

GORE BRANCH
of the NZ SOCIETY
GENEALOGISTS
June 2008



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BULLETIN	Avis McDonald	2086 812
WEBMASTER	Alan Taylor	2089 053
WEB SITE	www.rootsweb.com/~nzlsggb	
NZSG WEB SITE	www.genealogy.org.nz	

May Meeting

What a talented scrap booker we have in our midst. Maria Hurrel's expertise and enthusiasm in scrap booking was plain to see at our last meeting. Maria's interest in photography began very early in her life and has continued with her snapping approximately 2000 photographs annually, though that's not necessarily the number of photos she has printed. Subjects range from family and farm life to dog trials. Heritage albums have not been attempted yet due to family commitments. She uses the Photoshop Elements program to "tweak" and crop the photos and then has them printed locally. She design her own labels and has them printed as photos as well. Letters and other memorabilia are treated the same way. Children's projects have been photographed so they can be recorded easily in the layouts. Her layouts were simple and uncluttered and will be admired for years to come. Maria had a special book printed detailing her family in 2007. She had the program downloaded from the printing company, arranged the photos and layout, and then the book was printed.

We were reminded of the importance of making copies of our valuable digital photo, the best safeguard being to have the photos printed. Maria has hers saved to an external hard drive that she stores in the boot of her car, plus copies on CDs at her Mum's house in Invercargill. Are your photo's saved to another CD? 700 mb can fit on one CD.

Maria thanks for sharing your beautiful albums and mini theme albums. You provided us with inspiration and an idea to look at every day life for photos. I photographed fallen leaves, bare branches, rosehips and toadstools the following week with the idea of including them in an album on my Dad.

Thanks to Jill Youngson for this report

The Chosen Ones

Could Liz please have your interests early next month
Thank you to all who have responded to my plea for help
Bruce Cavanagh
Avis Smith
Margaret Sutherland

When I was in Auckland a volunteer showed a member how to find the 'WW1 burnt records'. This is only for UK soldiers but it was a real goldmine for my Finlayson family. Denis and his younger brother Bernard died in France, aged 20 and 18, but only Denis's records of 38 pages was there. This included attestation papers, how tall and heavy he was, his chest measurement was, his occupation, any scars he had, plus what medals he was awarded, and the letters to his father. Use search and identify the country, then look for new listings under military. It was fascinating to read it all. Do look, you may have a similar goldmine.

Please note

Ancestry.com is available free in the Invercargill Public library, but you will have to do all the searching without Bruce to guide you.

Hints for Census

Census Enumerator Instructions (IPUMS)

usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumlnstr.shtml

Census enumerators were given very specific instructions when it came to recording the answers your ancestors gave. Reading these instructions can be very helpful in more fully understanding the records. This site includes the original instructions for the years 1850-1950.

Census Abbreviations

www.searchforancestors.com/records/censusabbreviations.html

Have you ever found a census record written by a guy who clearly had writers' cramp? Beyond really messy handwriting, you may find that enumerators used confusing abbreviations. This website will help you sort out some of the more common abbreviations you'll find.

Census Dates

Many members are searching on ancestry.com for Ancestors. If you find a child aged 1 day or 1month listed this table will identify their age.

We did find a Catholic baptism at Sydney in 1856 for an Alice DAVIS & parents noted as Samuel & Eliza so this is probably the right people. However they seem to have disappeared off the face of the earth and we haven't as yet been able to find either their marriage or respective deaths either at Goulburn or Melbourne.

Family lore has suggested that Alice was possibly Jewish and that there was a family rift because Alice married and that she was 'cut off' from the family. Although in saying that we haven't as yet found any other siblings. However like most family legends there is usually an element of truth attached and the photos we have of Alice seems to show a hint of something that could perhaps be described as an olive complexion.

One of my best finds – Was finding that my 3xGt. Grandmother Margaret BEATTIE (nee THOMSON) came to NZ on the *Mooltan* along with Mary BEATTIE and landed at Dunedin on 26th December 1849. Mary was aged 13 years and had been described as either being her niece or daughter. Margaret BEATTIE died at Dunedin in 1867 and we eventually located her Will at the Dunedin High Court and paid the then price of \$35 for a copy of this which showed that Mary, who had by this time married James DUNCAN a fellow *Mooltan* passenger, was in fact a granddaughter and one of a number of grandchildren who were the main beneficiaries.

Unfortunately we haven't as yet found out who Mary's parents were and when we got her supposed death certificate for 1887 it was found that this was for her mother-in-law who was also called Mary DUNCAN and who had also died at Dunedin the same year. After checking all known avenues it appears that no actual death certificate exists even though her death as a result of an accident was reported in the newspapers. Maybe some confusion at the NZRGO in Wellington and one of those many cases whereby we really need to sight the details in the local registers.

My biggest thrill – Having gone to the 150th Anniversary celebrations at Dunedin in 1999. There we met up with descendants of other passengers that had arrived on the *Mooltan* 150 years earlier. Whilst we did meet up with some descendants of the DUNCAN family it was during the dinner that a chance remark to a couple of descendants of Dr. PURDIE who was sitting at our table. They had also done some family research said that one of a number of passengers to die of cholera on the voyage was also a daughter of Margaret BEATTIE.

A later check of the John MACGIBBON's book "Going Abroad" and also at the Hocken Library to read part of passenger PILLAN's diary it was discovered that Jane PROUDFOOT who died was indeed another daughter of the late Walter BEATTE & his widow Margaret THOMSON.

It appears that Jane (or Jean) BEATTIE had married John PROUDFOOT in 1845 and they had two children and were to come to Dunedin in 1849. However with some sickness in the family and there being another child on the way John had left earlier to get things ready for their arrival and he arrived at Dunedin on the *Larkins* on 11th September 1849. What he didn't know of course was that not only had his wife Jane died on the 6th October but also that their two children had died in Glasgow of cholera just before the *Mooltan* left.

Also on the same voyage to NZ of the *Larkins* was Margaret BEATTIE who it turns out was an elder sister of Jane and thus sister-in-law to John PROUDFOOT.

Margaret was unmarried at that time of the voyage which had carried onto Wellington after leaving Dunedin. In November 1849 she married a seaman called Peter Heywood THOMSON and sometime around 1858 the THOMSON family moved to Port Chalmers and their 5 children married into the LEAN, FLETCHER, MOIR, MACDONALD & NEALE families.

What may you ask has this all got to do with the story – Well it was another member of the Walter & Margaret BEATTIE family, namely Janet Irvine BEATTIE who married James MCMURTRIE and their only daughter Jane Beattie MCMURTRIE married Alexander LECK at Port Chalmers on 4 May 1877. They produced the beginning of the LECK family in NZ, namely my Grandfather William Rowan Nimmo Parker LECK who was born at Port Chalmers on 21 November 1881. Unfortunately a few weeks later Jane died on the 18th December as a result of birth complications.

Other family names I am researching are all from Scotland and mainly come from Galston & Loudoun in Ayrshire, Hamilton, Stonehouse & Glasgow in Lanarkshire & Caithness - WELSH, CALDWELL, MILLAR, ROBERTSON, YOUNG, WILSON, MUTER, MACDONALD, RUSSELL, FRAME, TUDHOPE, BELL, WEIR, COCKBURN, CRAIG, MCCLANACHAN, MILLER, LAWSON, MASON, GUTHRIE, DONALD, TAYLOR, PATERSON, JAMIESON, CAMPBELL, JACK, SUTHERLAND, BAIN, CUMMING.

Next Meeting 1 July 2008 – 8pm
Hokonui Heritage Center
Birthday celebrations...
Do come and join the fun and frivolity-