

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists May 2015

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Next Meeting
5 May 2015
Tuesday 7pm
Annual General Meeting
. Everyone Welcome
 Please bring suggestions for next year's programme

April 2015 Meeting Report

Dr Aaron Fox was an extremely interesting and informative speaker, which was enjoyed by a large number of members.

The Army number starting with **8** indicates the soldier had enlisted in the Otago Southland Company in WW1. Because the Army food was very hard biscuit, the poor state of their teeth was a major concern which had to be addressed before they left. In 1916 NZ hat became a 'lemon squeezer' shape, prior to that it looked like a slouch hat with one side up to keep it out of the way when the soldier 'Presented Arms'.

NZ Archway holds all WW1 soldiers personnel records up to 1921, after which they are held at Trentham. Although many soldiers had photos taken before leaving NZ, they were not mandatory. The 'Main Front' was only 2 miles wide, while farming continued on either side.

Dr Fox worked in Trentham and his knowledge was amazing. He expertly identified several members medals and Christopher Pugsley's book "Gallipoli" which has a detailed history of the campaign

Websites of Interest

<http://www.ngatapuwaegovt.nz/>

This is an excellent site to find out about the Gallipoli campaign, since 'New Zealand's involvement in the First World War largely began with Gallipoli'. The nation felt both anguish and pride, and shaped the social and political climate for decades.



Tapuwāe is 'footprint': the Māori term suggests we look back where we have been as we go forward & take more steps.

The site opens with a photo of the sea and Gallipoli landing area, readers may 'Experience Gallipoli'.

There is an excellent timeline of the main phases of the campaign, and photographs of the Gallipoli area at the time.

It presents three trails on the Gallipoli peninsular which 'are self-guided journeys through First World War sites of great significance to New Zealanders'. For those of us unlikely to explore the trails in person, it really is the next best thing to see the photos, and learn much more of the battle as the soldiers then experienced it.



View of Anzac Cove looking towards Ari Burnu with stores, supply dumps and piers visible.

View of Anzac Cove looking towards Ari Burnu with stores, supply dumps and piers visible.

National Army Museum 2001.215. National Army Museum 2001.215.

Notes and photograph above from:

www.ngatapuwaegovt.nz, the website of Ngā Tapuwāe New Zealand First World War Trails.

Licensed by Manatū Taonga for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial 3.0 New Zealand Licence. (Accessed 3rd April 2015).

24th April 1922: New Zealand's First Poppy Day.

A total of 245,059 small poppies and 15,157 larger versions sold ...



(Selling poppies) earned £13,166 equivalent to nearly \$1.25 million in 2013. Of that amount, £3695 (\$350,000) was sent to help war-ravaged areas of northern France; the remainder went to unemployed returned soldiers and their families.

The idea of selling artificial poppies to raise funds for veterans' organizations was conceived by a French woman, Madame E. Guerin. Her plan was to have widows and orphans in northern France manufacture artificial poppies that could be sold to benefit veterans and destitute children.

After Colonel Alfred S. Moffatt took the idea to the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association in September 1921, an order for 350,000 small and 16,000 large silk poppies was placed with Madame Guerin's French Children's League.

Unlike the practice in other countries, the NZRSA did not hold its inaugural Poppy Appeal in association with Armistice Day (11 November). As the shipment arrived too late for Poppy Day to be properly promoted prior to Armistice Day, the NZRSA decided to postpone it until the day before Anzac Day 1922.

(New Zealand's first poppy day', URL: <http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/new-zealands-first-poppay-day-held>, (Ministry for Culture and Heritage),

An Online Archive of Nursing Oral Histories in New Zealand



A new website that holds an archive of nursing oral histories in New Zealand was launched on March 11, 2015.

The website is the brain child of the Nursing Education and Research Foundation oral history project adviser Dr Jill Clendon and an Auckland University Project team comprising Professor Linda Bryder, Associate Professor Margaret Horsburgh, Dr Debbie Dunsford and Dr Kate Prebble. www.nursinghistory.org.nz. X to Hutt Valley

1Papers Past

The process can make 'mistakes'. The regional area within Otago (around Milton) has always been designated as 'Bruce'. But the PapersPast version calls 'Bruge': it was misread in the scan process. So it was interesting to read Michelle Patient's explanation of the process in an email for the NZSG Members' List recently. She wrote: "Digitization of text relies on a process called OCR - Optical Character Recognition. Basically it is a programme which tells the computer to look for patterns of pixels within an image and replace that combination with a particular letter. "When searching on newspapers the accuracy of the OCR to accurately re-create the text (and the information ... the search engine can look up) is affected by many things, the quality of the paper, the ink, the age and deterioration and the creasing crinkling to name a few."

Sincere thanks to Mosgiel NZSG Branch for these excellent articles

The Civil Registration indexes for Ireland were on-line last year for a couple of weeks and suddenly they disappeared. The reason given that they included registrations right up to "now". They have come back on line again in a modified version but they will be a massive help. Go to www.irishgenealogy.ie and click on "Civil Records".



Findmypast

[Exclusive Trade Union Membership Registers](#)
[Over 60 million English Births & Baptisms, 1538-1975](#)
[Over 700,000 Welsh Births & Baptisms, 1541-1907](#)
[Peninsular War, British Army Officers, 1808-1814](#)

Denise and Peters Homepage .

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/>

An interesting collection of databases. Has links to Justice and Jury lists, War Medal recipients, Register of barmaids, 1913-14, Wellington Land Grants, 1000 Passenger lists of migrants to New Zealand Shipping arrivals and departures. Settlement records, Industrial Schools/Orphanages, pioneer rolls, BDM extracts from various papers, and much more :: Well worth a look.

How Do I Start My Family Tree? – Eight Easy Steps

This is something all members, new and experienced need to revisit occasionally.

Eight easy steps to help even the newest armchair genealogist kick start their family tree focusing on free and online resources.

Start with Yourself

1. Always, always, start with yourself and work backwards - record all your family history knowledge, root through all your photos documents and start scanning and organizing them.

Interview the Living

2. Ask your relatives for information – the most valuable and free resource you can have is the knowledge and information your living relatives have about their ancestors. Don't under estimate this step. Take the time to interview your living relatives and record this knowledge in your family tree.

Choose a Software Program and Online Site

3. Choose a free online site to help you organize your information, my recommendation is My Heritage.com. This site provides a free download of family tree software to organize your information, they also offer search capabilities, message boards, and the ability to create your own family history website. It is a great all inclusive site to start your family history for free.

Choose Your Focus Person

4. Choose a relative you wish to learn more about - after organizing your information and setting up a family tree, choose an ancestor you wish to learn more about. Focus on what information you have on that individual and identify what information you are missing before heading out to the internet to find your answers.

Post on Message Boards and Forums

5. Visit websites that offer message boards and forums and begin posting on in specific terms what you are looking for, this is a great way to pull cousins out of the woodwork. A great message board to start with is Rootsweb World Connect Project or GenForum Message Boards.

Create Your Tree Online

6. Post your tree online at numerous locations. The more sites that you post your tree to the better chance you have of uncovering a family tree that may cross branches with your tree. Sites like Tribal Pages and My Heritage, are great places to start and both are free. However, tread cautiously when viewing other trees, if there is no citation offered then be wary of copying any information.

Search for Published Family History Books

7. Look for published family histories, you just may get lucky and find others who have gone before you and have all ready published a family history book. Check online digital libraries such as Google Books or Our Roots. You just might strike gold.

Visit a Variety of Free Databases

8. Begin your search with free databases, continue to focus on your individual, websites such as familysearch.org and ancestry.com (the free trial option) can quickly uncover some new information. However, don't discount more specific types of databases such as immigration databases, like Ellis Island or Ship's List, cemetery online databases such as Dead Fred or Find a Grave and newspaper databases such as newspaperarchive.com or Google News Archive Search.

Thanks to South Canterbury NZSG Branch

Findmypast - release of baptism, marriage and burial index records from the English county of Derbyshire and substantial updates to the The PERiodical Source Index (PERSI). Derbyshire Baptism Index 1538-1910 Derbyshire Baptism Index 1538-1910 contains over 692,000 records taken from Church of England Parish registers. Derbyshire is in the East Midlands of England.

[Derbyshire Baptism Index 1538-1910](#)

[Derbyshire Marriage Index 1538-1910](#)

[Derbyshire Burial Index 1538-1910](#)

[Derbyshire Baptisms](#)

[Derbyshire Marriages](#)

[Derbyshire Burials](#)

From Lost Cousins

Veterans UK is responsible for WWII service records - here is the form for those who are not next of kin and do not have consent

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210235/request_service_details_general_enquirers_pt1_v6.pdf



Commonwealth Grave Cemetery Kranji, Singapore

The Singapore Memorial stands over the war cemetery of known graves. These panels have the names of 24,346 Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen inscribed on its walls. It is very sobering sight. *Leaving flowers in water is forbidden because mosquitoes promptly breed in it.*

UK War Dead

It can be a surprise to see just how many bodies were never found, and so are in a memorial list, rather than with a headstone.

There are a few places for further information.

<http://www.cwgc.org/find-war-dead/casualty/1749282/SULLIVAN,%20EDWARD%20ALBERT%20STANLEY>

The Commonwealth War Graves commission shows the regiment - and if you can't find info for your relative personally, it is worth googling the regimental history for his regiment.

Always good to check the National Archives for English military research as they are the main keepers of government records...

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-person/>

Then there is the Imperial War Museum

<http://www.iwm.org.uk/>

The British Legion - might have some info also.

<http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/remembrance/ww1-centenary>

Thanks to Michelle Patient

Honouring The Dead

Death was an everyday part for our ancestors, who practiced a series of mourning rituals to keep the memory of loved ones alive.

Low life expectancy, high infant mortality, and the fact that most people died at home, meant death was much more visible for our ancestors. In some rural communities the church bell was rung to signal someone was dying. It tolled 6 times for a woman and 9 times for a man, and a peal of bells was rung for every year of their life.

While the body lay in the house, mirrors were shrouded in black to prevent the soul of the departed getting trapped. Any clocks in the room where the person died were stopped by hand at the time of the death.

Burial Clubs – to avoid the shame of a paupers burial paid for the parish, poor families paid into a burial club to insure them against the high cost of a funeral. The most successful of these life assurance companies was the Prudential, which had over a million members by 1870.

The family kept the body at home, often for several days, to pay their respects. Even young children were brought in to say view the body. Fear of being buried alive was common, and keeping watch over the body let the family look for signs of life.

Before 1832 when the Anatomy Act was passed, graves were frequently opened to steal the body, and sell it to the medical schools for dissection. The schools wanted fresh bodies, so keeping it at home negated that. Families also had more time to raise the funeral money.

Few relatives attended the burial in the churchyards because they were so revolting in urban areas.

The first private cemetery was at Norwich in 1819, followed by Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Glasgow and London.

In Southland rural area all the blinds facing the road were closed when the hearse was due to travel past, and men on the street stood still and removed their hats when it went through the town.

If you wish to do research during the day at the Mormon church, please contact

Gore Mormon Missionaries ph 021 812 974

Gore NZSG branch bank account number
03-0915-0254412-000