



GORE BRANCH of the NZ SOCIETY of GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER - October 2008

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NEXT MEETING Tuesday 4 November 2008; 7pm.
Hokonui Heritage Centre,
Norfolk Street, Gore

Research Night – Share Your Brick Wall

September Meeting Report: The meeting went through the NZSG Council's Planning Survey. These are to be used for their Strategic Planning Meeting. Rosalie McLean spoke about the Wyn Hamilton Award, which is an essay competition. The 750-100 word essay is to be inspired by a photo taken pre 1950 that has significance to Eastern Southland. The essay is due before 1 November.

REMINDER : Subs now due for the six months 1 Oct – 31 Mar 2009. A bargain at \$5 if paid before Christmas!

Be Wary – Check All Sources!

I have found what I consider as "mistakes", date in paper, headstone are both different and also different to what was on the death certificate. We must also remember that transcribers can make mistakes, and/or some of the records are old and not always the easiest to read. If you find what you consider is a mistake most of the cemetery data base holders will correct them if you can prove the correct information, e.g. have the date from a death certificate.

My recent experience, collating burial records with headstone inscriptions in a large cemetery, is that errors were extremely common, but less common in more recent times. Not only dates, but spellings and particularly ages are wrong. Age sometimes differs by as much as 10 years between headstone and burial record. Maybe one member of the family instructed the undertaker, while a different person gave details to the stone mason. Or perhaps the stonemason couldn't read his own writing??

As genealogists we can only record the differences we find, we cannot brand one version as "correct." The staff at the RG office are not immune to error either. I have seen a certificate indicating cremation occurred the day before he died!

I believe, and I hope this is correct, that database holders do not alter their record when provided with evidence of error, they merely record this new version of the fact. The original version should still be there in behind, but obviously only one version can show in the on-line database.

I do find newspaper notices useful, because the date of publication will be correct. Thus the person is very unlikely to still be alive after the date when the death notice appeared in a paper! Be careful though for adverts that are copied from paper or issue to issue and use the word 'yesterday' rather than the date of death.

(Rootsweb Mailing List - apologies to the author - name missed in transcribing)

Start Today - Take fifteen minutes today to begin your family history spring cleaning. Taken in bite-sized pieces each day, you'll find that you can really make strides, even in the space of just one week. Not only will you be helping to secure all of your hard word for the future, you'll find that by clearing out some of the clutter, you can be more productive.

More Tips for Handling Water Damaged Photographs

Try to get flood-damaged photos within two days or they will begin to mould or stick together, making saving them much more unlikely.

Begin with photographs for which there are no negatives, or for which the negatives are also water damaged.

Photos in frames need to be saved when they are still soaking wet, otherwise the photo surface will stick to the glass as it dries and you will not be able to separate them without damaging the photo emulsion. To remove a wet photo from a picture frame, keep the glass and photo together. Holding both, rinse with clear flowing water, using the waster stream to gently separate the photo from the glass.

Some historical photographs are very sensitive to water damage and may not be recoverable. Older photographs should also not be frozen without first consulting a professional conservator.

http://genealogy.about.com/od/photos/a/water_damage.htm

In June the Kapiti Branch had archivist Ken Scadden described what it was like traveling to New Zealand by ship in the 19th Century. With fascinating examples, he told about the dangers they faced. These included collisions with 50-mile long icebergs in the Southern Ocean, fires on board ship miles from land, storms at sea that swept away people, livestock and parts of the ship, collisions with other ships in the busy English Channel and the spread of disease, which was fatal to many children. Often, emigrants hadn't seen the sea before, let alone sailed on it, so it was hard for them to know how much to worry when the hatches were battened down and they were left in the dark (candles prohibited during storms for fear of fire) in the turbulent seas, while others were seasick around them. As the person thanking the speaker noted, those who listened won't complain about the discomforts of air travel ever again. *Kapiti Newsletter*

"To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without a root."
Chinese Proverb.

Filling Out Your Pedigree Tree - Place Names:

Write placenames in the following order: Town, Province, Country e.g. Waikaka, Southland, New Zealand. Include the same details with a cemetery name, as there may be more than one 'Northern Cemetery' in New Zealand.

The IGI Golden Rule (www.familysearch.org)

While the LDS's IGI (International Genealogical Index) is a valuable resource, it is a secondary source and not a primary one. It is, as its name implies, an index to the original records and not those records themselves. It should, therefore, be used strictly as a guide to where to locate the originals.

Importantly too, the IGI falls into two distinct parts - records obtained from a controlled extraction programme from parish registers and Bishop's transcript; and private submissions from individual church members, some quite inaccurate. Checking out the batch numbers of the identified record will provide you with the source and likely credibility of your record.

Do remember that the IGI is far from complete and is being added to continually.

Always check the original record - to confirm the accuracy of the IGI extraction; and because parish registers sometimes contain extra information.

A Practical Research Tip

Researching ancestors who died in WWI: I purchased their Military files from National Archives, about \$20.00 each, then after sorting through their files I ordered, through the National Library interloan service, copies of the books that have been written about the NZ Brigades / Regiments that served in WW1. There are many books available.

In my case I obtained "The Official History of the NZ Rifle Brigade by W S Austin" and "The History of the Canterbury Regiment, NZEF" by David Ferguson.

By reading these very detailed books and comparing dates etc from the files I have been able to recreate much of the story of where both my men fought and died. They were brothers serving in different Units and fighting in different battles but were both wounded on the same day in 1916. One died and the other survived to fight for a further year before being killed in action.

Their files also recorded the troopships they travelled on and with the help of others on this (NZ Rootsweb) list I have been able to obtain photos and other details of these ships.

I have also been able to obtain photos of their headstones from France and Belgium through the CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission website) so am happy that my story of these men's experiences is complete.

Just thought I would share my story and hope it helps others to research their families war heroes.

Regards
Allan
sunny Queenstown (posted to the NZ Rootsweb Mailing List).

Remember - for colonial troops to get the New Zealand War Medal they had to prove they had been under enemy fire.

**Bones & Skeletons - Enigma Wrapped in Mystery
By Bruce Cavanagh**

Family - That six letter word that binds ancestors and descendants alike together Final Part

I have had a little more success with my birth mother's family, with the majority of her paternal side also having origins in England and on her maternal side from both Scotland and Ireland.

I have traced the KENNARD (also known as KENWARD) family back to the 1680's to Aylesford in Kent and where my 6x gt. grandfather Thomas KENWARD was married to Mary BOWLE in 1703.

My 5x gt. Parents were John KENWARD & Mary FULLER who were married at Maidstone in 1727.

A number of other 'family members' are also researching this family and if they are correct with their discoveries then it's possible that we can track this family back through the interweaving connections (as you do) for a few hundred years or so via FULLER, GAINSFORD, HAUTE (HAWTE), TYRELL, MARNEY, SERGEAUX, FITZALLAN. DE SPENCER, DE CLARE & PLANTAGENET. If this is indeed correct then it would appear that my 21st gt. grandmother was Joan of Acre, daughter of Edward 1st and consequently her 5x gt grandfather was William the Conqueror.

I told you I 'was special'. Seriously though whilst it is interesting it is also fraught with the usual dangers of providing absolute proof and I must confess that I find that my many 'Ag lab' ancestors are more interesting. In saying that I have managed to trace a few maternal families back to the mid 1500's and my most interesting find to date being a marriage at Pluckley in 1615 of my 10x gt. grandparents Thomas ADGORE and Mildred MARRIS. In the Bishops Transcripts the Curate had written quite a spiel to the Bishop lamenting the cost to the poor for their marriage licence & quoting scripture to reinforce his point.

It appears that Mildred was a widow and 'with child' and that Thomas ADGORE poor as he was, was taking on responsibility for caring for her and the unborn child so the Churchwardens paid the licence fee.

Other mainly Kent and a few Surrey families connected on my mother's KENNARD side of the family includes: BATCHELOR, BEECHING, BOOKMASTER, BOWES, BURTON, BUTLER, CACOT (CAKETT), CARRIER (CARYER), CHAMPION, CHEESMAN, CROWHURST, DANE, DAY, DEAN, GILBERT, GRAHAM, GROVE, KING, MARCHANT, MESSENGER, NEWMAN, PHILLIPS, PINK, RAN, RANSOM, READ, SANDES, SPICE, SMITH, STORY, TERRY, WARD, WEDD, WENHAM, WILLIAMS.

On my mother's maternal side her mother was Alice Maude GLOVER and this family through her father William George GLOVER has its origins in and around Edinburgh and Lasswade.

Other connecting families also around Midlothian includes: BORTHWICK, SLYMAND (SLYMOND), MERCER, BIZET, SMITH and CLELAND.

My gt. Grandfather William George GLOVER was married to Agnes MCNATTY and whilst the MCNATTY family come from Girvan in Ayrshire the name has its origins in Ireland somewhere in Co. Down. After perusing census, parish and civil registration records it seems that most if not all of the other family ancestral connections to the MCNATTY family with so called Scot's names like MORRISON, WATSON, WELSHMAN, GORDON and INNES, appear to also come from Ireland.

My biggest challenges therefore are these particular families which are currently providing me with a really large 'brick wall'. However I have plenty to go on with as I am also researching my daughter-in-laws families as well and with their families coming from all over England and Scotland, life isn't boring. ●