

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

March 2017

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Next Meeting
 7 March 2017 - Tuesday
 Visit to Tapanui museum
 Bus leaving ISite center at 7pm

Why you should focus on your closest DNA matches

Autosomal DNA is passed to us from both of our parents, who got it from both of their parents, and so on - in our own genes we have sections of DNA from hundreds of our ancestors. But unless some of our known relatives have also tested, there's no way of knowing which parts of our DNA were inherited from which ancestor - and this has important implications when we try to figure out how we're connected to the people we've been matched with (our DNA cousins).

Someone who is a 1st cousin of yours will share one of your two sets of grandparents - so when it comes to identifying your common ancestors there are only two possibilities. And, in any case, you probably know all your 1st cousins, or would recognize their names (with the possible exception of a female cousin who had married).

When it comes to 2nd cousins there are four possible ways that you could be linked, because you have four pairs of great-grandparents. Again you'll recognize many of the names, or at least the surnames - though the chance that one of your cousins will bear the same surname as you is much smaller.

Let's jump ahead to 5th cousins - there will 32 possible ways that you are linked, because you have 32 pairs of great-great-great-grandparents. It's very unlikely you'll know any of your 5th cousins, and the chance that you'll even recognize their surname is minimal. And you might not know who all of your 4G grandparents were. (I only know half of mine).



On Saturday 10 February, 10 members travelled by mini bus to Dunedin, thanks go to our excellent driver, Rhonda Wilson We visited Toitu Otago Settlers

Museum where members accessed the brilliant free OASES data base, created by Bob Matthews. We attended the Mosgiel Genealogy meeting where Mary Wallace and her husband Dr Keith King presented an informative and excellent lecture on DNA. Did you know whitebait also have DNA!!! The large number of public present indicated the interest in this new source of research. Mary Wallace who works in genetics in the hospital emphasized DNA often listed unexpected fathers. This subject will be followed up in later meetings.



This photo is from Australia. It is thought they belong to families around Gore area. Can anyone recognize anyone in these photos? Please Contact Vicky 204 6873



How to figure out how you and your DNA cousins are connected

The chances of finding surnames we recognize in the trees of our DNA cousins are small - indeed, the surnames of your common ancestors may not appear in either your tree or that of your DNA cousin (the further back the connection, the more likely this is). What other options do we have in these circumstances?

People didn't move around as much in earlier centuries - so geography is likely to be a much better guide than surnames (which, on average, changed every other generation).

Even when people did move, they tended not to move far, at least until the Industrial Revolution took hold - so you're much more likely to find that your DNA cousins have the same places in their tree than the same surnames. Usually it won't be the same parish, but knowing that your cousin's ancestors and your own were (say) 20 miles apart in the 18th century strongly suggests where in your tree the common ancestor is likely to be found.

Note: you're fairly unlikely to find the same parish mentioned in both trees - for the simple reason that when we run into a 'brick wall' it's usually because we can't find our ancestor's baptism in the parish where they married (or their marriage in the parish where their children were baptized).

Of course, the common ancestor could be several generations back from your 'brick wall' ancestor, so even when you've found a geographical overlap you've still got research to do - but at least you've got a better idea where to look.

Another way to figure out how you're related to a DNA cousin is to look at the matches you share - if one of those shared matches is a known cousin of yours you can reasonably deduce that the DNA cousin comes from the same part of your tree. It's at times like these that distant cousins are very handy - because they share a smaller part of your tree, helping to pinpoint the connection with your mutual DNA cousin with a greater level of precision.

Thanks to Gail Riddell x FamNet

Ancestry.co.uk

Unusual databases available at Ancestry

[American Wills Proved in London, 1611-1775](#)

[Beddington, Surrey, England, Royal Female](#)

[Orphanage List of Children, 1890-1913](#)

[Birmingham, England, Calendar of Prisoners, 1880-1891 and 1906-1913](#)

[British Postal Service Appointment Books, 1737-1969](#)

[Burke's American Families with British Ancestry](#)

[Child Apprentices in America from Christ's Hospital, London, 1617-1778](#)

[Dictionary of National Biography](#)

[England and Wales, Death Index, 2007-2015](#)

[England, Criminal Lunatic Asylum Registers, 1820-1843](#)

[Gloucestershire, Hulbert Farm Day Books, 1894-1950](#)

[Happy Homes and How to Make Them](#)

[Ireland, Intelligence Profiles, 1914-1922](#)

[Medway, Kent, England, Poor Law Union Records, 1836-1937](#)

[Popular Errors Explained & Illustrated](#)

[Scotland, Names of Witches, 1658](#)

[UK, Licences of Parole for Female Convicts, 1853-1871, 1883-1887](#)

[UK, Police Gazettes, 1812-1902, 1921-1927](#)

[Y cwta cyfarwydd](#) please don't ask me what this is

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS Here are some of the

numerous databases that have been added recently:-

[Royal Hospital Chelsea Soldier Service Records 1740-1920 \(1,040,430 records\)](#)

- [Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioner Admissions & Discharges 1715-1925 \(919,874 records\)](#)

- [Royal Hospital Kilmainham Ireland Pensioner Discharge documents 1724-1924 \(104,636 records\)](#)

- [NSW Miscellaneous Records 1787-1976 \(150,694 records\)](#)

- [U.S. Presbyterian Church Records 1743-1970 \(768,616 records\)](#)

- [U.S. Life Saving Medals awarded 1876-1944](#)

- [New Jersey Death Index 1901-03](#)

- [New Jersey Marriage Index 1901-14](#)

- [New Jersey Birth Index 1901-03](#)

- [Oklahoma County Marriages 1890-1995](#)



Profile Margaret Allan

I am trying to find more details about my grandfathers

brother, Samuel ALLAN, born April 1881 at Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. (Now famous for the Falkirk Wheel). He was a coal miner. Elizabeth Tenant SNEDDEN whom he married was born 27 January in Old Monkland, and their marriage took place at Coatbirdige, Old Monkland 1 January 1906. Their first child William was born on 6 January 1907 at Muiravonside, Sirling, and Margaret arrived on 122 Aug 1908.

Their next two daughters: Isabella born 1912 and Christina were born 1914 were born in NZ. William started school at Kaitangata on 26 February 1912, With a gap of 4 years between the 1st and 2nd children, I wonder whether Samuel had taken off to NZ to check out work prospects?

Bruce Cavanagh searched Findmypast and found a miner aged 28, S. ALLAN who left London on board the Tongaririo. Is this the correct person/ After serving in WW1 as a Sapper with the NZ engineers tunneling co he returned to Kaitangata (1919 Electoral Roll)

The family left Kaitangata for Shag Point on 15 December where I presume Samuel had employment at the local mine. The girls returned to Kaitangata school for 3 months leaving on 1 May 1922 (for Australia although there is no destination on the APW register). I understand Newcastle was their destination.

Ancestry.com lists a Robert Clifford ALLAN as being born in Dunedin 8 April 1922. I think I have the right guy.

I have found a Samuel ALLAN with the correct parents dying in NSW but would love to know more about Elizabeth and the family in Australia, where they died and when. gore693r@gmail.com

RELICT: in a death notice or on a headstone indicates husband had predeceased the woman who has died. Ie Mrs J Sidebottom, relict of James Sidebottom. Frequently there was no given name printed for his wife!!!

GRO.GOV.UK

A birth index for England and Wales can be searched for no fee at the above website. This gives the maiden surnames of mothers (except for illegitimate births) for the period 1837-1916, in contrast to existing indexes which only give this information from 1911. The only drawbacks are that each period of searching has to be done in a maximum of 5 year blocks and that males and females have to be searched for separately. I have found this extremely useful for finding the births (and deaths) of children who were born and died in between censuses and were previously unknown (and in many cases they were never baptised). The death index gives ages in the early years where the existing indexes do not give an age at death, but be aware that in many cases the age stated to be in years may actually be in weeks or months in the case of infant deaths, which if under one year is usually stated as 0. There is no marriage index on this website. *Thanks to Riccarton Branch*

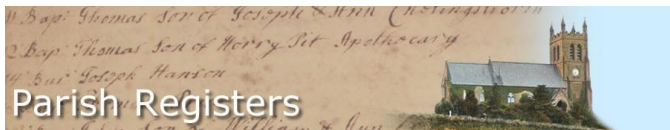
SCOTLANDS PEOPLE

Please note that searching is now free and covers the period to 2016 for BDMs and divorces. Very useful. I doubt this Check this out

Riccarton Branch NZSG Newsletter, February 2017, page 3



Family history is not a solo sport. No matter how good a researcher you are or as you think you are, you become blinkered by the very work you are doing. Somebody who is not involved in your particular research area and problem can put up some other possibilities. They may know of resources in New Zealand that you were unaware of. They may see the obvious mistake that may have happened. A dumb suggestion is better than no suggestion. Discussions with fellow researchers is highly recommended..



Parish Registers

With the proliferation of family history sites on the internet, genealogists and family historians in the 21st century have never had it so good.

But go back even two decades and wading through records, often in hardly legible hand and certainly with no indexes to take you straight to your Name. It was a long, laborious and painstaking task.

Thanks to Hutt Valley Branch.

UK Census and parish films obtained from the LDS Family history had to be ordered, then read when they arrived. Gore genealogists read them at Invercargill. All genealogists and family historians are indebted to the LDS church for filming as many as possible of these valuable and often fragile registers. For New Zealanders whose chances of having the finance and time for travelling to UK to research the parish records, they were wonderful. The indexed IGI fiche of this information was invaluable resource before family history sites such as Ancestry or Findmypast etc. were even thought of.

In 1990- 1992 dedicated Gore Branch Members and friends worked for months to transcribe and index the data for the unique and comprehensive data base now held on the computer at the Hokonui Heritage Center, Gore. Additional information is being added from newspaper transcriptions and family members. How I wish all my ancestors were on such a data base!

FINDMYPAST UPDATESThe following new databases were added in November:

- NZ Wars Officers and Men Killed 1860-1870
- NZ Military Pensions 1900-02 (i.e. Boer War)
- UK Campaign Gallantry & Long Service Medals and Awards
- Royal Navy Ships Muster Rolls 1739-1861
- Royal Naval Reserve 1899-1930 Service Cards
- Royal Navy & Royal Marines Service and Pension Records 1704-1919 (-1934)
- U.S. Marriages from 13 states, including Florida, Illinois, Ohio, etc.

Tasmania Wills

appears Wills etc in QLD are only archived to about 1940.

<http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/resources/family-history/wills>>

What is Dropbox? *By Ricky Bray*

The easiest way to describe Dropbox is like having a Disk Drive on your computer that you can access from just about anywhere around the world.

When you sign up for Dropbox you get allocated an amount of Hard Drive Space in the Cloud. You can then save any type of files you want to this drive and access them from Computers, Tablets and Smartphones from just about any location.

Dropbox is free for the basic user and this gives about 3GB of memory for you to store files in. You then have the option to purchase more memory or upgrade your account to get extra features.

What are the benefits of Dropbox?

- * The ability to access your files on multiple devices and multiple platforms.
- * The ability to access your files just about anywhere in the world.
- * The ability to share files or folders with others to save emailing large files.
- * The ability to backup important documents.
- * The ability to collaborate on documents.

What are the downsides of Dropbox?

- * If you only save to Dropbox and your internet goes down then you can't access your files.
- * Like any platform, if it can be hacked then people could access your files so you don't want to save sensitive information on there.

Is Dropbox unique?

At one stage it was the go to option for online storage and information sharing but now there are many companies out there that offer similar or the same service. You may not realise it but you may already have a service available depending on your email provider. For example if you have a Google, Microsoft or Apple account you have access to the same features through Google Drive, Microsoft's OneDrive or Apple's iCloud Drive. Facebook even offers a similar service for those wanting to share photos privately using their Moments app.

What is the Cloud?

I mentioned before about having an amount of Hard Drive Space in the Cloud. The term Cloud Computing confuses many and is misleading. When you save a file to "the Cloud" you are actually saving it to someone else's Hard Drive. This is normally a drive connected to a server that is running high end security software to stop people from accessing your files if they don't have your username and password. The thought of this can be scary but is no different than someone trying to access your information through your phone line or Wi-Fi connection. With the correct security 99.9% of people won't be able to get in.

Finally an example of how Dropbox can be used.

If you are reading this article then there is a good chance it was sent to you via email. Imagine instead of receiving a file which could be up to seven megabytes you received a link that took you to the latest issue that you could read online and download if you wanted to. No more waiting for the attachment to come through.

Thanks to Ricky Bray and Dunedin Family History