

## Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists September 2014

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**Next Meeting**  
**2 September 2014**  
**Tuesday 8pm - Heritage Centre**  
**Back to Basics**  
 Genealogy Software Programs  
 set up on different computers

### August Meeting

What a wonderful 'Back to Basics' night this meeting was. It was brilliant to have new members being assisted by the more experienced members and see the amazing progress each member made.

Thanks to everyone for your time and knowledge.

Here are a few hints that may help you with your  
 Basic research in NZ

### Always start with Yourself and Work Backwards.

1. So start with your parents, then grandparents etc  
 This is essential to avoid jumping over a whole generation.  
 If working on a computer, sort children by birth date- printed drop line charts are then in logical order.
2. Use the pedigree /ancestor sheet and bring them to the Hokonui Heritage centre each time you visit, unless you have all the info on a laptop, iPad or you have a brilliant memory for names and dates.
3. **Always, always date and always note your sources.** When you start genealogy it seems totally unnecessary at the time but...  
 Aunt Agatha may have remembered a different death date to Aunt Euphemia, (*and (you can't always remember who said what)*) Even the date on a headstone can be incorrect if there was a delay after the death and the of erection of the headstone.  
 Unfortunately only the death certificate will guarantee which is correct!
4. **Write those little snippets of information f in a notebook** – NOT on the back of an envelope or supermarket sale ticket. They can be lost.
5. Try to find at least two sources which confirm the **birth, marriage and death.**  
**These are the essential building blocks of ALL your genealogy information.**

6. At the Heritage Center use the computer by the scanner / printer to search for the following:  
*(there are also many more)*
7. **Cemeteries:** Southland, Gore, Dunedin, Invercargill, Christchurch and many more  
**NZSG Marriages CD-** for all NZ marriages 1836 - 1956 -you can search for spouses . This is a superb database created from the RGO micro fiche and 'Intentions to Marry ' (*marriage licences*) registers by Genealogists. The latter registers are held in National Archives, Wellington.  
**Burial Locator CD** - all NZ burials  
**NZ RGO** - Deaths for all of NZ - 50 years ago or if the birthdate was 80 years ago  
**NZ RGO** - Births for all NZ 100 years ago  
**NZ RGO** - Marriages - 80 years ago – these three sites are useful when you are searching online at home.

**Ancestry.com**

**FindMyPast**

**Papers past**

**National Archives** – for wills & probates

All four National Archives work together. Order wills online, and the documents will be waiting at the desk on the appointed day. Southland wills are held at Dunedin archives. (Limited parking is available down the alley on the north side of the dark brick building.)

**NZ Electoral Rolls**

**Family Search Record Search,**

**Caversham Project,**

**Hocken Library,**

**FreeBMD Search, FreeCENsearch,**

**NZ Passenger Lists,**

### Some Common Genealogy abbreviations:

RGO - Register General Office

NZSG - NZ Society of Genealogists

APW's – School Admissions, progress & withdrawals

BDM – Birth, death, marriage

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# Birth and Death Sightings Sheets

Many years ago (*in the dark ages*) genealogists and family history researchers were able to visit BDM offices (i.e Post Offices or Court Houses) and copy down the details from the registers of their ancestors, (*often under strict supervision*) Oh! to be able to do this so again with digital cameras. They would be as accurate as a printout from the RGO. These are transcripts of records that someone has viewed and written down the details – **they are NOT photocopies. They are called sighting sheets.**

**All 92,450 NZSG certificates in the collection including the birth & death sightings are freely available – but only to NZSG members – and they are listed on the NZSG Kiwi Index.**

These BDM's certificates have been submitted by members and are from all over the world including NZ.. It is a very valuable resource. However, errors can occur in two places - either in copying the original record or in entering the details in the certificates collection. Regardless of which, they are valuable documents but only as secondary sources obviously. You can never rely on anything as a primary source unless it is a certified copy of the original such as a printout from RGO BDM. If there are a lot for the same family listed in the Kiwi Index, then it is likely they were researching the same people. Check the First Families or Pedigree Collection for the same families. Often someone who submitted to the Certificates collection also submitted to these as well.

The legitimization act required that the father of an illegitimate child sign a statutory declaration saying that the child had been born illegitimate, that he had subsequently married the mother of the child and now wished for the child to be registered as lawful issue.

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**WEBSITES for NZ and Worldwide Research**  
**[freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/index.htm](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/index.htm)**

This is the website of NZ genealogist Christine Clement and is full of very useful indexes and information. Check out those relating to World War 1 and many others.  
**[www.britishwargraves.co.uk](http://www.britishwargraves.co.uk)** - this is Mick McCann's excellent website providing free photographs of British war graves in UK and other countries: France, Belgium, Turkey Malta – (*wonder if it includes Crete*)

## WDYTYA? TV SHOW

A new series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* starts this month in UK. Among the celebrities whose family-trees will be featured are Billy Connolly, Brendan O'Carroll, Brian Blessed and Twiggy.

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## ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

Recent additions include:

UK Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations 1870-1912

Jamaica Church of England Parish Register Transcripts 1664-1879

Dorset England Quarter Session Order Books 1625-1905

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## FINDMYPAST NEWS

The latest addition (on 1 August) is a database of burials and gravestone details from Gravesend, Kent for the period 1686-1983. It adds to other burials from this area of East Kent that were already on the website.

Recently completed was the addition of 100 new databases in 100 days and it is worth checking these out. Some are small ones but others are more comprehensive sets of records. *Thanks to Riccarton Branch*

**[www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)**

Michelle Patient (from NZSG) notified members that this archive is complementary to the Gale set of newspapers. Thousands of historical newspaper pages are added every week. A search by date, paper &/or place is free, and is well worthwhile doing. But if you find an article you want to read in more detail, you have to be a subscriber to see it. She suggests checking out what is available before subscribing.

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A Silver War Badge, SWB, was issued to soldiers in WW1 to wear on their lapel.

The badge signified they had completed their war service and were severely wounded and were not fit for fighting

. The badges were individually numbered, and numbers recorded on the medal cards of those who received them.

*(It was hoped these badges would avoid the men being given a white feather of cowardice)*

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## Red Ceramic Poppies



August 4 has set off all sorts of WW1 commemorations all around the world .  
*go to the following site.*

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon/stories/firstworldwar/TheTowerofLondonRemembers>

The installation, called "**Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red**," is at the moment made up of 120,000 ceramic poppies, a carpet of crimson.

The red tide will widen in the coming months until there are 888,246 poppies — one for each of the British and Commonwealth soldiers killed in the war.

*Thanks to South Canterbury Branch*



During this time, each evening at twilight the names of 180 serving military killed during the 1<sup>st</sup> World War will be read out in a roll of honour on the Tower Hill Terrace, followed by *The Last Post* played by a single bugler.

The last poppy will be planted on Armistice Day, 11 November 2014.



[www.famnet.org.nz](http://www.famnet.org.nz)

The Family Network has a wealth of good ideas and resources for genealogy in New Zealand. Among the items for May is an article on DNA testing for genealogy in New Zealand; and an excellent list of links to genealogy resources and information for New Zealand. There is much more in the original, and it is well worth a visit.

Load family photos into an online site called ([www.snapfish.co.nz](http://www.snapfish.co.nz)), and produce photobooks.

Look at

[www.christinebennett.stampinup.net](http://www.christinebennett.stampinup.net)

or on facebook, at

[www.facebook.com/ChristinesCraftyBlog](http://www.facebook.com/ChristinesCraftyBlog)

*Thanks to Mosgiel Branch*

**John HALL** the first son of **Andrew Hall** and **Margaret BILACKBELL** was born 1835 at Selkirk Scotland. He emigrated to Otago on the *Robert Henderson* in 1860. He worked as a shepherd for **Catherine LIVINGSTON** whose husband had died 1859, leaving her with 4 small children.

The Livingstone family of were very early farming pioneers at the Taieri Mouth, Otago when they had to be taken down to the Taieri by boat.

Widows with children were dependant on charity or family to stay alive until 1911 when NZ introduced a widows pension. Catherine's brother **John CAMERON** had emigrated to Otago and was helping his sister manage the farm.

**John HALL** and **Catherine LIVINGSTON** married 1862 and had one son, **Andrew HALL** born 1865. **Catherine HALL** died 1867 and is buried with her first husband in Southern cemetery, Dunedin. (**Andrew HALL** later married **Margaret SEMLLIE** and lived at Edendale.

**John HALL** married 1870 to **Emily Keturah TANNER** and had the following children: **William** (Edendale), **Mary Jane (Mrs AYSON)**, **Jessie** (Edendale) , **Agnes Emily (Mrs LOPDELL)**, **Robert** (1881- 1917), **John** (Edendale) & **Elizabeth Ann** who died aged 1 year. **Emily Keturah HALL** died in 1887 and **John Hall** married for the third time to **Margaret PRINGLE**. They had one daughter Nellie. **John HALL** died 1897 and is buried at Wyndham cemetery. This is a large family which has lived in the Edendale area for several generations.

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<http://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/all/> Search the Australian War Memorial for pre WWI conflicts, WWI, WWII.

Red Cross PoW plan to release six millions of international prisoner of War index cards of both military and civilians records in August 2014

[www.icrc.org/eng/resources](http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources)

British Library's Centenary exhibition

[www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk/2014/06/18ww1-grief-grit-and-humour](http://www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk/2014/06/18ww1-grief-grit-and-humour)

[DeceasedOnline.com](http://DeceasedOnline.com) – added London's Spa Fields Nonconformist burial ground to its collection





## Australian births, deaths and marriages.

Ancestry has some of the indexes to Australian births, deaths and marriages.

Some States and Territories have online searching available of the indexes with varying date ranges.

New South Wales

[http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm\\_fh.html](http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/bdm_fh.html)

Queensland

<https://www.qld.gov.au/law/births-deaths-marriages-and-divorces/family-history-research/>

Victoria <http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/>

Western Australia

<http://www.bdm.dotag.wa.gov.au/apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx?uid=9125-2873-5779-1388>

South Australia, index searches at Genealogy SA

<http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-databases.html>

Tasmania, no online search as such, but many useful indexes on the State Library site

<http://www.linc.tas.gov.au/research/browse-by-category/familyhistory/personbdm>

<http://www.fibis.org/> Families in British India Society

[http://www.jwillans.freereserve.co.uk/st\\_andrews\\_cemetery\\_inscriptions.pdf](http://www.jwillans.freereserve.co.uk/st_andrews_cemetery_inscriptions.pdf)

**FIND MY PAST**—have just released over 400,000 Royal Air Force Service Records, available online for the first time ever.

Delve into comprehensive records covering 1912-1939, from the collection held at The National Archives in London. The exquisitely detailed images reveal fantastic facts on the airmen in your family including physical descriptions, next of kin and full military service career. There are often multiple images for each record, giving you a truly unique insight into your RAF ancestor's life.

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Next time you look at a statue in a park of someone on a horse look at the horse's legs.

If the horse has both front legs in the air the person on the horse died in battle.

If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle.

If the horse has all four legs on the ground the person died of natural causes. !!

*not always true but common for early statues.*



## COUNTY CALENDAR REQUEST

The popular TV programme Country Calendar is interested in finding a farming family/ story that connects to the war. They would like to put something to air next year during the Anzac commemorations.

It would be helpful to have suggestions of possible farming families worth contacting (as well as their contacts please). They would need to be currently farming and have some direct connection to the war - for EG - they may have had the farm passed down from previous generations, such as returning soldiers who got ballot farms. It would also be good if they knew the family farm history and were interested in talking about it.

Would it be possible to forward this to your members

It would be much appreciated! Please let me know if you have any queries. My contacts are listed below. Many thanks.

Vivienne Jeffs, Researcher, Hyundai Country Calendar TVNZ

Ph. 09 419 0841; 021 246

*Thanks to Blenheim Branch*

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## Military Records of The Wounded.

Over one million men from Britain died in WW1 but even more returned injured and sick. Trace them through pension records. Veterans felt the Post World War 1 government treated those who survived very badly. Survivors were forgotten and ignored at the expense of those who had died. The widows pensions were greatly reduced over time to a fraction of the original amount. This left windows struggling to bring up a young family. [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) – several million men who served & were discharged. The Silver War Badge roll is on this site. This roll was compiled from 1917 onwards to avoid the public giving them a ‘white feather’ Search by name.

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## Western Front Association

[www.westernfrontassociation.com](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com) - 6 million pensions – not online but you can apply for records for a small fee.

The Long Long Trail.

[1914-1918.net/soldiers/pensionsrecords.html.co.uk](http://1914-1918.net/soldiers/pensionsrecords.html.co.uk)

TNA Pension Records

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI>

No records online as yet, but has a large collection of pension records. Search to determine if a file survives for your man by using the surname as a search term.