

GORE BRANCH
of the NZ SOCIETY
GENEALOGISTS
March 2008

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WEB SITE	www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsggb	
NZSG WEB SITE	www.genealogy.org.nz	

**New Zealand Certificates - Birth,
Death and Marriage**

As New Zealand was part of Australasia, very early births before 1848 may have been registered in Tasmania. This was the first convict settlement in Australia followed by NSW.

Registration of European marriages births and deaths commenced 1848 in NZ

Pre 1876 birth certificates had only the date, place of birth, child's name, parents names, maiden name of mother and father's occupation.

From January 1876 the age and birthplace of each parent, the date and place of the parent's marriage, and the signature of the informant are included.

From 1912 the sex and age of other living children, and the number and sex of any deceased children is also registered.
1913 - Registration of all stillbirths became compulsory

Marriage certificates prior to 1881 state the date, marriage place, names, ages, marital status and bridegrooms occupation

From January 1881 added details include the birth place and residence of the bride and groom, parents' names, mother's maiden name and fathers occupation. If either party was under 21 the name, address and signature of the father or guardian was required.

Death certificates prior to 1876 state only the date and place of death, usual residence, age, occupation and cause of death.

After January 1876 other details required included the birthplace of the deceased, parents names, fathers occupation, mothers maiden name, name of spouse, age when married, marriage place, sex and age of surviving children, place of burial, length of time in colony, minister or witness, and undertaker.

INDEXES

Annual indexes to the NZ births and deaths registered from 1848 –1990 and marriages

If a **birth entry has a handwritten number** with a vertical slash between it, it indicates either adoption or name change by deed poll. The last

From January 1881 added details include the birth place and residence of the bride and groom,

registered from 1855 – 1990, published on microfiche by the RGO and are held in the Hokonui Heritage centre. It is simply to use these fiche which are in chronological order.

Within each year entries are organized alphabetically, the names of males and females intermingling, and there are, on hand, volumes produced by the NZSG the District Keys to the NZ registration districts.



These district keys show where the births and deaths were registered, up to and including 1955. First time mothers often went home to their home town and mother, to have their first baby, and it would often be registered in that town. .

In the O'Connor family there were two sets of supposedly twins, but they were not twins at all But due to the penalty charge late registrations, the parents simply registered the new baby with the previous one.. This caused untold problems when she applied for the old age pension. The school records were the only proof she could provide.

Certificates are the base of good genealogy research and where ever possible it is well worth the expense of purchasing the main line, ie your parents, grandparents and if possible great grandparents.

Remember the most accurate certificate is normally the marriage certificate where the two main parties are both on site, you hope they are both sober, and sincerely hope they are telling the truth about the ages. Anyone under 21 years of age had to have their parents or a guardians consent, and it is often amazing just how many years a young girl could gain in one moment. They did not need to provide any proof of their ages, so if they were outside their own district they could adjust the truth very easily.

Birth certificates were subject to the vagaries of the informant. If the father had been in the pub for several hours his memory of where the mother was born may have vanished, and he simply made a guess. Scotland, England, Ireland was often used, which is almost useless. .. A child born late in the year may have his birth registered the following year due to farm work, or pressure of hay, Christmas etc..

digits after the slash relate to the particular year the original registration was made...

Marriages certificates

parents' names, mother's maiden name and father's occupation. If either party was under 21

the name, address and signature of the father or guardian was required.

NZSG has created a brilliant index of marriages from 1836 – 1956 and this CD is at the Hokonui Heritage Centre, and you can also purchase it.

After 1956 the spouses surname is listed next to the bride or groom.

If either, especially females appear to the age of 21, be wary. No birth cert was required for verification of their ages, and when they were 21, parental consent was no longer required for marriage. If you are looking for the birth remember to go back as far as 5 years or 6 years...

From 1855 females twelve and males fourteen and over could marry with parents consent.

In 1933 the ages were raised to 16, with parents consent, or if this was not obtainable the application was made to a magistrate.

Isla Bank (Calcium) Cemetery

Isla Bank is a farming community 15km southeast from Otautau, and 35km northeast of Invercargill. It was named by one of the early settlers, probably after the River Isla, a tributary of the river Tay, eastern Scotland.

The first burial was in 1881 and it is still currently used. Otahuti people are frequently buried this cemetery. This cemetery is situated farmland, and maintained beautifully by the district.

Tip for searching at the FreeBMD

website for the entries of births, marriages and deaths of relatives, etc.

This is particularly useful for identifying possible relatives with an unusual surname where it was used as a middle name, i.e. possibly the name of a mother or grandparent, etc.

If you enter nothing at all in the surname field but enter in the first name field a surname with a + sign in front of it, this produces entries in which the name was used either as a forename or a middle name. To give you an example.....

Entering just "Stockdill" in the first name field produces only ONE entry, for a child called Stockdill Middlebrook registered in 1896 at

Death certificates –

Information from 1876 includes; death date, place, name, occupation, gender, age, cause of death, parents name and maiden name of mother, occupation of father, when and where buried, where born, how long in NZ, marriage place and age at time of marriage, age of widow, ages and sex of LIVING children.

Remember the person with all the information has died, and the informant may not even know the basic information. They were also often under extreme stress.

Sometimes death fiche entries have details handwritten and a vertical slash runs through the unique number. This indicates a person who has gone missing during wartime and whose body has not been recovered.

SPOTLIGHT UPSTAIRS

- Electoral rolls are in numerical order & **please return to correct place**
- Number of new books on the new shelves. **Please return these to the same shelves**

Calcium Cemetery Trust
C/- Mrs E Milne
31 Isla Bank Flints Bush Road
Isla Bank
RD 3 Otautau 9683

Dewsbury.

But if I enter "+Stockdill" in the first name field, nothing in the surname field and choose All Types, this produces NINE other entries for births, marriages and deaths where Stockdill was given as a middle name.

Remember, it's important to put the plus sign before the name and the more unusual the surname the better the chance you have of finding the entries. Looking for people with Smith as a middle name will not be very helpful! (Rootsweb Mailing List)

Spotlight Upstairs

Several new books are in the shelves – please ensure they are returned to the correct spot. This also applies to all books.

Member Interests – Elizabeth O'Connell

My mother's families largely all arrived in Otago during the gold rush times while my My father's family arrived into the NI for for various reasons from 1840 onwards until 1930.

My Southland Family are RYAN sisters who married and settled in the area – Mary married Patrick FLANAGAN in 1869, Nora married Thomas MULVEY in 1873, Kate married Peter MALLON in 1882 and Hannah married John WALKER in 1884 and settled in Invercargill. The Flanagans and Mulveys were publicans in Gore and the Mallons were farmers at Chatton. The sisters were a sister to my g g/mother Anne Ryan who married Anthony O'CONNELL at Naseby in 1870.

My Earliest Arrivals were CAMERONS on board the 'Blenheim', which arrived into Wellington in 1840, leaving Scotland just *before* the Census of 1841 ... not very helpful! They settled in the Turakina Valley.

My Biggest Challenge is the hunt for my John SMITH in London.

A Favourite Resource is the 'Log of Logs' volumes which turned up the shipboard log and account of the voyage of one ancestor's journey to New Zealand.

My Most Unexpected Find from 'talking with the locals' was the home of my gg g/father in Tipperary, and a direct descendant of his brother (my third cousin once removed). Very amazing 'returning' to the place where my gg g/father played with his brothers and sisters before setting off for the other side of the world, never to see any of them again.

Other family names include LAMPEN, DOWLING, HANRAHAN, FENNESSY, TODD, MULHOLLAND, GODWIN, FREEMANTLE, BALMER, MCINTOSH, MCGREGOR & LAIRD.

Thank you Liz – an excellent method to present your family

<http://www.archives.govt.nz/doingresearch/researchinfo/refguides.php>

Teachers are listed by grade (Registration) or by Education Board and School (lists of teachers) in the New Zealand Gazettes and AJHR (Appendix to Journal of House of Representatives) up to the early 1930s. Lists are not indexed by name. Many large public libraries have old Gazettes and AJHR. Search in Archway Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters <http://mariners.records.nsw.gov.au> search 'shetland' and it brings up all ships and crew/passengers from Shetland.

<http://stat-acc-scot.edina.ac.uk/sas/sas.asp?action=public> Search your Scottish county/parish. Gives an idea of the parish in 1791-1799 and/or 1834-1845

at <http://www.kaelewis.com/> which "Includes a data of 20,000 gold miners who were mining for gold in New Zealand between Aug 1861 and Dec 1868"

Inward Passenger Lists to Victoria on line.

http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search.asp?searchid=23 Many single men followed the gold rush to Oz then crossed the ditch subsequently. The second leg is also on line under Victoria Outwards to NZ.

http://proarchives.imagineering.com.au/index_search.asp?searchid=42

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> indexes to Scottish births and deaths are now available up to 2006 on Scotland's People. Marriages will be available shortly.

<http://irelandgenealogyprojects.rootsweb.co/> Irish research



Next Meeting - Hokonui Heritage Centre, 8pm 1st April - History of the Day - Fun night

