

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists June 2015

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**Next Meeting at LDS Church
Main Street, Gore.
2nd June 2015
Tuesday 7pm**

Preservation of Photos –
Jo Massey, Southland District Council
Cemetery bus trip Saturday 6th June
Depart- Heritage centre at 8.30am

Annual General Meeting 5th May 2015

This was conducted very quickly with aplomb by our lovely able Convener, Rhonda. It was wonderful to see a large number of members present. Please note the following changes, but the committee basically remains same:

Convener	Rhonda Wilson
Secretary	Vicki Newman
Treasurer	Jo Muir
Bulletin	Avis McDonald
Webmaster	Liz O'Connell

Suggestions for speakers, trips, and presentations for the following years programme were discussed.



How to Find a New Zealand World War One Service Record

By Anita West

Sincere thanks to Hutt Valley for this excellent article.

<http://familyhistorymatters.co.nz/blog/>

Have you ever wondered if someone in your family was an ANZAC? Or maybe you've heard that a great-uncle or other relative fought in World War One and you'd love to know where they served and what medals they were awarded. You can find all this out, and much more, from their New Zealand World War One service record (their military personnel record).

Here are **five easy website searches** you can do to find that record. All will eventually lead you to the Archives New Zealand website, where **military personnel files can be downloaded for FREE.**

Once you get there, make sure you read the last section of this blog [How to Download a Military Personnel Record from Archives New Zealand](#) to make this task as easy as possible.

Option 1: Archives New Zealand's World War One Search



Discover World War One

NZDF Personnel File Search

Click on <http://archives.govt.nz/> go to the purpose-built [Archives New Zealand World War One search page](#). Enter the name of the person you are looking for in the search field, in any order, e.g. "Christina Gibbon" or "Gibbon, Christina".

As you move through the search process, simply click on each matching result as it pops up and you will be guided in three clicks to a digital copy of your family member's military personnel record.

This option is straightforward and efficient because it only searches World War One service records. You will not be distracted with other interesting leads along the way. These tips may also help:

If your search shows that there are two records for your family member, have a look at them both. It is not uncommon for there to be more than one file for the same person. Some information is repeated in both files, but some of it will be different.

Multiple records may also mean that there was more than one soldier with the same name. If you know your family member's service number, this will help you to identify the right record. However you may need to open each file and look for other clues, like next of kin details.

If, on the other hand, you are not getting enough results, try using a [fuzzy search](#) by putting a tilde (~) after the name. Fuzzy searching will find a word even if it is misspelled. I tested this with a search for "David Johnson~", and got results for 18 servicemen named David, with the surnames Johnson, Johnston, Johnstone and Johansen.

You can also use [wildcards](#) (*). A search for "David Johns*on*" produced a slightly different set of results to the one above.

Option 2 DigitalNZ



If you start your search on [DigitalNZ](#), you will still get to your family member's military personnel record in three clicks. Option 1's search tips will work for this site, and you can also use [Filters](#) to narrow your search.

The main difference is that DigitalNZ searches across more than 28 million digital images from the collections of nearly 200 partners, including New Zealand museums, libraries, government agencies and other institutions. So your search results will not be confined to your family member's military personnel record; you may well find other interesting material too.

As an example, a DigitalNZ search for my great-aunt, Christina Gibbon, returned her military record as expected. However I also found a photograph held by the Alexander Turnbull Library of Christina leaving New Zealand as one of our first 50 nurses (exciting!), and several newspaper clippings in Papers Past about "Nurses for the Front", "Our Gallant Women" etc.

Option 3 Archway



Anyone who has been searching for New Zealand military personnel records for a while will be most familiar with this option.

Enter your family member's name in the [Archway Simple Search](#) field. The Simple Search does not support wildcards or tildes but it will pick up some minor name variations, e.g a search for Johnston also picks up Johnstone. You may need to search manually if you know that the name you are looking for can be spelled (or misspelled) a number of ways. Your search results will first appear sorted into four categories. Click "Go" next to the top result for "individual records". This is where you hope to find your family member's name under the sub-title "Military Personnel Files". Follow the links to "View or download digital files". I counted 4 clicks to get to the downloadable record.

The main drawback of this search method is that it will find ALL Archives New Zealand's holdings for the name you have searched. This means the results list can be long, especially if the name is common. On the other hand, you may find other items of interest, such as a photograph or a probate. Archives New Zealand provides lots of [guidance on how to search their site](#), including the advanced search option.

Option 4 Discovering ANZACs



The National Archives of Australia and Archives New Zealand have developed the [Discovering ANZACS](#) website in partnership "as a gift to both nations for the centenary of World War I".

There is a name search on the front page, and five clicks will take you through to the downloadable military personnel record at Archives New Zealand. The Discovering ANZACS team advise that you start with a broad search, for instance by surname, and narrow your results from there. The site has a comprehensive [Help](#) page. I didn't find this option as intuitive as some of the others, but I like the site for other reasons.

Discovering ANZACs is an interactive site where you can post your own photos, stories and details about your family member and their service. And, of course, you can find information about Australian service men and women here as well.

Option 5: Online Cenotaph – Auckland War Memorial Museum



The new [Online Cenotaph](#) has been developed by Auckland War Memorial Museum in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Like Discovering ANZACs, it is an interactive site. Families can add their own information to the Museum's database compiled over the last 18 years. Three clicks from the Person Search field takes you to Archives New Zealand, although you have to scroll right to the bottom of the person's profile page to find the link. Then it's a couple more clicks within Archives New Zealand's website to

get to where your family member's record can be downloaded. The site provides [research help here](#). On the way, there is an option to view and download the relevant page of the Nominal Roll. And if you are lucky, someone else will have been to the Online Cenotaph and provided lots of fabulous family information, photographs, and stories about your ancestor! Another great interactive option.

How to Download a Military Personnel File from Archives New Zealand

Once you have found your family member's military personnel record on the Archives New Zealand website, you will probably want to print it or download and save it to your computer. If the record was one of the first tranche to be digitised, then you will be able to open, print and download a PDF version of the full file.

If the record you are after was scanned more recently, however, you will need to print or download it page by page. Each page is an image file rather than a PDF. Archives New Zealand switched digitisation formats in order to speed up the process and make sure all World War One records were online for the centenary celebrations. It's great that the job is complete, but the records that missed out on being PDFed are definitely more cumbersome to work with. Many military personnel records are 20 pages or less, but some can extend into the hundreds depending on the person's

length of service and correspondence they may have entered into with the Defence Force.

You should have reached a screen that looks something like this. If there are two headings, 'Preservation Master' (orange arrow) and 'Derivative Copy' (green arrow), in the left hand panel of the viewer then you are in luck. To access the PDF, click 'Derivative Copy' and select 'Table of Contents'. An icon will appear on the right hand side, and clicking the caption 'image 1' will display the PDF. You can then print or save it in the normal way.

If there is only one heading, 'Derivative_Copy;View', in the left hand panel (in the vicinity of the orange arrow) then you will need to select each page and print or save it individually.

Here's how you find the PDF of the full file, if it is available.

<http://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/>

In conclusion.....all of the search options I have talked about in this blog will get you to your family member's military personnel record, which you can download for FREE from Archives New Zealand. Some of the options are slightly quicker and more straightforward than others but there isn't much in it. Speed isn't everything, and most of these websites can provide leads along the way to other great material about your family member's world war one experience.

If all else fails, take all your information and visit Bruce at the Hokonui Heritage Center

Intention To Marry Records Archives New Zealand

holds Notices of Intention to Marriage for the whole of NZ for the period 1856 – 1956. **These are indexed for the period 1856 – 1881.** Information include:

- date of the notice,
- full name,
- marital status,
- occupation and age of both parties (often listed as 'Full'),
- Place of residence at time of notice & length of residence in the registration district,
- Parents of guardians name if either were a minor.
- A number which confirms the marriage took place.
- Place where the marriage was to be solemnized.

Archives NZ Wellington holds a card index organized in 3 monthly periods and by place from North to South.

FindmyPast

Prisoners of War records 1914-1920 are the first in a series of prisoners of War records digitised in conjunction with the National Archives, which will eventually form part of a wider collection to span 1715-1945, dating back to the Jacobite rebellion.

Yorkshire records. Over 5 million parish records released in conjunction with the Yorkshire Digitisation Consortium, covering 1538-1989. Additions include: Yorkshire baptisms 1538-1914, banns 1653-1930, marriages 1539-1930 and burials 1538-1966.

BillionGraves Cemetery Index records. England Billion Graves Cemetery Index records Scotland BillionGraves Cemetery Index records

Wales BillionGraves Cemetery Index records

Ireland BillionGraves Cemetery Index records

Australia BillionGraves Cemetery Index records

New Zealand BillionGraves Cemetery Index records

BillionGraves is the largest resource of GPC-logged headstone and burial records on the web. Partnership with FMP will make them free to search. Records include the deceased's name, birth and death dates, cemetery, city, county and image link.

Australian records New South Wales Gaol Photographic Books 1871-1969 consists of prisoner images from 14 different gaols. New South Wales Government Gazette Indexes 1843-1863 can give details of property occupation and transactions across the state. New South Wales Returned Soldiers Settlement Files 1906-1960 Queensland Wills Index 1857-1940

UK records Essex Wills Beneficiaries Index 1505-1916 Additions to the historic British newspaper collection means it now covers 245 years from 1710-1955 including the Daily Telegraph from 1871. Surrey, Southwark St George the Martyr workhouse records 1729-1826. names include inmates, teachers nurses and other staff.

Quaker records Society of friends births, 1578-1941; post 1776 records include date and place of birth and parents names. Marriages 1578-1841 and burials 1578-1841

Ancestry update

Must search collections

*UK WW1 Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany) 1914-1920. Daily reports provide and on-the-spot description of your ancestors' experience.

*Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Vital records 1875-1940. Search baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial records. Thanks to Kapiti Branch

English trade, Post Office & directories – searchable by county

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/map/collection/p16445coll4>

News from Christine Clement, no doubt in response to the lack of NZ references within an Aussie Univeristy's ANZAC Irish database....

"I have added 1107 men and women with an Irish connection to my web site as below

Always appreciate any more

MEMBERS OF THE NZEF 1914 - 1918

WITH A NEXT-OF-KIN ADDRESS IN IRELAND OR WHO WERE NOTED AS BORN IN IRELAND.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sooty/irishInzef.html>

cmclement@clear.net.nz"

*Pennsylvania Birth records 1906-1908. Contain maiden names, occupations and parents birthplaces.

*Canada, Imperial War Service Gratuities. 1919-21

These Canadians fought with British forces and applied for gratuities on their return to Canada.

www.maps.familysearch.org. wonderful for England

Smallpox- Killed an estimated 300 million people in 20th century. There are two forms, variola major, an variola minor. Symptoms were fever, headache & vomiting. Red spots appeared in the mouth and throat after 12 day. Between 1760- 1770, 25,000 people died of smallpox in London. In England between 1837 – 1838 it killed tens of thousands of mainly infants and children. Dr Edward Jenner proved inoculation provided immunity. It is one of two infectious diseases which has been eradicated by vaccination. The date of vaccination was listed on **original** Scottish birth certificates in 1910.



Leicester University special collection has Trade, Post Office and other directories for England. Search by county

<http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk/cdm/map/collection/p16445coll4>

Ancestry.co.uk has released 388,000 Royal Navy registers. Many servicemen were under age, details include name, place, date of birth, service number and the vessels they served on. Search at National Archives <http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=605> **22 scans of original documents are also available**