Army Records Office – www.army.mod.uk/contacts/divisions/records.htm

www.1914-1918.net this site is called the Long, Long Trail and is listed as Best overall. It presents facts of the British Army in the Great War, and includes detailed accounts of strategy, histories of army units, tank corps, trench mortar units and casualty clearing stations. Pages are dedicated to individual battles; Italy, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Palestine. Battalions kept war diaries. This site is aimed at genealogists with a homepage detailing exactly what can be achieved online.

A surviving medal of 1914-1918 war can be very helpful for researching your ancestors army career as these all have the serviceman's name, rank, number and unit etched on the back