

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists December 2012

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Next Meeting
2 November 2012
Gore Cemetery Tour
With Elaine Scott.
Meet 7pm at 14 Takatimu St
Festive Supper at Rosalie's
Please bring an unusual cup or
teapot. (Show & tell)



November Meeting 2012

Thanks to the enthusiasm of our Convenor, Rhonda, ten members enjoyed a

wonderful free night on Ancestry.com at St Peters College. Some members discovered treasures including families on other trees. It is vital that this information is verified because there are frequently glaring and less obvious mistakes. Trolls who poach trees also abound, and be aware that even though they do not have an ancestor in common with you, they will claim all your family.

Personally I discovered an extensive tree of Donald FINLAYSON, born 1819 Wick, Caithness, Scotland who married Margaret DUNNET. With some trepidation I contacted the owner who had an unusual Ancestry address, giving my own email address. I was so excited and delighted when she replied. She had all the names of the younger generations. Since then we have shared information of census, certificates, obituaries etc which has been very revealing to us both.

The Gore Library would love to see more people using www.ancestry.com. It is exactly the same version as the one in Hokonui Heritage Centre. If we do not use the facility at the Library we are in danger of losing it and that would be to the detriment of all Genealogy members and the public.

Scottish birth and death certificates always show the time of either event, but when this information appears on English, Welsh, or Irish birth certificate it usually indicates a multiple birth.



Canterbury wills are available on line & Irish Newspapers archives – **Look in NZSG documents online – members only**

Wills & Testaments for 1902 to 1925 are now live on the [ScotlandsPeople website!](http://ScotlandsPeople website) With this latest addition of records, researchers can now access. 1 million Scottish Wills & Testaments, covering the period 1513 to 1925 You can search and see the index results for free but its 10 credits to view the will itself (no matter how many pages) there may be more than one entry, ie a testament and an inventory (i.e. 10 credits each)

FREE Photos of headstones in many countries, including Scotland, England, Australia Ireland and NZ. You receive the photo by email

<http://www.gravestonephotos.com/public/cemeteries.php>

World War 1 records saved

The Western Front Association has saved 6.5 million Great War soldiers' pension record cards which the Ministry of Defence was no longer prepared to preserve and manage. I'm sure that the big genealogy companies will be falling over themselves to get their hands on these records, many of which will, I suspect, relate to soldiers whose service records were destroyed during World War 2.

It's likely to be a couple of years before they appear online - but what a way to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of war. You'll find more details and some sample images [here](#). Many thanks to Barbara for being the first to alert me to this story.



Irish County Cork

<http://www.corkarchives.ie/genealogy/>

<http://mjordan.wordpress.com/cork/>

<http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie/>

For Anglo-Irish (Protestant) ancestors of Cork, www.corkrecords.com It includes a growing database of Cork Anglo-Irish surnames and some Protestant church histories.

<http://globalgenealogy.com/countries/scotland/> / Scotland & Scottish Searchable Online Data – some sites are free.

www.llgc.org.uk/probate **Welsh Probate records, pre -1858** Free access is now available to digital images of wills through the new online index. (However no digital images are available for Hawarden, Brecon or St Asaph pre 1660)

<http://www.peoplescollectionwales.co.uk/> Govt. sponsored – thousands of photographs, museums, archives and individuals

www.Trademe.com has a genealogy site which is very active- have a look at it. Need to register but it is free. X to Stratford branch

Beverley Evans, Ch-ch has typed up the cards (all 230 of them) of KENNEDY surname. <http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/Library.BMDs/KENNEDY.Christchurch.City.Library.BMD.html>

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/Library.BMDs/GILBERT.Christchurch.City.Library.BMD.html> Marriages and Burial information of the Gilbert surname. A lot of connecting names here and a very interesting history going back to births on Banks Peninsula Births,

www.deceasedonline Greenwich Cemetery complete burials

www.familyhistoryshow.net/the-vodcasts Family history Show (Nick Barratt) download – watch on line

Dorset History centre www.co.uk/dorset

Handy Hint

<http://www.freebmd.org.uk/> **free BMD Postems** – this is a facility for adding details to an entry on FreeBMD for an individual's birth, death or marriage. Click on the red **info** envelope, and go to Postems. A small box appears where you can add info you know, such as the death, marriage etc. If you add your email address researchers for the same person might contact you. Please note, if you change your mind you CANNOT remove the information.

Buyers Beware

Ancestry.com subscriptions – On Lost Cousins it was noted that Ancestry UK site cost £135.13 for people outside the EU. That converted in October 2012 to \$265.35

The same subscription on Ancestry AU was AU \$449.95 which after further conversion came to NZ \$568.97 much more than twice the price from Ancestry. UK. - Lost Cousins article

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/oct12news.htm#stopPres> x to Kapatī Branch <http://KapatīGen.org>

www.amemorytree.co.nz - deaths published in a leading newspapers

Top Five Tips for Effective Research

1. Talk To Your Relatives.

Whether you're starting out, or have already made good progress with your family tree, talk to your relatives where and when possible. Christmas is a good time when you are altogether after a family dinner. Find out what older generations can remember about family long departed. Then share your finding with them as you go – it will jog their memories.

2. Set Your Priorities

The way some family history websites work, it's easy to rush off in several directions at once as you find certificates and families on the censuses thick and fast. However, it's a good idea to set some long goals along the way – a particular bloodline, a surname, one family group – an research that thoroughly.

3. Make GOOD Notes – in a brightly covered notebook

Keeping good notes will save you time and possibly money in the long run. We all know what it is like – you have been hammering away trying to find a birth, looking at indexes across three or four registration districts (in UK) across a decade or two. Then you take a break and pursue another avenue. By keeping good notes, you won't repeat yourself when you return months later.

4. Don't Leave Gaps

Another way of saying this is 'kill off your ancestors', but what we advise is that you find records for all the vital events in each individual's life. So, get a birth, marriage certificate for each one of your direct line. Make sure the details tally with other documents such as censuses and electoral rolls

5. Review Your Progress

Every few months it's a good idea to give your family tree the once over. Try to spot any missing details that you can follow up. Review the end of each line and think of how you can address the issue. Also, revise your priorities. If great great grandfather Benjamin has stalled, research his sisters and see what you can find out.

In the English 1911 census there were 1.3 million young girls and ladies 'in service' in large homes, mansions and houses.

Looking Online

As well as censuses and BMD indexes, Ancestry.co.uk and, Findmypast have many other gems to uncover. Most people only access the census returns and birth, marriage and death indexes. They have hundreds of different databases, with more being added every week. Companies are making major efforts to index and scan parish registers from across England and Wales. (not Scotland)

Ancestry.co.uk has over 1,000 separate databases from Eton School to a few smallpox vaccinations registers, which contain the same information as birth certificates. National Probate Calendar runs from 1858 – 1966. It is a detailed index to wills proved at the Principal Probate Registry. As well as the value of the will, you're given the date of death, his or hers last address and often their occupation. If researching 20th century ancestors, the telephone books at Ancestr.co.uk are extremely helpful although it wasn't until the 1960s that most homes had a telephone.

Hidden Scottish Gems - Top Three

FreeCen isn't just for Scotland but there is more Scottish material here than for the rest of the UK. The website provides transcripts of the census enumerators books for censuses between 1841 and 1891. It is a good alternative to ScotlandsPeople and Ancestry.com.uk

Records online

More than four million Scottish Census records are now available for searching!

Uploaded returns can be searched in the [UK FreeCEN database](#). If you need help searching the database, or would like more information on the Scottish transcriptions, please read Michelle Jeffery's database search www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sctfc/

Scotland'sFamily is a gateway site with links to Scottish resources. There is a little original material here, especially a set of parish maps arranged by county. This may help you when working through Kirk Session papers on ScotlandsPeople www.scotlandsfamily.com/

Statistical Accounts

One of the unique resources available only to Scottish researchers is the Statistical Accounts, compiled by clergymen describing their parishes in 1790, 1830, and 1840s. Individuals are rarely named, but instead you gain a fascinating insight into the places they lived in.

www.scotlandspeoplehub.gov.uk/

Research Reports

Are you thinking about a trip to research your family history?

Having just returned from a 3 week trip to Ireland and Scotland **I say GO - - -**

You'll experience the sense of history, the fantastic old buildings, the quaint villages but if you think you will find that long lost link in your family tree you may be in for a disappointment. Records in Ireland are few and far between and from experience I would say that you will need longer than 3 weeks to find your way round the Irish records repositories.

The people of Ireland are wonderful, always keen to help and I would suggest starting in your area of interest and talking to the locals then following up at archives etc. Try writing to the local papers before you go it may give you some contacts for when you get there.

In Scotland records are mainly digitised so only in the smaller family history centres do you get to see original records and again this is where we found everyone so helpful.

Help can be found anywhere, through visiting an elderly lady in Ireland who is a descendent of my Great Grannies' sister I got a contact in Dunedin who has already shed some light on my brick wall.

Margaret McDougall

While in Ireland recently I was hope of furthering my knowledge of the Madden family Tipperary. Of great help was the Social Surnames of Ireland, but Robert Matheson. (On-line). Denis Madden married Mary Shoebottom about 1830 and it was through this more unusual name that I was able to pinpoint exactly where in Tipperary they lived. The Representative Church Body Library is well worth a visit. And if you want Catholic records they are available at the National Library of Ireland.

Another worthwhile place to visit was Registry of Deeds, which holds Wills and Land Transactions for all of Ireland. Being able to visit the actual area was great. The local cemeteries were a big draw, and also talking to the local historian. The one I spoke to told me the Madden Family had probably come from Galway. However it might mean another trip to Ireland to prove that.

Elaine Scott



Widen Your Search

Many family historians when they start, only look for direct bloodlines on the male side. *Remember there would be no families (or you) without females, so do give them some serious attention.*

Once you have gone back as far as you can with the records that are easily available, the best way of expanding your tree is to work sideways. This will require researching all the siblings of the people on your direct blood lines, using the same records. (spouses included !)

Add your aunts, uncles, their spouses and your cousins to your family using census and BMD records in England, Scotland Wales and where possible Ireland. Try to locate them on each successive census during their lifespan.

Make sure you are following the correct line, and the supposed father or mother didn't die aged two. You do not want to pursue the wrong line and go barking up the wrong tree

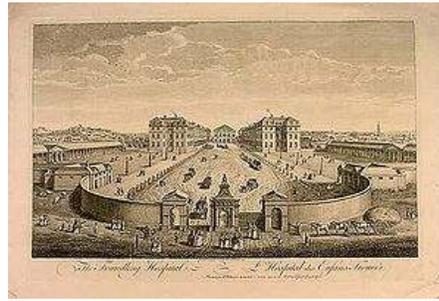
Then go one further generation back to your great uncles and aunts. This will increase your tree, and if you are fortunate someone may be researching the same tree, but on a different branch. One of them may have inherited an unknown heirloom or precious photographs.

Because I had entered my Finlayson family on LostCousins a complete stranger in England who collects postcards emailed that she had 20 photograph cards of the family from Wick, Caithness, Scotland. It appears I have the only copies of these valuable photographs which are not even in the Wick museum.

Smallpox vaccinations from 1871 until late 20th century are an alternative to birth certificates. They show the child's name, age, address, fathers name and date of the vaccination. These are often kept in the local or record offices where they have survived.

Every year since BDM/s were centralized there has been a percentage of people who were not registered. England started at 1837, but it was not mandatory until much later

So... spread your interests widely
Your ancestors may have been at inventor, a war hero or an extravagant fop in 1720s in London.



The Foundling Hospital

The Foundling Hospital was established by an American sea captain, Thomas Coram, for the "maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children". It was first opened in 1741 Hatton Gardens, but relocated the next year to a purpose built hospital at Bloomsbury Fields.

Originally an infant was accepted with no question asked and a basket was hung outside the hospital for babies to be placed in. The mother often left a piece of cotton, coins, ribbons or tokens on their child. These were duly recorded by the staff in case they came back to claim the child.

Sadly there were too many babies and children and applications could not cope. A ballot system was introduced, where a mother had to draw a ball from a bag. White meant the child would be admitted if healthy, red meant the child would be put on a waiting list and black meant the child was turned away.

By 1756 the admittance age for infants was increased from two months to maximum of 12 months. By 1846 mothers had to prove to the Board of Inquiry by written submission that they were of previous good character, unmarried, that this was their first child and they had been deserted by the father.

To avoid discrimination of being illegitimate, every child who was admitted was baptised and renamed.

During that time, life expectancy for infants was one in five, typhus, measles, smallpox, dysentery and influenza epidemics swept through Poorhouses and slum areas of the inner cities. The Foundling Hospital fostered out infants, known as Coram boys.

Admissions register for August 1846 to May 1847 admitted 30 infants and 19 were later recorded as having died before they were 5 years old.

It is not surprising the families were large to allow for the expected losses.

**Best Wishes for a Merry
Christmas with Your
loved ones, and a Happy
New Year. Please Drive safely**

