

# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists February 2016

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**Next Meeting**  
**1st March 2016**  
**Tuesday 8pm - Heritage Centre**  
**Winton Resources**  
**Speakers - Joan McConachie**  
**and Joan Bottle**

## December 2015 Meeting

A large number of members gathered at RSA for a fabulous end of the year function and a lovely meal. It was wonderful to see so many members from as far away as Glenham and Mossburn.

Thanks go to Rhonda for her organization of our special dinner and her beautiful Christmas decorations on the tables. They made the night very special.

Next month our homework is to choose a headstone in the Gore cemetery (if possible), bring a photo and some information on the people buried in that plot.

This should be real fun, and educational.

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## Happy New Year.

Where 2015 went is a mystery but I do hope you all had a fabulous Christmas time with the family. Wanaka was amazing with hot sunshine, lots of family and fun on the boats. I walked up Mt Iron which was a serious challenge.. ..

Once again, it is time to consider what genealogy goals you wish to achieve in 2016. Mine is to complete the Finlayson book because I have several others I want to write.

On that subject....

Boxes and massive files of your diligent searching of you family are vital and very important, but it is imperative there is a finished project your family will always treasure.

There are so many brilliant ways to make a precious permanent record that will always be treasured by the family. Rosalie's beautiful albums, Maria's scrapbooking skills, Elaine's amazing files, printed book, charts and embroidery. Computers are a stupendous tool.

Genealogy is a large jigsaw with no outside edges which is never completed, so please do not delay in creating this important document.

## Origin of the Marriage Act :



From the 12th c to the 17th c. Church Courts were responsible for martial matters. Churches forbade clandestine marriages, and required the presence of a priest and two witnesses at a wedding, later the issuing of banns prior to the wedding was included.

In England the marriage practice of a "Handfasting" a ceremony where couples announced an engagement was deemed to be a legal contract . as soon as the couple made their vows to each other they were validly married, even if banns and the church wedding didn't take place. The churches recognized handfasting, it was expected to be solemnized by a church wedding fairly soon afterwards.

After the protestant reformation in England clergy began performing clandestine marriages which were held to be legally binding, which suited people who wanted privacy and low cost.

In 1740's half the marriages in London took place in the environs of Fleet Prison, to avoid banns and marry at low cost quickly!

Many scandals and abuses took place so the Churches pushed for the loophole to be closed.

The 1753 Marriage Act abolished clandestine or Fleet marriages, and required that banns should be published or a licence obtained and to have a church priest to perform the ceremony.

## Clandestine Marriages

<http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk/help/aboutRG7.htm>

Search the Clandestine Fleet Marriage Registers at [BDMregisters.co.uk](http://BDMregisters.co.uk) The search is free the details are pay to view. £5 for 10 credits.

This is a site well worth exploring if you have got back to the period in your research  
*Principally registers, 1667-c1777, and note books, 1682-1774, giving particulars of clandestine marriages and baptisms performed in the Fleet Prison, at the May Fair Chapel, at King's Bench Prison or within the Mint, as well as entries in the Fleet registers of other ceremonies performed at these places. This series records the marriages of a significant proportion of the population of London and surrounding areas up to 1754. The 'Report of the Commission into Marriage Law' of 1868 estimated that countrywide in the first half of the eighteenth century, a third of all marriages were actually clandestine. Of these, the Fleet registers in this series are the most significant source, containing an estimated 400,000 entries representing over 200,000 weddings between 1667 and 1777 these are searchable via the BDM registers.*

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Gretna Green  
 Marriage Register  
 1794 – 1895

<http://search.ancestry.co.nz/search/db.aspx?dbid=1636>

*The entire collection covers the years 1794 to 1895, with a few earlier references. Since Gretna Green marriages were not exactly formal, the record keeping was not regulated, nor was it centralized. The Lang Registers make up approximately 50% of all Gretna Green marriages performed during the specified time period. The Lang Registers is the largest single collection of Gretna Green marriage registers and includes over 10,000 records.*

Basic Search free, pay to view details

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The Marriage Act 1753, full title "**An Act for the Better Preventing of Clandestine Marriage**", popularly known as Lord Hardwicke's Marriage Act, was the first statutory legislation in England and Wales to require a formal ceremony of marriage. It came into force on 25 March 1754.

The Act was precipitated by a dispute about the validity of a Scottish marriage, although pressure to address the problem of clandestine marriage had been growing for some time.

<http://www.ukessays.com/essays/history/before-and-after-the-marriage-act-of-1753-history-essay.php>

Many couples chose to marry in another location away from their home church, displaying a marked fondness for marrying 'privately', without the public announcement of banns in the weeks running up to their wedding.



**Scotland also permitted probationary or temporary marriages** *"It was an ancient custom in the Isles that a man take a maid as his wife and keep her for the space of a year without marrying her; and if she pleased him all the while, he married her at the end of the year and legitimized her children; but if he did not love her, he returned her to her parents."*

Sometimes Handfasting and Temporary Marriages had disastrous results

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The Isles of Scilly are just off the coast of Cornwall and are part of England. Census and civil registration records are part of Eland and Wales data set. The islands parish registers are available through FamilySearch and on various other sites with links on Scilly Genuki page <http://tinyurl.com/oblywl>. Unfortunately the registers only date back to 1726, because the earlier records were lost by fire;

Probate records after 1858 are online at the government site <https://probatesearch.servie.gov.uk/wills>.

**There is an Online Parish Clerk for the island**

<http://tinyurl.com/pdh3eui>.

Scilly comes under the Cornwall Family History Society [www.cornwallfhs.com](http://www.cornwallfhs.com) and additional family history can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/nawtuel>

Researchers should be aware that some Scillionians may have lived their whole lives on the more remote island without ever featuring in official records.

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## Northern Ireland

became a political and geographical entity after the partition of Ireland in 1921. 1901 and 1911 are the only years with complete census returns. 1861 & 1871 were destroyed and those of 1881 – 1891 were pulped during WW1. Earlier returns were destroyed in a fire during the Irish Civil War. The few fragments which remain at with the National Archives of Ireland

[www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) are

Antrim 1851, Belfast City (one ward only) 1851; Cavan 1821 & 1841; Cork 1841; Dublin city index to household heads only)1851; Fermanagh 1821, 1841, 1851; Galway 1813 & 1821, Kings country (Offally) 1821; Londonderry (Derry) 1831-1834; Meath 1821; and Waterford 8141.

*To be continued next month*

## ANCESTRY.COM NEWS

On 7 November the following were added:

- [Tasmania](#) Reports of Crime 1861-83 (indexed images of printed book pages)
- [Surrey](#) Regimental Rolls 1914-47 (images of 114,251 records)

On 9 November the following was added:

- [Pennsylvania WWI](#) Veterans Service & Compensation

Files

On 18 November two new databases were added to the website relating to [Freemasons](#).

- Grand Lodge of Freemasons of Ireland Membership Registers 1733-1932

318,964 records with images of the original registers

- United Grand Lodge of Freemasons of England Membership Registers 1751-1921

1,713,246 records with images of the original registers

These registers include not only Freemasons who were members of lodges in England but also in other countries in the British Commonwealth such as New Zealand, Australia, Malta and Hong Kong.

Details given in these registers (in addition to full name) include date of joining or initiation, age, place of residence, profession. Sometimes further information is given such as date of death.

*Thanks to Riccarton Branch*

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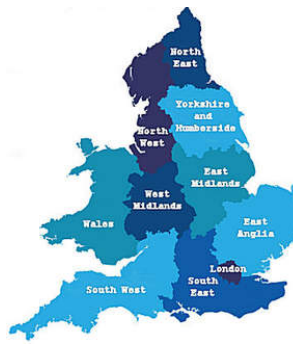
### **Family Tree Maker to be discontinued**

Ancestry made the shock announcement that they will stop selling Family Tree Maker at the end of this month. They have pledged to support existing owners until 1st January 2017, but whilst this sounds like a long time away, it's only just over a year from now.

I've never used Family Tree Maker myself, though I know several of you have because it gave you free 6 month Ancestry subscription that was included with the Platinum and World editions. I can understand why some family historians found Family Tree Maker and Ancestry an attractive combination.

Understandably publishers of other family tree programs are keen to pick up the pieces - for example, [Family Historian](#) are offering a 20% discount to users of Family Tree Maker until the end of January, which gives you time to download the 30-day free trial and check it out first.

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If your family comes from England or Wales, and you have either a [Findmypast.co.uk](#) or [Ancestry.co.uk](#) subscription, you'll not only have access to fully transcribed GRO birth, marriage, and death indexes but also to the complete

England & Wales 1911 Census.

By combining these two resources you'll probably find that you can add dozens of new relatives to your family tree - without spending a penny on certificates!

1) Where there are married couples on the 1911 Census and the wife is of child-bearing age (typically up to 47) Search the birth indexes for children born to the couple using the family surname and mother's maiden name. The rarer the surnames the more confident you can be about identifying the entries, especially if you also take into account the choice of forenames, the timing of the births, and the districts where the births were registered.

*Tip: even if the surnames aren't particularly rare, the surname combination might be - a search for marriages where the bride and groom have the same surnames will help you gauge how likely it is that the births you've found belong to your couple.*

(2) Check to see whether you can identify marriages involving relatives who were single in 1911. This is generally only possible when the surnames are fairly uncommon (but see below).

(3) Having identified these post-1911 marriages, or possible marriages, look in the birth indexes for children born to the couple using the technique described in (1) above. Sometimes the choice of forenames will help to confirm whether or not you have found the right marriage.

(4) Next look for the deaths of the couples whose children you are seeking. They will be registered in one name and the death in another - and there will be a marriage that links the two.

*Tip: probate calendars can also provide useful clues - often one of the children, or the surviving spouse, will be named as executor or administrator. You can search the calendars from 1858-1966 at [Ancestry](#), or from 1858-1959 at [Findmypast](#); if you don't have access to either of these sites, or want to search for more recent wills, you'll need to use the free [Probate Service](#)*

(5) Now start on the next generation, the children who were recorded in 1911 or whose births you have been able to identify as belonging to your tree. Look for both marriages and deaths, because if you find the death of a female relative recorded under her maiden name, this usually indicates that she didn't marry, and even for a male relative the place of death might help to determine whether a marriage you have found is in an unexpected part of the country.

(6) Having identified marriages look in the birth indexes for children born to those marriages - and continue this process until either you reach the present day, or when you get to a point where you can't tell with reasonable certainty which entries relate to relatives. When it comes to more recent generations there are all sorts of additional sources of information - including social networking sites, Google, facebook, searches of the electoral roll) or even the phone book (not everyone is ex-directory).

Here are some key dates to bear in mind when searching:

**2nd April 1911 - Census Day**

**1st July 1911 - from this date the mother's maiden name was included in the birth indexes**

**1st January 1912 - the surname of the spouse was included in the marriage indexes**

**1st January 1966 - from this date the first two forenames are shown in full in the birth indexes**

**1st April 1969 - the precise date of birth was included in the death indexes and the first two forenames were shown in full**

One of the best things about the 1939 Register is the way that it continued to be used after the War - and so the surnames of many women were updated to reflect marriages (and divorces) that took place in the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s or even later. This makes the 1939 Register more useful than a static census.

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**New South Wales 1891 Census now online at FamilySearch **FREE****

Over 1.1 million individuals were recorded in the New South Wales 1891 census, though unfortunately the household schedules have not survived - only the Collectors' Books are available, so the only names listed are those of the heads of household (and there's also no personal information, such as age or birthplace).

This census has been available unindexed on [Ancestry](#), but the free access to indexed records and images at [FamilySearch](#) will make it more readily accessible. There are rather more records at FamilySearch than at Ancestry. Visit Gore LDS on a Thursday night.

The 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 New South Wales censuses haven't survived in any form: 1841 is an exception but again, only the heads of household are listed (although household schedules have survived for a couple of areas).

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## **Lily Christina Mary Baker QSM # 3555 NZSG Life Member**

Born 1934 Died 2 December 2015

Lily Baker joined the New Zealand Society of Genealogists in 1982, from which time she has given more than thirty years service to genealogists locally, nationally and internationally Following 15 years as the NZSG Projects Coordinator and eleven years of involvement with the GRO Index Service, Lily was elected to Council in 2002. She served for six years, including four as Vice-President and held the portfolio of Education and Tours. She served NZSG as the Shetland Islands Contact,

For four years Lily represented NZSG on the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand Council and represented New Zealand on the Guild of One Name Studies for ten years. She was convenor of the 1991 and 2004 NZSG Conferences, as a member of the 2009 AFFHO Congress Committee and the first New Zealand's Family History Fair Committee.

A fine ambassador for the Society and for genealogy, both at home and in her travels throughout New Zealand and overseas, she was awarded Life Membership of the society which was presented to her at the AGM in Wellington 2014.

Lily received her Queen's Service Medal for her voluntary Service in 2000

*'Hawkes Bay Today' 4 Dec 2015 (abridged)*

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## **Isle of Jersey**

<http://www.theislandwiki.org/index.php/jerripedia>- transcription of Islands registers and an 1815 muster roll

## **Manx Heritage**

The Manx Notebook

<http://isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/> has useful information- Manx inheritance and nonconformism on the island. Transcriptions of various documents, wills & military sources.

## **Irish Ancestry toolkit**

<http://irish-genealogy=toolkit.com>