

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists August 2016

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Next Meeting Sandy Cleary
2 August 2016 -
Tuesday 7pm -
1. What to do with your research
2. And Northern Cemetery, Dunedin
Please note 7pm Start

Report of Meeting July 2016

After suggestions and discussion from all members present, it was moved and carried that we continue to meet on 1st Tuesday of the Month.

Members were invited to present an ancestor they are researching. some of their interests

Jo Muir – Virtue, West Coast & Methodist church

Trish Diamond – David and Helen Cranstoun

Margaret Sutherland – King & Cullen. William Patrick

Early- divorced after 3 years. Will Saunders born 1869
Ireland

Rosalie McLean - MacLennan

Programme August 2nd: Sandy Cleary.

- (1) What to do with your research and
- (2) (2) Northern Cemetery, Dunedin

**PLEASE Note, starting time
7pm.**

September 6th: NZSG Presentation by Robyn Williams on Migration to NZ.

October 4th: Noeline Shaw. Writing her 8th book.

November 1st: Jocelyn Grace. Her story.

December 6th: Xmas Get Together. *To be advised.*

February 7th: Research.

March 7th: Visit to Tapanui.- Wilma Brock speaker.

April 4th: ANZAC Aaron Horrell. *To be confirmed.*

May 2nd: AGM

June 6th: Research.



BIG CHANGES coming to the ScotlandsPeople Website

The contract for the ScotlandsPeople website was awarded to a new company. It will no longer be managed by the people who run FindMyPast, the British Newspaper Archives and GenesReunited. As a result there is a process of transition happening.

Plans for the switch over are to take place in Autumn in America, (early spring here) and when that happens, we will start to see some of the records belong to the National Records of Scotland (National Archives) coming online. Currently some of these – tax rolls – are available the sister site to ScotlandsPeople, ScotlandsPlaces. These will migrate over to the new website. As well, the Kirk Session Records will be released and will be available online. Other records will be added over time

There will be a change of the fee structure. The credit system will still be in place for records currently available on the website, but a subscription system will be added for those wishing to access the new records from the NRS, like the Kirk session records. For those familiar with ScotlandsPlaces, this is already in place the he subscription fees are incredibly affordable. Hope the new fee structure will be similar.

Websites

Websites are checked before we recommend them)
www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2016/05/05/5-types-mapsevery-genealogist-know/

The site says 'Maps are incredibly useful in our genealogy. They can put our ancestors in context with their surroundings like few other sources can. There are numerous types of maps, each with its own benefits to our research.' It discusses Boundary maps (pointing out the value of historical records of boundaries for placing ancestors); landowner or cadastral maps ('a special type of boundary map that shows the parcels of land and who owns them'); topographic maps which show the lay of the land;

Transportation maps include major roadways, railroads, and canals; and insurance maps used by insurance companies to help assess fire risk.

<http://www.codc.govt.nz/services/do-itonline/cemetery-search/Pages/default.aspx>

Irene forwarded information about the Alexandra Cemetery records, with excellent details available and good links to more information than simply the formal record of the burial. The site has numbered burial plots showing which have headstone photos available: that is valuable information.



From NZ Society of Genealogists (2 May 2016):
Congratulations to Robyn Williams, current NZSG Treasurer, recently re-elected for a second year as President of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organizations (AFFHO) 2016-2017 and is the New Zealand delegate.

AFFHO is the umbrella organization for family history societies in the Australasian region and was established in 1978 to coordinate and assist the work of Australian and New Zealand groups with interests in family history, genealogy, heraldry and related subjects.

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Papers Past

Waihi Daily Telegraph 1918-1923 was added to paperspast



Don't expect meaningful DNA results

Which of the DNA testing companies will provide the most meaningful autosomal results. The simple answer is - none of them! In isolation DNA results mean very little - they're just a jumble of letters - but they acquire meaning when they are compared with results from other people.

The truth is, DNA tests are pretty poor at telling us about our origins hundreds or thousands of years ago. One of the reasons for this is the simple fact that we haven't inherited any DNA at all from most of our ancestors!

Note: some the tests that [23andMe](https://www.23andme.com/) offer are designed to provide health-related information - these may have some value on their own.

The randomness of DNA: good news and bad news

If you test your autosomal DNA you'll get hundreds or thousands of matches, and naturally you're more likely to get matches with close cousins than distant ones - since close cousins are more likely to share large segments of DNA

However, the fact that you're more likely to match with close cousins doesn't mean that most of the matches you make will be with close cousins - in reality the majority of your matches will be with cousins who are so distantly related that you wouldn't expect to share *any* significant amount of DNA with them.

How can both of those statements be true? What you have to remember is that we have many, many more distant cousins than we do close cousins - according to calculations by Ancestry DNA found that on average a Briton has 193,000 living cousins who are 6th cousins or closer, but that almost of them are 5th (17,300) or 6th (174,000) cousins.. *that is spooky*

With each generation DNA is diluted by half, since every child has two parents, each with their own set of ancestors.

Nevertheless, when you find a DNA match with a very distant cousin, always consider the possibility that you have another, closer, match on a different line that is yet to be found. Something else to bear in mind is that in isolated or close-knit communities where few people married outsiders the gene pool would be smaller, and this would inevitably make matches appear closer.

Note: amongst the useful tools at GEDmatch is one that will analyse how closely -related your parents were before they married - whilst few people knowingly marry their cousins, there must be many who do so unwittingly.

The fact that DNA can sometimes reach back further than expected can be good news - but it can also cause confusion if we don't take the possibility into account when we're trying to work out how we're connected to our DNA cousins.

I have just added the Births, Marriages, Deaths, Funeral Notices & In Memoriams from **THE PRESS** for the following pages for July 1985,
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 22, 23, 25, 26.
Beverley Evans
Christchurch NZ
<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/1870-1908/1985.July.Press.BMD.html>

Ancestry

New South Wales, Australia, Tickets of Leave, 1810-1869

New South Wales, Australia, Certificates for Publicans' Licences, 1830-1849, 1853-1899

Australia, Newspaper Vital Notices, 1831-2001

Tasmania, Australia, Convict Court and Selected Records, 1800-1899

Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index, 2004-2015

England & Scotland, Select Cemetery Registers, 1800-2014: includes, amongst others: Dumfries and Galloway, Kincardineshire and Kirkcudbrightshire, Wigtownshire, Scotland. And yes that does say to 2014. A quick look at Annan showed recent burials, but with the Plot Purchaser column blanked out.

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PARISH Charges ?????

In the front of the 1707-1787 register for the parish of All Saints, Writtle, Essex, the vicar had listed all of the relevant charges:

Table of fees due to the Minister of Writtle

*For Registering Baptism 6d
For going to give Baptism at Home 5s
For Publishing Banns 2s
For Certificate of Banns 1s 6d
For Marrying with Banns 5s
For Marrying with Licence 10s
For Licence to Marry -
Bond Warrt Stamps & Oath £1 9s 6d
For Churching a Woman 6d
For breaking the Ground in the Churchyard: for a Parishioner dying in the parish 2s
For a Headstone 5s*

There are many other charges for burials depending upon the type of memorial, and whether the person was a parishioner or not. The final charge in the list is:

Easter Offerings for each Person 16 Years old (to be paid by the Master of the Family) 4d

One of the key points is that there was no charge for a baptism ceremony carried out in the church - the charge was for registering the baptism. This could mean that some baptisms carried out were not recorded in the register - the 6d charge would have been a large sum for a farm labourer, who would have been earning in the region of 10d per day in the early 18th century.



Overcoming your 'brick wall'

It's generally pretty simple to research our ancestors, but occasionally you will get stuck.

So how do you get out of the genealogical mire?

- Don't make assumptions about your ancestors without testing them. In particular, remember 'the simplest explanation is usually the correct one'.
- Spellings of names, especially surnames, change over time.
- Your ancestor may have always been called by a name that wasn't on their birth certificate. Or rearranged their forenames or had them rearranged by a clerk.
- Don't trust the written record - it can be wrong. Clerks will and do make mistakes in writing down names, misspelling surnames and getting forenames wrong.
- There may be records you haven't used. The Victorians, in particular, produced a lot of paperwork that effectively duplicate each other. So if the document you want is missing, there may be something almost as good.
- Don't rely on family tradition - it can be wrong.
- **Note down all the sources you have used so you can revisit them if you need.**
- Don't use online databases without checking whether there is a description of the material, what it contains and most importantly what is missing.
- Some ancestors don't want to be found. Keep things in proportion. Don't waste your time in pointless searches, on the off chance.

Army service records now browsable at Findmypast

[Findmypast](#) have nearly 8 million British Army service records in their collection, but whilst they have always been searchable, it has only just become possible to browse the records.

Note: also browsable for the first time are the Absent Voters lists from 1918-21.

FindMyPast

Over 2.9 million articles have been our collection of historic **British newspapers**. This includes the addition of 13 brand new titles and updates .



Scotland's Register of Corrected Entries

Scotland's system of civil registration is different from - and arguably much better than

- the English system, and one of the differences is the Register of Corrected Entries.

Scotland does not edit historical statutory images, which can contain multiple entries per page. If a statutory birth entry contains a notation indicating a child was illegitimate (use of this term was discontinued in 1919), an extract, which is the equivalent of a certificate in New Zealand, will be typed omitting the word "illegitimate". However, the unedited historical image can still be viewed online.

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[Yorkshire Marriages](#)

Discover where, when and to whom your relatives were married as well as their residence, occupation and parents' names with 49,000 new records from the West Riding in Yorkshire.

Queensland Deaths 1829-1964 online. Earlier this month **Findmypast** added 870,000 deaths from the Australian state of Queensland which cover the period 1829-1964. Search through these records to discover when they died and their parents' names.

[familySearch.org](#) 600,000 names included in wills 1650-1858 are now indexed. Family historians can find names of executors, relatives and witnesses.



Indexes for all civil registers of births, marriages and deaths for ALL Ireland from 1864 – 1958 are available online at [familySearch.org](#)