**Next Meeting
3 October 2017
7pm –
Information Centre
Elizabeth Glassey –
Scrapbooking - ancestors**

Report September Meeting
A good number of us gathered to watch the CD by Colleen Fitzpatrick on DNA. Although we had seen it a few years ago it was still valid in that it gives a reasonably simple explanation on the subject.
Some good discussion afterwards showed that many are interested in Genetic Genealogy. A suggestion was made that we could start a list of Haplogroups within our group.
The evening ended with supper and a chat.

Report of bus trip to Eastern, Greenpoint and St Johns cemeteries
 On Saturday 2nd September 2017 Rhonda took us by bus to the Eastern Cemetery/Crematorium in Invercargill. 9 members were able to photograph or record their headstones of interest. Maria had printed block and plot maps and was able to help others locate their headstone.
After lunch we went to St Johns Cemetery, then Bluff and Greenpoint. We saw the graves of well known Southlanders and were lucky to have such a fine day.
We spent an hour at the Museum and finished the day with a meal at Club Southland. All agreed it was a great day out, and when can we do it again. *Unfortunately I was unable to attend either of these wonderful events, but Elaine has kindly provided this report. Photo on page 4*
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PROGRAMME 2017-2018

**November - Bob Matthews
December - Christmas dinner – to be confirmed
February –   Show and Tell
March –   David Jowell – photographer
April -   Return to Monte Casino
May -   AGM**
Remember this is listed on our website

DNA SEMINAR

Saturday 7th October 2017 ~ 10.00am – 4pm
Dunedin Library

 Cost: $10.00 (morning tea and afternoon tea included) Bring your own Lunch
RAFFLE – DNA Kits
Are you wondering if DNA testing will help you in your genealogy research?
Have you recently received your results and aren't sure what to do next?
Then this seminar day is for you.
If you can come, please phone Elaine 208 5392
 or Vicky 2048673
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Heather Bray's Links
A new way of self-publishing your family history -
https://www.createspace.com/
Hocken Library
Repository of Otago School Records -
http://hakena.otago.ac.nz/nreq/Welcome.html
Invercargill Public Library
Repository of Southland School Records -
http://www.invlib.co.nz/
Website for shipping 1890 – 1960 -
http://www.ancestoronboard.com
ONI – Otago Nominal Index -
http://marvin.otago.ac.nz/oni/default.html
Contains Otago Police Gazettes up to 1877
Electoral Rolls and Directories for Otago and
Southland pre 1875 *Thanks to Balclutha Branch*
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LADY DAY
Feast of the Annunciation (25 March),

Before 1752 the English calendar commenced on Lady Day, 25 March, every year. This made the numbering of the months different from what we now know them today.

2017 Position of The Month		1752 Position of The Month
1	January	11
2	February	12
3	March	1
4	April	2
5	May	3
6	June	4
7	July	5
8	August	6
9	September	7
10	October	8
11	November	9
12	December	10

In Order to accommodate the change from the old system to the new, the year had to be adjusted by dropping eleven days from the calendar.
In 1752, therefore, the days jumped from 2 September to 14 September overnight. This caused riots throughout England as unenlightened people protested about the eleven days the seemed to have lost from their lives. Many people went to their grave eleven days too early in their estimation.
Bearing in mind the calendar change all days prior to 1752 are under the old system. Therefore, a person born in the seventh month in September (this is where the months originally earned their names *sept* being the prefix of seven, *octo* for eight and so on.
To further complicate matters, Scotland changed its calendar to the present Gregorian system in 1600..
As a year-end and quarter day that conveniently did not fall within or between the seasons for plowing and harvesting, Lady Day was a traditional day on which year-long contracts between landowners and tenant farmers would begin and end in England and nearby lands (although there were regional variations).
Farmers' time of "entry" into new farms and onto new fields was often this day. As a result, farming families who were changing farms would travel from the old farm to the new one on Lady Day.
In Ireland, however, Lady's Day means 15 August, the Feast of the Assumption of Mary

In British and Irish tradition, the **quarter days** were the four dates in each year on which servants were hired, school terms started, and rents were due. They fell on four religious festivals roughly three months apart and close to the two solstices and two equinoxes.

Everything in the Middle Ages was based around the church calendar and 25th March was a sensible date to choose for the first day of the administrative year.

Some of the new databases **dustydocs**, and the favourite **FamilySearch.org**.

- Bedfordshire Petty Session records 1854-1915
- Bedfordshire Valuation records 1838-1929
- Bedfordshire Land Tax records 1797-1832

NEW ON FINDMYPAST

A selection of the additions to this website that have happened since our last update (December 2016):

- Scottish Directories (from 9 counties)
- Linlithgow Burials 1860-1975
- Irish Calendars of Wills and Admons 1858-1970
- UK Crime 1770-1935 (Prisons, Convict Hulks)
- Buckinghamshire Baptisms, Marriages, Banns and Burials
- Somerset Baptisms, Marriages, Banns and Burials
- Staffordshire Monumental Inscriptions
- Wiltshire Wills and Probates Index 1530-1881
- Yorkshire Baptisms, Marriages, Banns and Burials
- Fulham All Saints Monumental Inscriptions
- Sidcup (Bexley) Cemetery Burials
- London Marriage Licences 1521-1869
- Westminster (London) Catholic Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Confirmations, etc
- Philadelphia (USA) Catholic Parish Baptisms and Marriages   *Thanks to Riccarton Branch*

Ancestry.co.uk Royal Air Force airmen records 1918 040.London school admissions and discharges 1912-18 & Poor Law school district registers 1852-1918
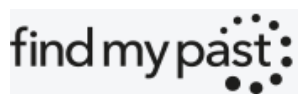Irishancestors.ie an index to Wilsons Dublin directory 1775

Family Tree Maker 2017
released - at last!

The long-awaited new version of Family Tree Maker was officially released this weekend. Over the past few months 3,000 beta testers and around 100,000 'test drivers' have been trialling the program, as teething problems with the tree-sync were ironed out.

From following the discussions on the LostCousins forum I know how frustrating the delay is for researchers who use FTM as their main tree program - hopefully the wait will eventually prove to have been worthwhile.

 How to get the most from Findmypast

I'm sometimes contacted by readers who don't get the same excellent results as me when they search at Findmypast - so I'm going to tell you how I transform their searches….

The first thing you need to appreciate is that there are two ways of searching. One is to enter lots of data on the Search form in the hope that some of it might lead to the record you're looking for - this type of search works best at Ancestry, where it typically produces lots of results (though most of them won't be relevant).

The other approach is to put the minimum amount of information on the Search form, see how many results you get and - only if there are too many results to glance through - filter the results so that you're only left with those that are most relevant. This type of search works best at Findmypast.

Because I'm so busy I prefer the second type of search - most of the time the record I'm looking for is on the first page of search results, so I get there very quickly. I even cheat by using wildcards rather than type long surnames in full - this has the secondary benefit of sometimes picking up records that might otherwise have been missed.

How minimal should your searches be? Enter just a forename, a surname (possibly using wildcards),

and an approximate year of birth. Don't enter a place of birth as this tends to vary so much from one census to another, but you can enclose it in wildcards, eg *London*

Different surnames require different tactics. The surname Smith is very unlikely to be spelled differently or mis transcribed - but you are likely to get lots of results, so you'll need to narrow your search in some way. If you searching for a name such as Vandepeer search for v*d*p*r* and leave the other boxes empty.

Put these tips into practice and you'll immediately see the difference. But don't stop reading, because I've got another, even more important, tip for you - one that even Findmypast won't tell you!

Did you realise that at Findmypast there are at least three ways of searching for the same historical record?

1841 British census
1851 British census
1861 British census
1871 British census
1881 British census (FREE transcription)
1891 British census
1901 British census
1911 England & Wales census
GRO birth indexes for England & Wales
GRO marriage indexes for England & Wales
GRO death indexes for England & Wales
Hertfordshire parish registers*
Cheshire parish registers*
Kent (Canterbury archdeaconry) parish registers*
London (Westminster) parish registers*
Devon parish registers*
Lincolnshire parish registers*
Shropshire parish registers*
Staffordshire parish registers*
Yorkshire parish registers*
Wales parish registers
British Army Service Records
School Admission Registers
England & Wales Electoral Registers 1832-1932
UK Electoral Registers 2002-14

* these parish register links will take you to the baptisms for the county - the *Useful Links* on that page will take you to marriages and burials

*Note: there are a few record sets which currently can't be found using the A-Z of Record Sets; for example if you're looking for the **Chelsea pensioner records you'll find them under British Army Service Records because Findmypast have grouped together all service records.** Other instances reported to me involve Australian cemetery records. But 99 times out of 100 the A-Z is the best solution……*

What information is on your Family Tree? Are you running a Program on a computer or just scribbling in a note book? Do you do research or just take down names and dates off the internet or what others tell you. RESEARCH is becoming a lost art and honestly you really do need to get the facts right because 20 or 30 years on it is very hard for the next generation to follow. Besides look at all the friends and fun you are missing out on.

New South Wales Births | findmypast.com.au
Great news from FindMyPast - they have just released the 1788 - 1914 NSW BDM birth index, heaps easier to use than the government site! Yeah.

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FindMyPast. Scotland Roman Catholic Parish Registers
Over 49,000 records. Browse through more than 1,000 volumes of sacramental registers of baptisms, marriages and burials spanning the years 1736 to 1942. This extensive collection contains records from all eight Scottish dioceses: Aberdeen, Argyll & The Isles, Dunkeld, Galloway, Glasgow, Motherwell, St Andrews & Edinburgh, and Paisley.
Herefordshire Burials Over **37,000 records** transcripts of parish burial registers covering 75 parishes.
Herefordshire Wills Over 1,000 records
Herefordshire Baptisms Over 626 records. baptisms dating as far back as the early 1500s and covering 240 parishes across the county

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Online birth indexes are a goldmine

A few days before last November's PDF trial began the GRO launched their own online birth and death indexes, with additional data that didn't appear in the original quarterly indexes. In particular, the mother's maiden name -

previously only given from September 1911 onwards, is shown in almost all birth index entries (the main exceptions being illegitimate births).

The natural first step is to identify children recorded as having died before the 1911 Census, and who - because they weren't recorded on any of the censuses - don't appear on your family tree. Jill wrote to me just this week to tell me about three children she'd been able to add - she was over the moon!

But why stop there? The infant mortality rate was high during much of the 19th century, and most mothers will have lost one or more children. It's worth checking every couple who might have had children after 1837 - for whilst children who died as infants can't have any descendants, the loss of a child can have a significant impact on a family. In other words, it's not just about adding an extra name to our tree, it's adding to our understanding of our ancestors' lives.

Tip: remember that ages at death aren't always shown correctly for infants; a child shown as 7 years old according to the indexes might in fact have been 7 months, 7 weeks, 7 days, or even 7 hours old at the time of their death. If the death occurred after 1865 you can check the age against the original indexes.

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Southern Cemeteries bus trip.
Rosalie, Pat White, Jo Muir, Elaine Scott, Rhonda Wilson, Maria Hurrell. Photographer Avis Smith