

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists April 2013

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Next Meeting
2 April 2013
Tuesday 8pm
Hidden treasures in
Certificates
Please bring your Certificates for
NZSG Collection

March Meeting Report

Elder Tom and Karen Chesley from the Gore LDS (Mormon) church spoke of the installation of a computer which has extra information on familysearch.org site. Elder Chesley strongly encouraged us all to use this computer: *Use it, or lose it*. Sister Lenora Edwards is the coordinator. Phone 0212427563. Sue Guthrie, from Dunedin, who works as a volunteer at the FHL on the British floor, in SLC and mainly working on the wiki.familysearch.org spoke of the information that is available through these films.

Open Day Report

This was extremely successful, due to the wonderful assistance from the Gore members with all of the tasks. A large audience heard Heather Bray speak on

'Researching the

Females Line' in the

morning. Females were chattels of their father, which transferred to the husband when she married.

If she had inherited any money, it belonged to her father to do as he wished, and then transferred to the husband. She could NOT even write a will while married.

Her father provided a dowry, and she seldom had a choice as to whom she married. If her husband died the Will often decreed the farm// money was left to the eldest son; even if he was only a small child.

There was no Social Security widows benefit in until 1911, so it was essential that she marry again as soon as possible to keep the family together and stay alive.

Daughters would take their new stepfathers name, so he would provide a dowry when they married, but sons kept the original name so they could inherit the land.



After lunch Heather spoke on the many challenges of 'Researching in Ireland'.

Civil registration started on 1 January 1864.

Losses from the 1922 Ireland Public Record Office fire were the 19th-century census returns, the Church of Ireland parish registers and the testamentary collections. Other records not maintained in the PRO have survived, however, including civil records of births, marriages, and deaths, non Church of Ireland parish records, property records, and later censuses survived

Gore Branch is extremely fortunate to have in the Research Centre the dark blue covered book called '*General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, parishes and Baronies of Ireland*'.

The four Provinces are: Leinster, Ulster, Munster and Connacht.



The **Tithe Applotment Books** were compiled between 1823 and 1838 as a survey of land in each civil parish to determine the payment of tithes (a Church of Ireland religious tax). They do not cover cities or towns, Church of Ireland holdings ('glebes') and monasteries ('granges') 10% of all income went to the Church of Ireland, (Catholics included)

Townlands are the smallest division and there are over 60,000 of them. Parishes are Catholic, Protestant and civil, and Griffith's Valuation is based on these. 1901 census is based on Baronies. Poor Law union was established, but these became Workhouses in 1852.

Griffith's valuation was recorded over the period of 1847 to 1864 during the worst of the potato famine. It taxed of

households who occupied every single inch of Ireland, down to the tiniest hut to determine liability to pay the Poor rate for support of the poor and destitute within each Poor Law Union. It only lists heads of each household.

www.findmypast – Tithe Defaulters who refused to pay the clergy the value of 10% of their agricultural produce during the tithe year of 1830's

Both Griffiths and Applotment books are linked to maps <http://maps.osi.ie/pubviewer> - switch from modern to historic Ordnance Survey maps and overlay locations of workhouses, churches and burial grounds

WEBSITES FOR IRISH RESEARCH from Heather

GRIFFITHS VALUATION

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>

INDEXES TO CIVIL REGISTRATION BIRTHS

www.familysearch.org

CENSUS

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

All thirty-two counties for 1901 and 1911 are now available on this site FREE

RELIGIOUS CENSUS PLUS DIRECTORIES AND OTHER USEFUL INDEXES

<http://www.censusfinder.com/irish-census-records3.htm>

NZSG MEMBERS ONLY

Irish newspapers

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

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

<http://www.irishorigins.com/>

<http://www.ancestryireland.com/>

ADDRESS FOR ORDERING CERTIFICATES

All of Ireland pre 1922

Registrar General's Office, 8-11 Lombard Street, Dublin, Eire.

From the start of 1922, Northern Ireland became a separate identity. Certificates for Northern Ireland from 1922 can be ordered from –

The General Register Office, Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4HL.

It is important to remember that certificates for Northern Ireland pre 1922 are still held in Dublin.

Sole Survivor

There were 8.9 million men from the British Empire immobilized during the First World War and over 908,000 were killed outright or died as a result of their wounds. 2 million men returned with injuries which affected them and their families and at least one more generation for the rest of their lives. There were very few families who emerged from this time unscathed. Some families paid a higher price than others with the loss of 2 or more family members.

The film *Saving Private Ryan* was loosely based on finding an American soldier in France who had had three brothers killed in action. He was returned under the US military's "Sole Survivor Policy."

The British government also had a similar policy, whereby families who had lost several sons could apply to have their surviving sons released on compassionate grounds.

Does anyone know if New Zealand and Australia had a similar policy?

A trip to NZSG Family Research Centre at Panmure this month was a pleasure with the expert friendly assistance from the volunteers on duty. The research room is well appointed with banks of computers with NZ Gazettes, Ancestry.com, and Findmypast and many more. The discovery of an elusive Army number in the NZ Gazettes highlighted how valuable these extensive records are. Researchers need to have time and tenacity to achieve results but the search engine locates every single entry.

Searching for First World War Soldiers

Before you start, be like a Boy Scout or Guide and 'be prepared' and locate all the knowledge about his service, medals, attestation and discharge documents, photos, medals.

Did he marry or did his wife give birth, or a member of the family die during his service, as they often include some military detail. Family obituaries often mention sons and their Regiments they are in.

Service records are the richest source of information about his enlistment, health, movements between units, discipline, injuries, leave from fighting, and death or discharge.

Soldiers below officer rank are available

www.ancestry.co.uk holds the details of British soldiers who either died or stayed in the Army until the end of the 1914 – 1920 war.

These records are known as 'burnt record' but sadly only 40% of these service records survived a fire in 1940 following an air raid and subsequent fire in the War Office caused by bombing in World War 11. The indexing is not perfect, but it is still worth trying.

Think outside the square – and search with different combinations of his name, where he lived and his age. Campaign Medals were issued to every man who went overseas. Use www.ancestry.co.uk and www.nationalarchives.co.uk/documentsonline for index cards of details of campaign medals.

Men who saw service before WW1 and those who discharged by 1914 may have a record and these are digitized and available at www.findmypast.co.uk The extensive pension records collection covers 750,000 who were discharged from the Army, usually because they were injured.



Cuckoos In the Nest

Going up or down the wrong tree happens to all of us, especially those harvesters who grab any names and whole family trees that look slightly familiar and claim them as their own. They cull names straight off an online transcript without a second thought of checking the original source. When someone claims your great great granddad, simply because he was the right age, in the right place at the right time, and married to a lady with a common name as your great great grandma, does not guarantee he is correct.

Checking on some subscription sites can be rather surprising, especially if you have the death certificate and great great granddad appears to have died twice in the same place – 14 years apart.

It is **absolutely essential** to verify the essential dates in NZ or overseas. There are many free online services which will confirm the information; FreeCen, FreeBMDs and Familysearch.org are only a few.

www.ancestry.co.uk has an extensive collection of family trees in their collection, and if you find your ancestor, check to see who else is researching and claiming him in their tree. Search through all 8 census (1841-1911) census listed on the right of the page for the same person. As well as the English and Wales census, Scottish censuses are available, but you cannot see the actual census return. However you can confirm you have the correct person by clicking on each individual person to discover their relationship to the head of the house. Scotspeople hold all Scottish censuses, births, marriages, deaths and wills.



British India

The term 'British India' has been applied to modern day India, Pakistan, Bangladesh & Myanmar (Burma) but they may also include St Helena, Iraq, Iran, Aden, Kuwait, Sri Lanka (Ceylon) Singapore,

Malacca, Penang Prince of Wales Island, Sumatra (Bencoolen/Fort Marlborough and China (Macao and Whampoa) Soldiers were stationed in Ceylon in 1862-1864. You may find an ancestor listed in census as being born there.

Families in British India Society is an essential family history society with excellent resources.

www.new.fibis.org & <http://search.fibis.org/frontis/bin> India Office Records are also held at the British library www.bl.uk

Army Children Graves Register

In the 1880's wives and children accompanied British soldiers on active service. Britain's extensive empire was also home to many army children, where they were exposed to indigenous diseases. Infant graves can be found in Malta, Hong Kong Ireland and India.

www.archhistory.co.uk/taca/gravesregister.html for graves and memorials across the world of children of British soldiers, The names of hundreds of children commemorated on military cemeteries can be searched for free, but thousands more remain unlisted.

www.indiafamily.bl.uk

3 Easy steps to find your WW1 Heroes

- Search service records on www.ancestry.co.uk/military – over 2 million non commissioned officers
- Explore Pension records the collection covers 750,00 men who were discharged from the army, usually because they were injured. Use the advanced search to narrow down your research
- Discover the Medal index cards – they have name, rank regimental number, regiments/corps, name of medal or medals and the reverse of the card may also show address details

Plot your Ancestors on a Map

Use data from certificates and census to find graves, and houses by comparing old maps to new ones on www.findfreemaps.co.uk It offers totally free access to a

range of constantly updated maps from reputable sources such as Ordnance Survey and Google
There is a free toolkit which allows you to insert text and graphics, style and colour and print finished maps or save them as PDF's.

<http://maps.google.co.uk> - Ordnance Survey of Ireland has its own website which is free at <http://maprs.osi.ie>.
Maps of early Dublin streets 1842, 1850 & 1869 directories at www.failteromhat.com/dublin1842.htm and www.ibraryireland.com/Genealogy.php

Parish Records

Finding your ancestors before civil registration in 1837 has become easier with Parish Records for births, marriages and deaths in 16th century for England and Wales. Many are available at online.

www.genesreunited.co.uk & www.findmypast.co.uk
Marriages make up the bulk of the collection with 15 million entries including Boyds indexes 1539- 1841. 12 million baptisms and 8 million burials .

A map showing the coverage of parishes can be accessed at www.ancestry.co.uk/parish However **parish authorities were not always responsible for burying the dead. Family search has many parish register transcripts online completely free at www.familysearch.org**

My grandparents were on the Grasshopper which also went down on 14 Feb and is mentioned on this website. They survived the bombing to ultimately be imprisoned by the Japanese on Sumatra, at Padang then Bankinang, being released and making it back to NZ for Christmas, 1945. My grandmother, Mavis LAMPEN-SMITH (nee BALMER) was a mere 4 stone and 3 pounds when released from Bankinang. The COFEPOW website is an excellent testament to the Far East POWs of this time.

Thanks Liz O'Connell

Websites

Waitaki District Council have now made Oamaru Cemetery records available.

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/services/SitePages/CemeteriesSearch.aspx>

www.findmypast.ie – Irish Prison Registers 1790 – 1920
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/home-children/index-e.html 20, names from passenger lists of children who arrived in Canada from Britain 1925-1932

www.rootsireland.ie half a million Catholic baptism transcripts from County Waterford

www.ancestry.cvo.uk – Medical journals for Royal Navy ships 1817 – 1857 and convict ships 1858- 1867
www.findmypast.co.uk 1841 and 1851 censuses transcriptions for Scotland

Merchant Navy online –
www.findmypast.co.uk/search/merchant-navy-seamen
basic details such as name, place & date of birth, vessel numbers. 1.5 million men could be at sea each year.

www.deceasedonline.com 22,000 burial record from 1824 for three cemeteries- Nigg, Trinity & St Nicholas kirkyard- Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh.

1901 and 1911 Ireland census free
www.census.nationalarchives.ie for all 32 counties
www.oldkircudbright.net – old Kirkcudbright, Ayrshire, Scotland

www.kirkyards.co.uk Kirkcudbright parishes
www.old-kirkcudbright.net/genealogy/postal_g.asp - residents from 1921- 1922 directory

<http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot> - Statistical accounts of Scotland or free access at www.electricscotland.com/
Honorary Librarian, Grand Lodge of New Zealand.
Phone (04) 385 6622 Fax (04) 385 5749

e mail ; library@freemasons.co.nz
P.O. Box 6439, Marion Square, Wellington 6141
<http://www.freemasons.co.nz/wp/contact-us/national-contacts/contact-freemasons-zealand-library/>

Slains Castle passenger list

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzbound/slainscastle.htm>

Scottish Ancestry website

<http://sites.google.com/site/freescottishancestry/>

The best maps I have found for Shetland are on the Gazetteer for Scotland site <http://www.scottish-places.info/>

Shetland Times BDMs, it is now indexed up to 1965 at <http://www.jghalcrow.co.uk/stindex/stindex.html>

For several years I have compiled a database over Norwegians that immigrated to New Zealand. At the moment it consists of almost 3000 records but it is far from complete. If you have ancestors from Norway I am more than willing to assist you in your research. Vidar Larvik, Norway oeverlie@online.no