



GORE BRANCH of the NZ SOCIETY of GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER – July 2009

CONVENOR	Carole Perwick	2038 548
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WEB SITE	www.rootsweb.com/~nzsggb	
NZSG WEB SITE	www.genealogy.org.nz	

COMING UP

July Meeting - Tuesday 7 July 2009; 7pm.

Tom McCord – Mataura History

August Meeting - Tuesday 4 August 2009, 7pm

Colleen Whitefield – Scrapbooking

Venue - Hokonui Heritage Centre, Norfolk Street, Gore

REMINDER : Last night for Subs on Tuesday to qualify for the discount!
Subs are for the 12 months 1 April – 31 March 2010.

June Meeting - Alwyn had us in groups of four, thinking hard, as we tried to remember some of the 35 place names in Southland ending in "bush" ! Many were in the Western Southland area and around the Invercargill area. The best result was 15 so we all went home to brush up on our Southland geography.

NZSG News: Gale Newspapers

NZSG Council has decided to renew the subscription to this wonderful resource for another year.

If you've paid your NZSG subscription why not make full use of your member privileges. To search a wide range of UK and American newspapers free of charge go to – NZSG website, log in, Members Area, Online Newspapers which is the next to last item on the drop down menu. It's amazing what you can find. I discovered a wedding of one of my family. There was a photo plus a list of all the guests and their gifts to the happy couple. Here I discovered previously unknown members of the extended family and had a great time working out how each one fitted on to my tree.
(Brenda Joyce, KIT May 2009)

Madden Collection, FRC library

Late last year NZSG was given the opportunity to purchase books left in the will of an Auckland genealogist. Twelve hundred rare and out of print books were finally purchased and sufficient shelving installed. The Madden collection has now been catalogued and can be searched in the library catalogue on line. Most of the books are reference only but the research team at the FRC will do look-ups on request.

Don't just document your successes but your failures, too. Pointing out dead ends will help prevent future family genealogists from making the same mistake and could even remind you of leads you followed that went nowhere.

DOES YOUR ANCESTOR APPEAR TWICE ON THE CENSUS?

It's unusual, but not unheard of, for somebody to be recorded twice on the same census. Most usually it's a child who is staying with relatives on census night, but is also recorded as being at home - but there are many other circumstances that can lead to unintentional duplication. In the US a whole month was allowed for census taking, and as a result duplications are rather more common. ([Lost Cousins.com newsletter](#))

Plan Your Research ([from fileyourpapers.com](#))

1. Set a goal
2. decide which source to use
3. locate that source
4. search that source
5. copy the information (record your source!)
6. evaluate the information
7. use the results
8. organize and reorganize.

Look at Angles for Faint Writing

I have had a set of photos of my "Great-great-great" relatives for over five years. I did not know who they were. There appeared to be nothing on the back or the front identifying them. Last weekend I was going through some old papers and these 1880s photos slipped out of the cover I stored them in. By a trick of the angle of light I saw on the back of one "Great-Grandmother Cashel, Grandmother Cashel and a Great-Aunt" written very faintly in pencil by my father's sister, Aunt Doris. I looked at the backs of the three other photos at the same angle to the light and lo and behold - there were the names of those people! The lesson here is, do not always look at photos straight on. Try various angles of light; you may be surprised and delighted (as I was) by what you find.
(Pat Almond)

Family Reunion Photo Pre-Identified

At your next family reunion, before you take a group photo give each person an A4 piece of stiff white paper. Each paper is numbered with a large black number from 1 to whatever number of people there are present. Have each member write their full name, address, phone, email, and which branch/part of the family they are related to. Arrange everyone for the photo with everyone holding their number just under their face. Make sure the photographer can clearly see each number. Take a shot. Then have everyone lower their number and take another shot in the same position. Afterward, you can easily match up faces with names and you have the information for a master list of all who attended the reunion. *(Janet Wolf)*

From Papers Past:
Otago Witness, 17 March 1898, Page 56

THE FIRST DECADE OF THE GOLDFIELDS. Banks and Bankers are so indissolubly connected with and goldfields towns of the first decade of the gold era of Otago, that this record would be incomplete were they not allotted a chapter all to themselves. Next to the hero of the most recent find, who so important as the local bank manager and gold-buyer, who exchanged crisp notes or bright sovereigns for the gold no less bright or valuable, but not quite so practicable as a means of exchange as the current coin of the realm? The notes of goldfields banks and bankers and the early goldfields towns which follow [*Waikaia only*] are from the pen of a respected member of the craft who was in the hurly-burly from the beginning, but who is still vigorous enough to successfully manage one of the most important branches of his bank outside of Dunedin: Stephenson, and McAllister. Mr. Douglas had graduated at Ballarat and Creswick's Creek in the early fifties. He resigned his Dunedin appointment in 1864 to accept a lucrative and important position in a London bank.

Switzers, now called Waikaia, 97 miles from Dunedin. - This was a small diggings. About 1867 this diggings was at its best, and every miner was doing fairly well. The gold has a special appearance, and has a shape uncommonly like bran in nice flakey sections. Possibly in the near future, if worked systematically by elevators, dredges, and other modern appliances, much of the old glory of Switzers may return. •

Gore Museum News – David Luoni is here at the moment cataloguing the fishing equipment and as a result he has had a couple of tables full of things he is sorting through. Please be patient while he sorts through this material and come in to check out this new exhibition soon!

Don't Give Up!

Keep in mind that every single one of your ancestors had two parents, one male, one female. Yes, you'll begin to wonder if there are outer-space aliens in your lineage (there probably are) when you simply cannot move backward on some family or another. Don't give up; switch your focus to another family and hone your research skills, then come back to the problem line later on.

When you trace your folks back to a foreign country, the records will be different but the process is the same.

Your folks didn't exist in a vacuum—keep them with the people they were kin to and associated with. You'll find they were part of networks of social acquaintances, religious brethren, business contacts, military comrades-in-arms, extended family, in-laws, neighbours, and, of course, family members. Use those people to help you find your folks.

Keep your family in historical context. Not only did the people around them impact their lives, so did political events and social trends. Read history. *(arkansasresearch.com)*

PAPERS PAST: The website has achieved one of its biggest milestones to date: all newspapers are now fully searchable. This includes the Southland Times and The Ensign.

More newspaper titles from across the country are also available, including increased coverage of the Canterbury region with the Ashburton Guardian, Ellesmere Guardian and the Oxford Observer and Canterbury Democrat.

Other additions include the NZ Truth, Otautau Standard and Wallace County Chronicle (1905 – 1932), Victoria Times, and Kai Tiaki, the journal of the NZ Nurses' Organisation.

The overall date range for newspapers in Papers Past has increased too and now covers 1839 to 1932.

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

MIDDLE NAMES are an invaluable resource for finding clues to family relationships.

Strangely I have seen very little written about their use as research pointers in any of the literature, nor have I seen this issue discussed much on the mailing lists. I have not seen any middle name indexes or search tools available anywhere either.

BUT - often a person's middle name is the same as the maiden name of their mother or a grandmother or reflects some other familial connection (maybe the name of a patron or benefactor or the ship the family emigrated on).

It may also be the father's surname for births occurring out of wedlock. It seems obvious to me, therefore, that they have significant value in genealogical and family history research.

(Hugh Wallis)