Gore Branch of New Zealand Genealogists March 2014

CONVENOR Rhonda Wilson 208 4433
SECRETARY Margaret McDougall 203 7061
TREASURER Liz O'Connell 208 3727
BULLETIN Avis McDonald 2086 812
WEBMASTER Liz O'Connell 208 3727
WEB SITE www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsggb
NZSG WEB SITE www.genealogy.org.nz



Next Meeting
4 March 2014
Tuesday 8pm
Brick Walls Written
Requests

8 March Open Day -Heather Bray

The Gore Agriculture and Pastoral Show was very successful with a fabulous genealogy and farming display on the back wall of the Pavilion. It was much cooler this year so we were pleased to be inside with the only two doors open. Many people requested assistance from Rhonda who had organized Wi fi on her computer, and I answered many questions .



The February meeting was informative and fun with Rhonda Wilson telling us about the new

genealogical treasures available in the revamped Otago Early Settlers museum in Dunedin. Rosalie McLean entertained us all with her trip to Auckland, the visit to the Auckland War Museum and the NZSG Family Research

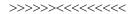


Centre.

She received brilliant assistance at both places which she can use in the article she is

writing on an Army nurse who was killed when the troop ship was torpedoed. Rosalie is delighted that her daughter Liz is showing interest in researching family history.

The display in the Gore Library window looks amazing. This is to advertise the Open Day on 8th March when Heather Bray is speaking on Electoral Rolls and Poor Laws and Workhouses. She is a brilliant and popular presenter who is always very informative.



Register General Office – Historical Site

This site has over **50 thousand errors** in the indexes. If your ancestor is missing please, please use the micro fiche and the small cream and grey books which give you **the place of registration of births and deaths.** –

15 February - LDS Library Opening

Gore Mormon Church

Four members met with Elder and Sister Bardschi and Elder and Sister Harding to view the library. There are many free sites available which are listed below, plus extra information on the familysearch.org site.

Hours are 5.30 – 7.30pm Thursday

Websites

Find A Grave cemetery USA http://findagrave.com free FamilySearch records USA https://familysearch.org free MyHeritage.com family tree USA http://myheritage.com pay Gen comfamily tree USA http://gen.com pay Ancestry.com records UK http://ancestrv.co.uk pav GeneaNet family tree France http://geneanet.org Archives.com records USA http://archives.com pay Genealogy.com records.USA http://www.genealogy.bank.com/gbnk pay Genealogy Bank newspapers USA http://

RootsTech

Didn't get to RootsTech? Watch some presentations here https://rootstech.org/about/videos

Getting the most out of ancestry|| comes recommended
 stick with it beyond the first few minutes.

Ancestry: Great to see the partnership announced with FamilySearch is now visible in that, eg Scottish Births Deaths and Marriage indexes are now available. Can be a bit disconcerting to be shown only a name with no context as to place or date until you realize that you are looking at, eg, a parent, not the child being baptized.

Victorian Workhouses

Secrets from the workhouse Episode I http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIQtmV_rnNQ

http://www.bda-online.org.au/

This new website launched in Australia is devoted to creating a large biographical database of Australians. Known as the Biographical Database of Australia (BDA), the first batch of records contain convict, muster, census, baptism, marriage and burial records from New South Wales (1788-1828) and for Norfolk Island and Tasmania (1802-1811). In the future, data will be added for all states and territories. Well worth checking out if you have Australian ancestors. The indexes are free to search although there is a fee to see the underlying records.

<u>http://www.openculture.com/2013/11/fly-through-17th-century-london.html</u>

Take a stroll up 17th century Pudding Lane, London as it existed before the Great Fire of 1666.

Find My Past additions: British in India You can now discover your British ancestors who lived and worked in India from 1698–1947. Findmypast, in partnership with the British Library, brings you this exclusive record collection online for the first time.

Head east with our British in India collection. Find out whether your relatives were aristocracy, tradespeople, civil servants or soldiers and finally discover those missing ancestors with new records spanning 200 years of history.

These 2.5 million records include: • Baptisms, marriages & burials • Army officers' marriage notifications • Records for other locations administered by the India Office (Aden, Burma, Kuwait, St Helena) • Civil service records • Pension registers • Probate records & wills

From the Kilbirnie newsletter:

Scandinavian records available (From Dick Eastman 11 December 2013). MyHeritage, have added more than 32 million records from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, dating back to the early 1600s.

Additionally, MyHeritage is investing millions of dollars to digitize more Nordic historical content and has signed new agreements that will result in a wealth of Nordic historical records to be added during the next few years. http://blog.myheritage.com/2013/12/new-myheritage-adds-millions-of-nordic-records

>>>>>

Thanks to Kapiti Branch



We welcome new member Ann Wilcox and wish her success in her research.

Tips For Family Reunions

Over the years I have been involved with several reunions which varied from small to large events.



They are a marvellous way to meet seldom visited relations, but the larger ones do require a few months of pre planning.

The essentials are:

- date avoid school and university examinations dates
- venue with seating and space for people to talk to each other
- catering
- colour coded family name tags (sticker stars or spots are brilliant)
- cake
- Photographer
- costs-
- registration fee if hiring a hall
- Family information for a book or drop line charts

Over the years I visited or sent out emails and letters requesting all relatives to provide information of their own lives. I needed birth, marriage, death, education, and employment data on each and family, plus any family photographs.

At the base of the form I requested a signature giving me permission to publish their information in a book. Gentle and later urgent reminders were required by telephone calls.

Photographs on loan were scanned and posted, couriered and returned as quickly as possible.

This is absolutely essential to keep good relationships with relatives.

If you decide to write a book after the event, create a mock up book for them to see, and maybe take orders.

Create drop line charts of each family or a long chart with birth, marriage and death information.

Blue tac it to the wall at a reasonable height. .

Place red pens on the table for alterations and additions and encourage the family to make notes where possible.

Free standing boards for each child of the original couple with lots of biographical and historical info and pictures will result in lots of reminisces.

You can set up a mailing list with Google or yahoo or better still facebook and keep them informed on your progress, save \$ on postage and your time as you only have to send one email or post

Send a CD out with all the photos from the reunion day, or

Create a CD of all the photos in the compiled book. Abridged, and thanks to Michelle Patient

Photo, 3 trucks loaded with flax fibre)



We held a Johnson, Johnston, Johnstone reunion in 2012 to celebrate the 100 years since

our grandfather Robert Johnson arrived in New Zealand from Shetland Isles.

He was followed two years later by grandmother Margaret Barbara (nee Cumming) and their six children.

The venue for the day was of family significance because it was New Zealand's only authentic flax mill plant operating on its original site at Otaitai, near Riverton.

The younger generation had never seen, heard or visited the Johnston flaxmill which was situated at Redan, near Wyndham. It closed in 1972 along with the other two Southland flaxmills. A large number of people of all ages attended and were amazed and astounded at the noise and how labour extensive it was.

Catering was provided by a restaurant, where everyone paid for their own drinks and meal. A superb memorable day for all.

The book of this family was compiled in Microsoft Word, then transferred to Publisher where photographs, copyright, page number and the family's name could be placed at the base of each relevant page.

Photographs, certificates, death notices etc could be set straight or on a slight angle, and text flowed around them.

It was printed by Colortronics, Dunedin. **An index is absolutely essential in family and history books** to assist future generations.

Avis McDonald



BRICKWALLS

Brickwalls come in all shapes and sizes and are no respecters of experience. Mary Evans has written an

article in the October Family Tree magazine which is outlined here as well worthwhile. It mainly relates to the UK.

*First things first – Review all the information you have, check it carefully and then see if there are any resources (online or printed) available now that may not have been earlier.

*Seeking a birth - look for siblings especially those with unusual names. In England registration did not become compulsory until 1875 so try parish registers after 1837 as well as before then.

Seeking a marriage – if you know the groom's name and approximate date and place of marriage but not the wife's name some websites that have the national indexes will show all the names registered on that page.

It may be just two couples which can narrow down the possibilities to be followed up in censuses.

Beware of a previous marriage, or of wives reverting to maiden names if the couple split up.

Seeking a death – the husband may have simply abandoned his family so even if the census shows the wife as a widow it may just be to preserve respectability.

*Look for a later death date. Consider possible emigration. Look for court cases, prisoners and transportation. Also look for wills. Look for deaths registered in nearby big towns and also for burials in surrounding districts.

* Problems with Parish registers – may only include father's names so look for other siblings. Later entries may contain more information about parents. Be aware that sometimes several children were baptized together so may cover several years. Note all the entries for the surname you are researching in a

particular area both in the parish you are interested in and in surrounding parishes. Using censuses from 1841 to try to reconstitute the families.

* Find alternative sources – not all parish registers have survived but the Bishop's Transcripts may well have. You can order the LDS films for BT's and read them at our Branch Library, or online through NZSG. Sometimes they have slightly different information

than the original parish registers.

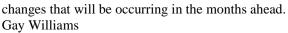
(From October 2013 Family Tree Magazine – reproduced in Nelson branch October newsletter—from Canterbury Branch Newsletter, February 2014.)

Staff News NZSG

Resignation of Library Supervisor At its February meeting, Council received the resignation of Christine Hurst, our Library Supervisor. Christine's last day was Friday, February 14.

Appointment of Office Manager

You will be pleased to hear that we have already appointed a new Office Manager, Donna Little, who began work on Monday, February 17. We welcome her to the team and look forward to her contribution to the



NZSG - Acting President

October 2013 newsletter of the Mosgiel Branch)

