

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

April 2013

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Next Meeting
1st April 2014
Tuesday 8pm - Heritage Centre
Bryce Horrell -Army Medals



March Meeting Report

We were honoured to have Elder and Sister Bartschi from Gore LDS speak on the progress of the Gore LDS Library which is working well.

Hours are 5.30pm – 7.30pm Thursday at the church.

Elder and Sister Harding from Invercargill gave a wonderful presentation with slides showing the excellent storage of the many films in the mountain in Salt Lake City.

Their film library which is massive, has been compiled over the years. It includes parish records, censuses, marriages from throughout the United Kingdom, to name but a few. However the filming was always subject to the Bishops. Ministers and Priests giving permission. Some of the clergy refused permission, but over the years as the older ones have left, progress has been made.

Please note.

There are NO DEATHS..

Films are created to be sent out when requested by genealogists throughout the world. The originals remain safely in the mountain.

Joyce Matson, **NZSG First Families** officer was our third speaker for a busy evening, She explained how this portfolio is organized and run. This is a collection of information about families where partners were married in New Zealand before 1901 or where the family emigrated to NZ before 1901. The collection is an index from family record sheets contributed by members of the NZSG.

Joyce does not search the collection for names. If you find names you are interested in, note the reference number (including the letter at the beginning) which appears beside the names.

You can then request the name and address of the NZSG member who contributed information about a particular name. It is then up to you to contact the contributor direct.

You can make up to ten requests at a time.

While you will be given the latest address available for any contributor, if the contributor's circumstances have changed, the address may not be still current.

A delicious supper was enjoyed by all

Hint for All Genealogists

Marriage certificates for New Zealand after 1881

Marriage certificates are generally the most accurate because the two participants are both ON SITE.

You have to hope they are sober, both telling the truth about their ages and know their parents names.

This is not a given.

But.. 'white' legal copies are sadly lacking the following vital information.

SO YOU MUST obtain a photocopy from the church where the marriage took place or purchase a photocopy from the RGO ph 0800 22 5252 to obtain the following information.

The bridal couples signatures, their places of birth, parents names, witnesses names and signatures.

Their birth places will assist you to identify the census districts in England, Wales or Scotland.

Census have been taken every 10 years from 1841, apart from during the WW2 in 1941. There is a 100 year embargo on census release, so that is years away.

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

Added on 21 February were:

Newfoundland Newspapers BDM Notices 1810-1890

Added on 6 February were:

NZ Doctors and Nurses Registers

These are taken from lists of registered medical practitioners, registered nurses and midwives that were published annually in the New Zealand Gazette.

The database can be searched by name and you can view images of the actual gazette pages. Information includes date of registration, address and name of hospital where trained.

Otago Population during the Gold Rush

From 1860 to 1863, Otago's population went from about 12,500 to about 77,000.

Over 2000 landed on the wharf in one day !



From New Zealand Archives Website: First World War New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Files

If you are looking for digitized New Zealand Defence Force Personnel Files, please be aware that not all files are digitized at this time. Whilst many are available for viewing online now, we are adding new files every day. If the file you want to view is not digitized and you require access within the next fifteen days please e-mail

Research.Archives@dia.govt.nz

Sincere Thanks to Riccarton Branch

WEBSITES for Australian, British and English Research

www.emelbourne.net.au

This Australian website is based on the original printed text volume, The Encyclopedia of Melbourne, which was published in 2005 by Cambridge University Press. However, the website has had additional material added. Excellent for background material on your Melbourne based families.

archive.spectator.co.uk

This site is a free to use website containing the archives of the newspaper The Spectator, from July 1828 up to December 2008. Can be searched by entering any works or names and then images of the pages can be viewed.

ukga.org

15 years ago Nigel Batty-Smith started this website named UK Genealogy Archives, and he still maintains it regularly. It contains a variety of English databases, many being indexed (or un-indexed) images of rare printed volumes of parish registers and others books, for example Who Was Who 1897 – 1916. Much, but not all, of the information relates to the West of England. Other databases include family trees, marriages, census transcriptions etc. Worth looking at.

Sincere thanks to Hutt Valley Branch

<http://elliottyoung.com/labs/nzpictureshow/v1> - for family photographs.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2014-page02.html> - Genealogy-in-Time mag's top 100 websites.

<http://www.genealogy.bank.com/gbnk> —pay

<http://www.openculture.com/2013/11/flythrough-17th-century-london.html> —Take a stroll up 17th century Pudding Lane, London as it existed before the Great Fire of 1666. (I visited this site in 2004, & climbed the many stone steps to the top of the monument)

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm - NZ passenger lists

<http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk> — an equivalent of PapersPast. It is a partnership between Bright Solid and the British Library. Has been going for about 6 months.

www.europeana1914-1918.eu/en —Europeana 1914-1918 – untold stories & official histories of WW1.

<http://www.landedestates.ie>

<http://www.nli.ie>

<http://www.proni.gov.uk>

—sites for private estate records in Ireland.

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/researching-first-world-war-soldiers>

From Michelle Patient

1) changing borders in Europe. I muted the music. Fascinating to see the various changes, useful regarding genealogy so as to know what country they were in and hence where records might be.

<http://loiter.co/v/watch-as-1000years-of-european-boarders-change>

2) various historic maps from around the world, which can be viewed free, and can be used in Google Earth to overlay current images.

<http://www.davidrumsey.com/home>

3) City of Sydney has made the Sands Directories available, again for free...

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/history/search-our-collections/sands-directory>

4) Sydney Harbour Bridge is 82 today, free images are available showing her construction history

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=34731>

5) an interactive map showing the location of bombings during the London Blitz, 1940-1941. Useful to see if your ancestor's homes were affected.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2243951/The-astonishing-interactive-map-EVERY-bomb-dropped-London-Blitz.html>

Thank you Michelle

Archives New Zealand, January 1

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5, 2014. World War I Records



The acting Chief Archivist, John Roberts says people should be confident in the progress being made in making World War I records available on-line:

"The on-line plan was announced by the Minister in August 2013. No date for completion was stated, but we have been working towards having the information available by the anniversary of the start of the war.

"So far, 73,674 are on-line for public viewing. This is almost half (46%) of the total 160,740 records. A further 65,438 have been digitized, and are ready to go on-line.

We are confident this will happen before the August anniversary of the beginning of World War I. 21,628 or 13% of the records are still to be digitized.

These records are to be digitized and go on-line before the anniversary.

Family Search web site now has the following NZ probates and the years available for downloading the files. The update was done on the 11 Feb 2014. No Dunedin as yet, but I would imagine they are getting there, and even Wellington has increased the years covered.

Auckland 1932	New Plymouth 1962
Reefton 1909	Christchurch 1953
Wanganui 1963	Westport 1960
Hokitika 1963	Blenheim 1960
Napier 1962 ? not completed	Gisborne 1962
Hamilton 1953	Nelson 1960
Masterton 1963	Palmerston North 1963
Timaru 1963 (has some of Ashburton)	Whangerei 1959
Wellington 1906 (taking its time but the years are getting longer)	

Sincere thanks to Grant Ancell & Stratford Branch

www.familySearch.org has www.TheGenealogist.co.uk at the LDS library. Tithe records 1836 – 1852 for England and Wales have gone on line. There are over 11,000 parishes which were surveyed in wake of the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, but they can go up to 1936.

Royal Gift to Soldiers 1914

This tobacco tin was given to soldiers Christmas 1914 by Princess Mary, 17-year-old daughter of King George IV and Queen Mary, to "everyone wearing the King's uniform on Christmas Day". Smokers received one ounce of tobacco, a packet of 20 cigarettes wrapped in yellow, monogrammed paper, and a tinder lighter. Nonsmokers received a packet of acid tablets, a khaki writing case, and a lead "bullet" pencil, while nurses received chocolates. All boxes contained a picture of Princess Mary and a Christmas card. The date 1914 and the words "With Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Victorious New Year from the Princess Mary and Friends at Home" were printed beneath princess's monogram.

Sincere thanks to South Canterbury Branch

Open Day Report

Heather Bray's presentation was enjoyed by all members and the public who learnt many new facts and history about Workhouses. Originally poor relief was provided by the parishes but that became unsustainable.. The New Poor Law of 1834 attempted to reverse the economic trend by discouraging the provision of relief to anyone who refused to enter a workhouse. It was the only option for widows, unemployed and people who were ill before the National Assistance Act of 1948. There was a real stigma attached to being in the work house, and most people avoided it like a plague.

In 1830 The workhouse was a forbidding building, with small windows, low rooms and dark staircases. It was surrounded by a high wall, which made it appear to be a prison, with very little air circulation. There were 8 or 10 beds in each room, chiefly of floes, and often harboured vermin. (lice and mice etc)

The passages were dark and needed whitewashing. No regular account was kept of births and deaths, but when there was a an outbreak of smallpox, measles or malignant fevers , many died. les, females and children were all separated by high walls and there were no visiting rights.



Most were employed on tasks such as breaking stones, bone crushing to produce fertilizer, or picking oakum (old rope) using a large metal nail known as a spike.

Life in a workhouse was intended to be harsh, to deter the able-bodied poor and to ensure that only the truly destitute would apply. But with the provision of free medical care and education for children, neither of which was available to the poor in England living outside workhouses until the early 20th century, workhouse inmates were advantaged over the general population, a dilemma that the Poor Law authorities never managed to reconcile.

There are very few records of admissions to Workhouses, but people frequently died in them, which is recorded on the death certificate.



NZ Electoral Rolls

Because ALL CENSUS in New Zealand were destroyed the Electoral Rolls are one of the most valuable resources we have of where people were living. Those listed owned property, of a certain size, and if they had property in two electorates, they had two voes. Women were chattels of their husband or father and could not own property or hold a bank account so they rarely appear in the earlier censuses. those who owned their houses.???? People living in boarding houses were not listed in the early rolls.

More Websites.

www.oldbaileyonline.org – proceeds from the old Bailey.
www.historicaldirectories.org England & Wales Trade Directories (1750- 1914)
www.findmypast.co.uk has a good selection of WW1 Naval records.
Make use of the free trial periods \on Ancestr.com, and www.thegenealogist.co.uk until you are sure this is the best site for you.

Ordering an English certificate

Find your ancestor on the index which will give you the reference number. You SHOULD always order certificates direct the General Register Office (GRO). This will always be cheaper than using other sites with certificates costing £9.25. To order go to www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content and then follow the instructions. You will find the reference number in the BMD indexes. The birth certificate will give you the address of the parents, their names & occupations, as well as the full name and date of birth of your ancestor. If the time of birth is noted, it indicates he / she was a twin.

Irish Easter Uprising -

This was an attempt of Irish rebels to forcibly create an independent republic while the British Government was busy with World War 1.



Ireland had been a member of the United Kingdom since 1801. Although the Rising failed, it resulted in the country being permanently divided in 1921.

In 1848 there was a devastating potato crop, which was the food of the poor. Surplus grain and livestock was being exported under armed military escort. As agriculture prices crashed in 1878 and during 1879 to 1882 thousands of destitute tenants were ruthlessly evicted from their homes and the dwellings were burnt. Thousands of people emigrated to USA. Court martial's for the rebels of the Easter began on 2 May 1916, with the first of 15 executions carried out by 12 May.

It never fails to amaze me that the many of the public are completely unaware of the devastation of the potato famine.

Dead Mans Penny



The **Memorial Plaque** was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war.

1,355,000 plaques about 5 inches (120 mm) were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze,^[1] and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war . This token includes an image of Britannia holding a trident and standing with a lion. The rectangular tablet bearing the deceased's name is cast in raised letters. The name does not include the rank. All sacrifices were equal. Around the picture the legend reads (in capitals) "He died for freedom and honour". The plaques were issued in a pack with a commemorative scroll from King George V.

Happy Easter Greetings to All Members

Travel safely – you are precious to your family and friends.

