

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

December 2017

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Next Meeting
5 December 2017
6.30pm
Christmas dinner
RSA Dining room
Cost : As per menu
 Numbers to Elaine by 30 November

Report November Meeting

Bob Matthews spoke and showed the data base of OASES on TV screen and 'The Master Genealogist' genealogy programme. This is no longer available but it covers Bob's requirements. This exclusive database is of Otago and Southland Early Settlers who arrived before 1900. It is presently available at Dunedin Public Library and Toitu Museum (Otago Early Settlers museum). Shipping records and sources are an essential for inclusion in this data base.

Reverend Burns, the Presbyterian minister who arrived on the Phillip Laing ship, visited every home in Dunedin irrespective of religion from 1848. He listed the occupants and their relationship to the householder, in his visitation book which is available at Toitu Museum. He also listed the family members who were visiting other family member at that time.

There are no census records for New Zealand.

They have all been destroyed.

When the first national elections were held in 1853, eligible voters were male British subjects who owned property and were age 21 or older. Māori were granted the right to vote in 1867 without the property ownership requirement, and in 1897 the requirement was repealed for British subjects as well. New Zealand was the first country to grant women the right to vote in 1893.

PROGRAMME 2017-2018

February – Show and Tell – you are invited to present a Scrapbook page or book on a soldier or ancestor.

March – David Jowell – photographer

April - Return to Monte Casino Video

May - AGM

The programme is listed on our website

ITM (Intention to Marry) is likely to state only "time in district" rather than time in NZ. Look for the year of marriage from RG historic online, and keep redefining by reducing the two dates until you have the actual date. The marriage may have taken place very quickly, or some weeks later.

Raymond Finlayson & Beatrice Goslin married 1915 Egnland

Findmypast has an outstanding collection of military records, not just for the 1914-18 war but going back to 1760. Of course, you can't expect all of the records to have survived - even when it comes to the 20th century only about 40% of the service records have survived for soldiers who fought in the Great War (thanks to the Luftwaffe) - but you will find more WW1 records than at any other site. Service files amongst the 60% were lost - but Findmypast has launched the same collection a few years later with surprising results, including medical records and a form that postings.

[Findmypast UK](#) [Findmypast US](#)

These are called 'burnt records'.

I found the records of one of the two Finlayson soldiers who died in WW1.

New Zealand Divorce files are restricted for 100 (formerly 60) years. The registers cover the years 1868 to 1910, and for divorces under 100y the register entries still have information, and the registers are not Restricted

The original marriage entry was stamped with the date and court for a Decree Absolute, so this information may be shown on a scan of the entry. The court files held in Archives Wellington are not indexed by name in Archway apart from Nelson and Blenheim; but those in Auckland, Christchurch and **Dunedin Archives are.**

70th Anniversary of Ballantynes Fire

41 people died in the Ballantyne's fire of 18th November 1947 - The fire in Christchurch's prestigious department store was one of the worst in New Zealand's history. When the fire began in a basement about 3:30pm, 250-300 people were shopping at Ballantyne's, which had a staff of 458. As the smoke increased, individual staff members cleared their areas, and all customers and most staff escaped. But the 'millinery girls' & those working in credit & accounts were trapped. Thirty-eight staff & two auditors perished in the fire, & a pregnant staff member jumped to her death.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/41-die-ballantynes-fire>

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/a-civic-funeral-is-held-for-the-41-victims-of-the-ballantynes-department-store-fire>

List of those who died in Ballantynes Fire -

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/74098146/Flashback-The-1947-inferno-that-claimed-41-lives-and-destroyed-Ballantynes>.

It was the Tuesday of cup week, with ominous grey clouds and a cool easterly breeze, and the city was buzzing – World War II had recently ended, and a royal wedding was in the wings.

The memorial to the 41 people who lost their lives is in the Ruru Lawn Cemetery west of the war graves section. It consists of a semi-circular rose garden with a stone and timber pergola at the head. Each rose has a bronze marker with the name of a person who lost their life in the fire. The rear wall of the pergola has a marble plaque inset depicting the victims' names. *Canterbury Newsletter*

Remember –

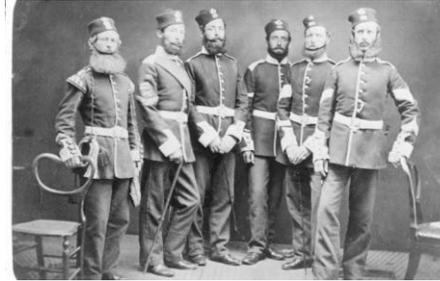
Preparation, Participation, Preservation -

prepare by having your info with you (pedigree chart is good), (or have it all on Icloud) know your parishes - so you can fully participate in locating your family in this original record; and can preserve the information for future genealogists.

Always, ALWAYS LIST YOUR SOURCES.

Radio New Zealand 31 October 2017 New Zealand Identities of Colonial Soldiers Uncovered

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/national/342796/identities-of-colonial-soldiers-uncovered>



Soldiers of the Light Infantry Company, 65th Regiment Ref: 1/2-025608-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

Researchers from Victoria University have identified the names of 12,000 imperial soldiers who fought in the 1860 New Zealand Wars. The three-year task involved searching through thousands of official documents, letters and books from the National Archives in London.

Professor Charlotte Macdonald said the purpose of identifying the soldiers was a response to the largely untold stories of the British soldiers.

"People were saying, well they're British or they're government forces but then, you know, it stopped at that point. We sort of know about some of the almost folk figures amongst the colonial militia, but not really these ordinary red coat soldiers who were here in their thousands."

Ms Macdonald said finding the names was no easy task.

"We had digital versions, photocopied versions and then the original archives and then it was a question of reading handwriting".

Ms Macdonald and research-partner Dr Rebecca Lenihan used British medal lists as a key archive to uncover the names.

"Not long after all of these regiments had left New Zealand, they thought, oh well we should have a campaign medal. So every regimental clerk is then told to compile a list so each list is different because each of the 12 or so regiments does its own thing. "We had to go through all of that handwriting, decipher it, put it into a format that enables us to list it and sort it so it can be accessed by people who are interested."

She said it had taken a long time for the Land Wars to be officially recognized in New Zealand.

"Either people don't think New Zealand has much history so it's a general question about people not being particularly aware of the history that happens here, and we don't do a terribly good job about teaching New Zealand history in schools.

"It has that dimension of wars that are too hard to face and it's easier for many people to think of a peaceful colonial story - a story of talking and the Treaty - rather than perhaps actually the violent episodes that is what the wars represent."
The database provides public access to the names, regiments and dates of service of soldiers who fought in New Zealand and is the first instalment of a larger publicly accessible resource.

Thanks to Bob Vine Hutt Valley Branch.

General Register Office (GRO) - PDF Extended Pilot

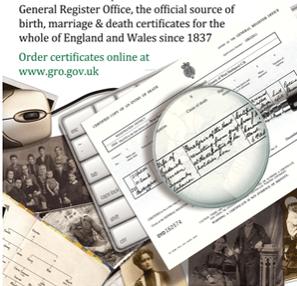
The General Register Office

Know your ancestors better

Certificates bring your search to life with unique and sometimes unexpected information about your ancestors

Get certificates for just £9.25 direct from the General Register Office, the official source of birth, marriage & death certificates for the whole of England and Wales since 1837

Order certificates online at www.gro.gov.uk



The GRO is piloting a service from 12 October 2017 to provide portable document format (PDF) copies of digitised historical birth and death records. **The pilot will run for a minimum of 3 months to enable GRO to assess the demand for this service over a prolonged period.**

Applications for each PDF cost £6, must be made online, and include a GRO index reference.

England and Wales records which are available as PDFs in this extended pilot include: Births: 1837 – 1916; Deaths: 1837 – 1957 X to Hutt Valley Branch

Papers Past NZ

Greymouth Evening Star (1901-1920)

Opunake Times (Jul 1894-1949)

Stratford Evening Post (May 1911-1936)

Taihape Daily Times (Nov 1914-1920)

Recent 'Who do You Think You Are' TV programmes have travelled into different countries which have featured less known records.

Ancestry.com, FindmyPast and The Genealogist are releasing new data weekly.

It is amazing to see the Family Search website which is becoming more and more essential to research. The *Legacy* programme has a little Family Search icon at the top, 5th from the right. Check it out for your family. You may be surprised.

We are all spending more and more time peering at computer screens and less and less time talking to people.

While transcribing the 1947 Ensign newspaper for deaths, obituaries and weddings, and family articles, I found a farewell from Glenham (Southland) for *Alexander Bulling* and his wife. A member of our branch who is researching this family was delighted.

Modern genealogists are missing out on the fellowship of genealogy. Members attending Genealogy Branch meetings can often have problems solved by simply talking to others. I am constantly remembering the "good old days" when I went to Conferences. And Family Fairs. Here we would generally gossip about resources, listen to interesting speeches, ask questions of the "experts" among the attendees, borrow the books and magazines and generally bask in genealogy for an hour or two.

Findmypast British Armed Forces, Roman Catholic Registers 17,000 Records

Search through thousands of Roman Catholic sacramental registers from the British armed forces. The registers comprise records for the British Army, Royal Air Force, and Royal Navy stationed at home and abroad between 1836 and 1975



Scottish alert! More than 2.7 million new valuation entries for 1935 have been added to the **ScotlandsPeople**

website. You can now search more than 118 million individual entries. Explore these records today <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/advanced-search>

Influenza 1918 - Plight of the Registrars



On 06 November 1918 the Registrar General, Wilfrid Wulstan Cook (1876-1962), sent a memorandum to all Registrars telling them that they were "required to supply to District Health Officers particulars of all deaths immediately on registration, when cause of death is influenza or pneumonia following influenza. Public Health Form 117 should be used if available but this is not absolutely necessary as long as full particulars are supplied. The above applies to all deaths registered since 1st instant." Subsequent communications resulted in a thick file ending on 19 May 1919.



Seddon Memorial Hospital 1909 -1999 When the **Gore hospital** was full, a tent hospital was set up at the Gore Racecourse which must have been detrimental for patients and extremely difficult for nursing and medical staff.

With regard to statistics - a table has been created based solely on the contents of this single file - with the total number of deaths recorded being approximately 6,650. In some instances the numbers are 'fraught' with best guess interpretations. In general it is assumed that these reflect registration districts. In contrast the figures provided by Geoffrey Rice in his book "Black November: The 1918 Influenza Epidemic in New Zealand" (2012) are based on County and Town Districts. As attempts at reconciliation of the two sets of figures may be injurious to mental health perhaps a more useful approach would be to start turning the numbers into people.

Maps Check out <http://maps.familysearch.org> for wonderful maps of England and Wales that can be filtered in various ways according to jurisdiction (which influences what records may be found where) eg the Poor Law Unions Can't find your ancestor in the expected parish records? Go to the county concerned in the map and explore the options that pop up - eg list all parishes, list all contiguous counties, search the Family Search Catalogue or the Wiki.

Non Conformist Records

It is often hard to find non-conformist records and Jonathan Scott's article on **Non-conformity** gives pointers to several useful sites.

1. Methodist heritage
www.methodistheritage.org.uk Gives the history of Methodism, advice on research, genealogical tips and a map showing heritage sites across the UK.
2. Strict Baptist Historical Society
www.sbhs.org.uk/pastorchapels
3. Quaker Library
www.quaker.org.uk/resources/library
4. Salvation Army Heritage Centre
www.salvationarmy.or.uk/international-heritage-centre
5. The Story of Non-conformity in Wales
www.welshchapels.org/nonconformity traces the history of dissenters through the story of Welsh chapels and covers all the denominations.

There are plenty of other references in this comprehensive article. So do check it out. may be speaking out of turn here, but since I am also a member of 'My Heritage' and Ancestry, I would like people to know the following:

1. 'My Heritage' DNA testers have their DNA tested at www.familytreedna.com We call this FTDNA . Exactly the same applies for the National Geographic testing. (We call this Nat Geno).
2. FTDNA do not require a subscription as 'My Heritage' requires. Just the test price which is on sale at present. The autosomal test is US\$59.00 plus postage until 31 December.
3. FTDNA enables your trees to be placed (either manually or via Gedcom) on your personal FTDNA Home page.
4. FTDNA enables males to test their direct male paternal and their direct female lines - not available at either Ancestry or 'My Heritage' - from the same sample that is supplied at the initial order and this is generally the autosomal test. (Similar to that offered by 'my Heritage' and Ancestry.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

