

Gore Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

April 2009 Newsletter

Next Meeting 8pm 5 May 2009 at 8pm
Hokonui Heritage Centre, Norfolk Street, Gore

Annual Meeting - Suggestions for speakers for the next year welcome.

March Meeting notes

Brick walls and problems were described by all present at the last meeting. The wide diversity of the queries was amazing. Thank you to all for sharing with us.

1911 Census. England and Wales – not Scotland. After the first 24 hours, there had been 3.4 million searches on the 1911 Census website, with out any problems. However many people have concerns about the costs of viewing records. Findmypast has promised fixed fee subscription later this year.

Some money saving tips for Genealogists :

Ask relatives if they have any BDM certificates you can photocopy. Remember to return them.

NZSG members should check the Certificates collection. Contact person is listed in the back of the Genealogist magazine. Members have contributed copies of their certificates. It is invaluable and costs nothing.

Plan ahead before going to any repository and this includes the Hokonui Research Centre.

Pack a lunch if going to a repository away from home. Cafes are often expensive, and not conveniently placed.

The brain needs food, so do eat, and even place a barley sugars in your pocket to boost the sugar level when the concentration flags.

Oyster up

If you are lucky and going to London the cheapest way to get around the tube underground, buses and trams is to purchase an oyster card. Costs 3 pound and rides are half the normal price. See www.tf.gov.uk/oyster

Scotland wha hae

This year marks the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns, and there is a 'year of homecoming' with events available around Scotland.

Scotlands BDM's exchange now holds 6940 records which include 1872 banns, 6875 baptisms, 2391 births, 409 burials, 20615 deaths and 18321 marriages.

<http://www.sctbdm.com>

Next year (2010) there will be a Shetland Island 'Hamefarin' and interested members can register at <http://www.shetlandhamefarin> to receive updates of what is planned. My parents went home to Shetland for the 1960 Hamefarin and loved every moment. Shetland's main island, named 'Mainland' is only 80 miles long and the sea is no further than 2 ½ miles from any point. Because of the cold winter gales, most settlements are situated down in valleys, and large trees are very uncommon. A tax was implemented when the North Sea oil was being processed at Sulom Voe at the top of the Mainland. This resulted in new tar sealed roads into all the farm houses doors. However there are still some very narrow roads, with white lines painted on the edges, and frequent passing bays. A flick of the headlights is used to indicate the driver will pull over, allowing the on coming motorist to proceed and a thank you wave is almost mandatory. Air flights from Aberdeen to Shetland are expensive but there is also an overnight ferry.

British directories online

www.ancestry.co.uk . Records of the UK city and County directories 1677-1946 with almost 300 years of records covers the major cities and all of Britain's historic counties. There are 7.8 tradesmen, businesses and individuals, as well as descriptions of the villages. An 1825 introduction to the Isle of May, for example describes Manx people as "civil to strangers, addicted to petty quarrels, consequent on their love of liquor, rather overreaching in their transactions, and unfortunately addicted to litigation!". Because it spans most of UK, almost everyone will be able to discover something of relevance

If a NZ'er married overseas in WW1:

- * the marriage will not appear in the NZ marriages index
- * the marriage will be on the FreeBMD site (or equivalent)
- * marriage details (date, place, spouse name) are also in the person's WW1 personnel file at Archives NZ <http://archway.archives.govt.nz/> these files must be viewed in person in Wellington or purchased
- * the wife's (& children) trip to NZ appears on the FindMyPast.com passenger lists.

Overseas wives (& children) often travelled to NZ on the same troopship as their husbands after the War. One such mixed troop/family voyage was the Ruahine (departed England in May 1919). Ruahine landed all passengers (troops & family) in Wellington - but FindMyPast helpfully shows the family members booked through to their final NZ destination. Troops themselves are NOT on FindMyPast but the Auckland Museum Cenotaph database often gives name/date of ship on which the serviceman returned to NZ - so you can "match up" a couple's travel. Check the Auckland Museum Cenotaph database:
<http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/?t=130>

Cumberland snippets.

'Eskdale' means sheep farming land, and a 'stint' was numerical limit placed on the size of a pasture. The word is mainly used in Lakeland sheep farming.

A **yeoman farmer** in Cumberland held his land by customary tenure from the lord of the manor, meaning they could pass their estate to their next of kin at death.

The Parish Chest - every parish had to invest in a secure chest to keep the records safe and these included baptism, marriage and burial registers.

Easter

The egg has long been associated with Christian celebration of Easter signifying new life. Brothers John & Richard Cadbury first sold chocolate eggs in 1875

The Eiffel Tower was inaugurated on 31 March 1889. It was officially opened to the public on 6 May and since then over 200 million people have visited it. The views are amazing on a clear day.

Irish Easter Uprising -

This was an attempt of Irish rebels to forcibly create an independent republic while the British Government was busy with World War I. Ireland had been a member of the United Kingdom since 1801. Although the Rising failed, it resulted in the country being permanently divided in 1921.

In 1848 there was a devastating potato crop, which was the food of the poor. Surplus grain and livestock was being exported under armed military escort. As agriculture prices crashed in 1878 and during 1879 to 1882 thousands of destitute tenants were ruthlessly evicted from their homes and the dwellings were burnt. Thousands of people emigrated to USA. Court martial's for the rebels of the Easter began on 2 May 1916, with the first of 15 executions carried out by 12 May.

Useful Websites

Scotland – North Highland Archive – Wick Library, Wick
north.highlandarchive@highland.gov.uk

Highland council Archives, Inverness archives@highland.gov.uk

Orkney Islands, Library and Archive, Kirkwall. www.orkenylibrary.org.uk/html/contact.htm

Midlothian, Edinburgh city Archives. Scottish Borders Heritage Hub
www.scotsborders.gov.uk/council/specialinterest/heartofhawick

Shetland Islands - This site concentrates on persons who were either born, married or died in Shetland, along with their descendants. This database is a compilation of information that has been provided from many different sources. <http://bayanne.info/Shetland/>