

Gore Branch of New Zealand of Genealogists March 2011

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Next Meeting
1 March 2011 - 8 pm
Research Night and
Computers demonstration
and findmypast
Hostesses - Rosalie McLean
& Pauline Solomon.

February 2011

The horrific earthquake in Christchurch is in everyone's minds and our thoughts go out to all people. Everyone has been touched in some way with relations, friends living in the area.

Branch News

There were many people interested in their genealogy at the Crank Up Day. The display was delightful, informative and attracted many compliments. Thanks to Rosalie McLean for her wonderful ideas and skills for the display in the Library window display. Our thanks also go to Judy Pulley for creating the poster for the Open Day, and distribution around town of the same.

Remember the Open Day

Hokonui Heritage Center

- 6 March 2011 1 - 4pm...

A large number of members were present to hear Heather Bray speak at the February meeting. Some of the suggestions for missing ancestors included: Shipping lists look for them departing UK and arriving in NZ Name changes occurred due to crime, pregnancy, with another female or wife, or family arguments. People were not allowed to emigrate to Australia over the age of 45. Baptisms certificates were forged in London to allow them to emigrate. Wairoa Army museum for Army photo postcards, Archway archives (NZ) - for bankruptcy records, divorces, Military records and probates, Juror rolls, Naturalization records, children made wards of Court, industrial schools records 1886 - 1887 in Dunedin. Papers past. ONI 1877 -1989 is at <http://marvin.otago>
Hocken has electoral rolls & directories pre England, Ireland and Scotland children in Industrial, Reformatory schools, Day Industrial and Truant schools in 1861 - 1871 are not included in Census. Paupers NEVER had a headstone. Only 50% of births & deaths in workhouses were registered in 1875. Work house residents and those in lunatic asylums had no vote until 1918 in UK

Subs - are due at the end of March. Newsletters will be emailed, however any member wishing to have them mailed should contact Barbara ph 203 8910

NZSG AGM and Conference -

Dunedin, 3-6 June 2011

You still have time to register for the early bird reduction. Do consider attending some if not all of the programme.

Members Interest: Mary-Kay Martyn

My interest in genealogy stems from hearing my paternal grandmother (a past member of NZSG) discuss her latest enquiries, findings, and connections on the Martyn Family Tree.

In conjunction with her eldest son, I am updating the tree.

My Fathers descendants - The **MARTYN** Family - originate from Stenalees, Cornwall and emigrated, and settled in Oamaru, as business owners.

Other lines of this family include: Jackson, Adams, and Watson.

My Mothers descendants - The **SARGENT** Family - originate from Morval, Cornwall, emigrated, settled in South Canterbury, as Sheep Farmers.

Other lines of this family include: Russell, Gillman, and Sanders.

As I had little information on my Mothers family, I have focused my research here.

My Brick Wall -

I am struggling to find information about my mother's great-great grandfather -

John James Burrows BAIRD.

Born: 23 Sept 1838, Watts Place, Chatham, Kent, England.

Married: Maraea **LEE**, 23 May 1873 by Bishop Selwyn

Died: 23 Oct 1915, Otautau Buried: Otautau (New) Cemetery, Block CI, Plot 2.

John and "Maria" had 13 children.

I would like to find:

- **Shipping Records**
- **Free UK Census Records**
- **John's parents and siblings**

Any suggestions?

Boer (South African War – did you know?

During the Boer (South African) War, over a thousand New Zealanders went to South Africa and joined local South African units there, some because they were not chosen for the N Z contingents. There were c4000 volunteers for 1000 places in the Eighth New Zealand Contingent, and although some of them subsequently joined the Ninth or Tenth Contingents, some frustrated volunteers went to South Africa and joined up there.

NZ electoral rolls are now on Ancestry.com.au, and even better is the fact that the index is searchable without a subscription. So we can find the electorates where a person was living, then go to the library fiche to get the full address and occupation.

No privacy issues apparently, as the lists continue through to 1981. Very useful to narrow down the date of a marriage by looking for the first appearance of a woman under her married name.

The Society of Genealogists in London and leading family history website findmypast.co.uk have published a further five record sets from the Society's collection online.

Family historians will now be able to search for their ancestors in the

- **Apprentices of Great Britain**
- **Boyd's Inhabitants of London**
- **Boyd's Family Units**
- **Teachers' Registration Council Registers and Trinity House Calendars**

Go to <http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

(opens a new window) Findmypast.co.uk is proud to be sponsoring the Society of Genealogists' centenary year and these new additions mean the above records from the Society are now available.

The 1911 Scottish census is set to be published online on **5 April, 2011**, the Registrar General for Scotland has announced.

The launch will allow family historians to browse the entries of nearly five million people, including details of their name, age, occupation, place of birth and marital status. The release also marks the first time that the country's census data has been presented in full colour rather than black and white.

The 1911 census is of particular value to researchers tracing their Scottish roots as it was the last population survey carried out before the First World War. As a result, it may offer the last recorded details of forebears who were killed during the conflict or who do not appear on any subsequent documents.

Electoral Rolls

In the early years of New Zealand many voters had the right to more than one vote, which may have been in different electorates depending on where they held land. According to the NZ electoral Atlas the eligibility to vote was to be over 21 years of age, male and fulfill one of the following criteria;

* Ownership of a freehold property valued at £50 or more for at least six months prior to the registration of electors, or,

* Possession of leasehold property with an annual rental of at least £10 and with at least 10 years to run (or which the claimant had leased continuously for at least three years prior to the date of registration, or

* A householder occupying a property with an annual rental value of at least £10 in an urban area or £5 in a rural area and who had occupied for at least six months.

In 1924 an amendment to the electoral law made registration as an elector compulsory before this time it was not compulsory but a right that could be exercised or not as the individual wished.

Still Searching

Searching for BMDs in the 19th and early 20th century

FreeBMD's coverage is virtually 100% for this period, but there are a few quarters where the coverage is a little patchy, so if you can't find the entry you're seeking it's worth checking the [charts](#) which show the quarter-by-quarter coverage. Searching for BMDs up to 1983 -is an excellent resource

From the 3rd quarter of 1911 onwards the mother's maiden name is included in the birth indexes, whilst from 1912 onwards the spouse's surname is included in the marriage indexes. Though this information won't be displayed in the free search

Use FreeCEN and findmypast data bases. Use ancestry.com if possible. Look at your earlier research notes.. Gems of information gathered may have been written down , but ignored..

Web Sites Web Sites Web Sites

The Police Museum at the royal NZ Police College has extensive records

<http://www.police.govt.nz/service/museum/index.html>

The Index to Immigrants landed at Brisbane 1885-1917 was compiled from registers within QSA Series ID 13097 records arrival of immigrants to the Immigration Depot, Brisbane.

http://www.archives.qld.gov.au/research/index/registers_immi.asp

history of whaling through the ages...

<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Whaling+ships>

The Ships List web site
<http://www.theshipslist.com/ships/australia/emily1849.htm>

Choosing between Ancestry and findmypast

Most information they offer, primarily the censuses and the GRO indexes, only appears on one site or the other.

For example: Ancestry have incoming passenger lists, findmypast have outgoing passenger lists. Findmypast have the 1911 census now, but haven't yet transcribed the GRO death indexes; Ancestry has the death indexes, but haven't yet got the 1911 Census (other than the limited information in the enumerator summary books). Ancestry has transcriptions of the Scottish censuses now, but don't have images of the handwritten schedules; findmypast won't have the transcriptions until later in the year, but when they do it's likely they'll also have the images. Ancestry have the London Metropolitan Archives collection of parish registers, which is very useful if your ancestors passed through London; on the other hand, findmypast have the National Burial Index and the Society of Genealogists collections and will be adding parish registers for the whole of Wales, which should be immensely helpful. .

Quite frankly, if you can afford it, the best solution is to subscribe to both sites. But if you can't, then the first thing you should do is check whether you can access Ancestry free at your local library (it is available at Invercargill and Winton Libraries and hopefully it will soon be available in Gore Library. If you *can* use Ancestry at the library then it obviously makes sense to choose findmypast at home, because then you'll have access to *both* sets of data.

Consider when you have come close to exhausting the records for your ancestors at the site you currently subscribe to; in this case if you stick with the same site you'll be largely dependent on new datasets being added, whereas if you switch to the other site you'll have a wealth of new data available to you instantly.

Finally, the way that findmypast and Ancestry treat their loyal subscribers is very different; at findmypast subscribers who chose to renew their subscription automatically get a 20% loyalty discount (see [here](#) for full details). By contrast, when Ancestry do offer discounts it's only to new subscribers, or to ex-subscribers who have cancelled.

And when it comes to ease of use, over the past couple of years the Ancestry site has become significantly more difficult for experienced researchers to use, whereas findmypast have improved by leaps and bounds over the same period.

Tip: if you switch from one site to another you'll need to modify your search strategy in order to get the greatest benefit. For example, you can search all the censuses by address at findmypast, something you won't be used to if you've just switched from Ancestry. Also, if you possibly can, it's good to overlap the two subscriptions, because with all the new data suddenly available to you, you may well discover some leads that you need to follow up at the original site.

Who will take over your research?

It's inevitable that each of us will one day reach a point when we can no longer continue our research, whether through incapacity or death, and whilst we all know how important it is to make a will, it's all too easy to forget about one of our greatest assets, the family history research that we've compiled over many years of earnest endeavour.

We don't all have someone younger and fitter who can take over the reins and continue our research, but there's always someone who we can trust to safeguard the research for the benefit of future generations. Often there will be a relative that we can pass our research to - but that's not the only option, because local archives, family history societies, and even the Society of Genealogists might be interested.

Of course, nobody knows their way around your family tree like you do, and that's one reason why it's important that we record the sources of the information we collect, whether it's a primary source (such as a census page or a parish register entry) or a secondary source (such as a relative or a transcription).

For many of us the most practical solution is probably to write a letter to our executors recording what we would like to happen to our research, and to keep a copy with our will

Press Release

At ancestry.com.au you can now search the largest online collection of New Zealand family history records.

These records cover a period from the mid-1800's right through to the later part of the 20th century.

The records include:

Canterbury, New Zealand, Provincial Rolls, 1868-1874
New Zealand, Electoral Rolls, 1853-1981
New Zealand, Jury Lists, 1842-1862
New Zealand, Maori Land Claims, 1858-1980
New Zealand, Maori Voter and Electoral Rolls, 1908 & 1919
New Zealand, Naturalisations, 1843-1981
New Zealand, City & Area Directories, 1866-1955