

# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists June 2016

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ANZAC of The YEAR

Sincere congratulations to  
our member  
**Barbara Cunningham**  
who was presented this  
amazing award for her commitment  
to the community.

## Annual General Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016

A number of members were present for this important meeting.. Elaine Scott was nominated and accepted the position as our Convenor.

**Convener** Elaine Scott  
**Vice Convener** Liz O'Connell  
**Secretary** Vicki Newman  
**Treasurer** Jo Muir  
**Bulletin** Avis McDonald  
**Webmaster** Liz O'Connell

The committee remains same:

## Next Meeting

**Tuesday 7pm - Heritage Centre  
7th June 2016**

**Research night – Bring any of your  
problems and Brick Walls -**



## DNA testing comes of age

There are now around 3 million people worldwide who have taken autosomal

DNA tests, most of them family historians - whereas there are less than 2.4 million with current Ancestry subscriptions.

These amazing statistics may cause many researchers to think that DNA testing is something to consider for the future. Well, the future is here!

Of course, making sense of DNA matches isn't easy - but then it can be a great struggle to make sense of online trees, many of which are un-sourced (or, even worse, mistakenly linked to the wrong sources) and perpetuate errors by making them easy for others to copy. We're used to there being a trade-off between time and money, so it's natural to assume that if you spend out a large sum on a DNA test you're going to be saving yourself time - dream on!

You might think that it's tedious looking up censuses and keying in data, sorting through DNA matches and trying to make sense of them is much harder, and far more time-consuming. And, of course, it's infinitely more expensive.

So why use DNA at all, if it's more expensive and more difficult? Because, to paraphrase the lager advert, it can reach the parts of your family tree that conventional research may never be able to reach (because the records don't exist, or were falsified).

Most importantly DNA testing can not only confirm what we know, and contradict what we think we know, it can also help to knock down seemingly impregnable 'brick walls'.

## Subscriptions are due 30 June 2016

Full membership for the year is \$30.00, before 30<sup>th</sup> June \$25.00 and if a

volunteer at the Centre on a Sunday \$20.00

Married couples Full year \$50.00 or before 30<sup>th</sup> June \$45.00.

For internet Banking or an over the counter deposit the account number is **03 0915 0254412 00** PLEASE put your name in the reference field for easy identification at this end

**Rhonda Wilson** and **Elaine Scott** who were the winners of the Pam Milnes and Noeline Shaw Rose bowl

**When was the last time you looked at our excellent branch website. It is amazing and our thanks and congratulations go to Liz for her wonderful work.**

## CD of 100 years of Dunedin Family History Group

**newsletters** is now available in Hokonui Heritage Center All references to names and subjects can be searched. This is a valuable resource with many war memorials throughout Otago and Southland having been expertly researched by Heather Bray.

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**BDM records** A point to note when interpreting the information on certificates is that when the letter "N" follows a given age it denotes minutes lived, i.e. 10N = 10 minutes, as opposed to 10M which means 10 months. (*from The Arboretum, April*)

To make use of your DNA matches at Ancestry you need to be a subscriber, whereas at Family Tree DNA there are no subscriptions to pay. This might not seem a problem right now - because you have an Ancestry subscription - but what about next year, or the year after?

<http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore>

An amazing historic map collection at the National Library of Scotland. It also covers England & Wales as well as Scotland. As usual I searched the tiny settlement of Gruting, Shetland Isles Scotland where my father was born... Search for your obscure villages or towns. The collection now also includes maps of WW1 trenches in France and Belgium - including Estate Maps of Scotland, and maps of Scottish towns, some of which are 25in to the mile. Maps of English towns are on their way too. <http://lostcousins.com/newsletters2/may16news>

**Findmypast** have released the following. 2.2 mill Yorkshire Baptisms takes the total to over 4.4 million; 1.4 million Yorkshire Marriages have been added, making a total of 2.2 million; 203,000 new records bring the total of Yorkshire Banns to 541,000; and 1.5 million Yorkshire Burials have been added, bring the total to more than 3.2 million. Not every parish is included

Another **10 million US marriage records online** [Findmypast](http://Findmypast) have added another 10 million records, which include 30 million names, to their United States America marriages collection. Some of these records have appeared online before, but there are 1 million names which are new,

Bad news about US records this week - according to Dick Eastman's blog the birth and death indexes have been removed from the New York Public Library on the instruction of New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (do they harbour contagious diseases)

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'Burials' recorded and kept in the church parish chest are not always what they appear to be. They could be 'churchings' which occurred on the fortieth day after the confinement, in accordance with the Biblical date and Jewish practice. This was a ceremony where a blessing is given to the mother after recovery from childbirth. It included thanksgiving for the woman's survival and recovery

of childbirth, and was performed even when the child was stillborn. The custom was retained in the Catholic church until recently, but was discontinued in 1960.

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Before I attended a wonderful Holden - Camp family reunion of my lovely daughter in law Helen Holden, I created a 21 page wide family tree on Legacy programme for their perusal. When it was taped onto a wall at the dinner function, it was extremely popular and studied by all the family. They inserted names, marriages, birth and death dates and generally drew all over it with alterations and additions. This was precisely what I had hoped for.

James Keillor Holden arrived in Port Chalmers on the ship *Viola* in 1863, and Ellen Curran arrived to the same port on the ship *Pladda* in 1860. They married 29 March 1867 in Dunedin, lived in Port Chalmers and had 8 children. We all wrote a message on a separate white stone which were placed on the grave in front of the headstone.

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Ancestry has announced the Family Tree Maker programme will continue to be developed which is sure to be welcomed by many

## Data Websites Update

[redcross.org.uk](http://redcross.org.uk) The project to digitize nearly a quarter of a million index cards for Great War volunteers was finally completed just before the end of April.

[Familysearch.org](http://Familysearch.org) Durham marriage bonds and allegations 1692- 1900. Bishops Transcripts from Devon 1558- 1887. Oldham Cemetery registers 1797 – 2004

[Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk) Baptism, marriage and burial indexes for the parish registers from the Isle of Man

[bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspz](http://bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspz) Canadian expeditionary force. First World War

For the many who use the Australian online Trove for newspaper research the Australian government has cut the budget to the National Library of Australia.

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The beautiful delicious cake, made and iced by ex member Jill Youngson.

Note the bottle of and whisky still at base.

Unique Flash drive





## 400,000 Yorkshire Folk

A six year volunteer project to index of vital records have been completed. They have

been working for Calderdale Libraries in West Yorkshire, coming through almost 90 years of microfilmed birth, marriage and death announcements from the Halifax Guardian newspaper to create a FREE online index to the data. The Halifax guardian ran from 1832 to 1921 and the team has been through every issue. <http://bit.ly/calderdaleBMD>

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**Parish registers** of baptisms, marriage and burials are kept at county record offices, unless still in use at the original church Many registers have been indexed on FreeReg ( [www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk)) and FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/>)



Beware, though, as online transcriptions may be inaccurate. Try to see the original record on microfilm. For non Anglican records see an index of nonconformist and nonparochial registers on the BMD website ([www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk))



For Scotland old parish registers are indexed on [scotlandsppeople.gov.uk](http://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk) and you can check the survive rate of said registers on the National Records of Scotland

([www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-register/list-of-old-parish-registers](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/old-parish-register/list-of-old-parish-registers)) There was no compulsion on individuals to register their family events. It is important to realize that generally it was not births as such that were supposed to be recorded, but baptisms, not marriages but proclamations of banns of marriages, and not deaths but burials.

The Kirk charged for making proclamations of banns, (the money went to the poor) Not everyone could afford to pay,, and worse still, the Act of 1783 put a tax of 3d on every registration. This act was repealed in 1794 but the damage was done and people avoided registration. 3 pence could be better spent. And you wondered why you can only find baptisms and no births in the parish records?

The Irish Genealogy website has a good overview of available parish registers [www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/irish-](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/irish-)



### records-what-is-available

The National Library of Ireland website has free images of Roman Catholic parish registers of baptisms and marriages for Ireland up to 1880 <http://registers.nli.ie/>. Bishops transcripts are useful for lost parish registers. Copies we made of parish registers and sent to bishop of the diocese; these sometimes have information not in the original register.

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## Free Downloads from the magazine 'Your Family History'

Resources for finding Belfast and Anglesey family, real – life reader case studies and much more online now!

[www.youfamilyhistorymag.co.uk/latest-issue](http://www.youfamilyhistorymag.co.uk/latest-issue)

Click on the downloads link on that page and then the blue download button at the Dropbox you will be taken to. YFH has teamed up with TheGenealogist to give readers free access to the 1891 census for Anglesey. Go to [www.thegenealogist.co.uk/yfhfree](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk/yfhfree) and type in the code 114712 to get free access to the census for one month.

Belfast resources help you find family in the city. We have names from the city that appear in 1846 Slaters Directory of Ireland. This is from Direct Resources, which also had the rest of this resource for Ireland available. [www.direct-resources.uk.com](http://www.direct-resources.uk.com)

If you wish to view downloads from a previous month, they now have an archive of recent links at [www.historymags.co.uk/yfh](http://www.historymags.co.uk/yfh)

Every article Indexed. Each month there is a complete index of every article from all 167 issues to help you catch up.

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## NZ Society of Gore Genealogy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner May 2016

*Pat White,  
Noeline Shaw  
Pam Milnes*

This was a superb night with great company, delicious food, and excellent presentation on the history of Hokonui Whisky by Jim Geddes, Thanks to the committee it was a well organized delightful night and the goodies bags including a unique flash drive which were very much appreciated by all present.. \*\*\*\*\*



## 1939 National Register

Although the 1939 National Register covered the whole of the United Kingdom, the National Archives only holds the registers for England & Wales – so **you won't find anyone who was in Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, or the Channel Islands at the time.**

A key task of the enumerators who collected the data was to issue identity cards - and for this reason military personnel and government workers who already had ID cards are unlikely to be recorded in Register, according to the National Archives (TNA)

The Register was not meant to record members of the armed forces and the records do *not* feature:

- British Army barracks
- Royal Navy stations
- Royal Air Force stations
- members of the armed forces billeted in homes, including their own homes

However, the records do include:

- members of the armed forces on leave
- civilians on military bases

Other key differences compared to the censuses are that relationships are not shown, middle names are rarely shown in full, and places of birth are not listed. However, precise dates of birth are given, and this information might well save us the cost of buying a birth certificate, especially for our more distant relatives

### Why some names are crossed out & other mysteries

The 1939 Register was a working document - unlike censuses, which were checked, analyzed, and archived, the National Register was updated as changes occurred.

For example, if a woman married she would normally adopt her husband's surname - and if this occurred after 29th September 1939 a new identity card had to be issued.

**Tip: the use of identity cards didn't end when the war was over - they continued in use until 1952.**

These records were not due to be opened until 2040, by which time everyone recorded would have been over 100 years old.

This is why we could initially only see records for people who were born over 100 years ago, or whose death had been recorded in the register (some other records have since been opened up for people who are known to have died).

### What's the difference between Locked and Closed

**Locked** households are households you haven't viewed before; unlocking a household allows you to see the open records in that household.

**Closed** records exist in both locked and unlocked households - they are records that you can't see because the person is recorded as having been born less than 100 years ago, and their death has not been confirmed. Closed records can usually be opened by submitting a death certificate, but you need to know where the individual was living in 1939.

### Closed records are NOT indexed

If a record is closed then you won't find that person in the index, no matter how long you search

The evacuation of millions of British schoolchildren during World War 2 will have had a lasting effect, not only on their lives, but also on the lives of the families with whom they were billeted.

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, and dozens of relatives must still be living.