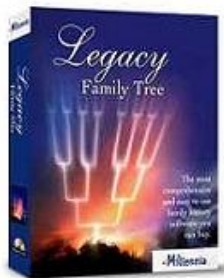


Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

August 2020

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Next Meeting
4 August 2020
7pm at the
Maruawai Center
(Beside Heritage Center)
Legacy - tips and hints
All Welcome

July Meeting Report

Due reconstruction in our normal meeting place, members met at the Bulletin editors home for an interesting and enjoyable meeting. **Joan Lee was welcomed as a new member.**

Members spoke of how they filled in the Lockdown time with some who loved and others hated it. The hours of undisturbed time included: serious research, cleaned cupboards, washed windows, gardening, knitted socks, created a bound diary with photos of farm life and supermarket line observing safe distancing, used Wiki tree for research, contacted many family members for history book, entered ancestors on Ancestry after DNA results finally arrived.

LINZ through NZSG provided valuable information to Elaine

Your Suggestions for the programme next meeting

Ancestry DNA tops 18 million users **BREAKING NEWS**

Great news this afternoon – Ancestry have announced that the total number of users who have tested their DNA and opted to be included in cousin-matching now exceeds 18 million, which by my calculations is more than every other provider added together.

Thousands of DNA matches will disappear soon **URGENT ACTION REQUIRED**

In the same conference call I learned that Ancestry are in the process of updating their DNA matching criteria, and that as part of this process almost all matches **where users share less than 8cM will be removed, probably next month**

(see below for the exceptions). **The current threshold is 6cM, and many matches will be lost.**

The aim is to remove false matches – matches that occur by chance, or because of statistical anomalies. But whilst improving the quality of matches is important, it's inevitable that many valid matches will be discarded. Indeed matches could disappear even if Common Ancestors have been identified.

However, if you're quick there's a possible solution -Matches of under 8cM won't disappear should any one of the following apply:

1. You've added them to a group (using one the 32 user-definable coloured circles)
2. You've entered something in the Notes field
3. You've sent a message to the other member

Findmypast Surrey Registers

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/surrey-parish-list?source=1> has their own index and transcripts in stages – and last week they added another 1.3 million new records to the connection

Papers Past

<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Latest additions to Newspapers (April 2020):

- Gisborne Times (1901-1937)
- Hokitika Guardian (1917-1940)
- Opotiki News (1938-1950)
- Saturday Advertiser (Jul 1875-1878)
- Wanganui Chronicle (1860-1869)

Thanks to Hutt Valley branch

Remember –

Members access FindMyPast is free on the Hokonui Heritage Centre computer when reconstruction is completed.

Findmypast

New databases include:

West Lothian Electoral Registers 1864-1931
Scottish Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages & Burials from 18 parishes Yorkshire Baptisms (13 more parishes added);
British Armed Forces WWI Soldiers' Medical Records Imperial Calendars 1767-1973 (these list Government employees, Church officials, etc, etc)
Roman Catholic Parish Registers of the Archdiocese of Southwark USA
Marriages from Massachusetts, Oregon & Indiana
Thanks to Riccarton branch

ANCESTRY.COM: MORE GOOD NEWS Free access to Ancestry in the Gore Library Recent new databases uploaded are:
Wyoming Deaths 1909-1969
Wyoming Marriages 1941-1966 Wyoming Divorces 1941-1953

GEDmatch site out of action following security breach

The GEDmatch website, which I use occasionally, is currently offline following an unusual security breach. This message was posted on their Facebook page:

"On the morning of July 19, GEDmatch experienced a security breach orchestrated through a sophisticated attack on one of our servers via an existing user account. We became aware of the situation a short time later and immediately took the site down. As a result of this breach, all user permissions were reset, making all profiles visible to all users. This was the case for approximately 3 hours. During this time, users who did not opt in for law enforcement matching were available for law enforcement matching and, conversely, all law enforcement profiles were made visible to GEDmatch users.

"This was the extent of the breach. No user data was downloaded or compromised.

"We have reported the unauthorized access to the appropriate authorities and continue to

work toward identifying the individuals responsible for this violation.

Today, as we continued to investigate the incident and work on a permanent solution to safeguard against threats of this nature, we discovered that the site was still vulnerable and made the decision to take the site down until such time that we can be absolutely sure that user data is protected against potential attacks. We are working with a cybersecurity firm to conduct a comprehensive forensic review and help us implement the best possible security measures.

"This is clearly disappointing for our company, as user privacy and data security are our top priorities. We apologize to our GEDmatch users and our law enforcement customers for the concern and frustration this situation has caused.

"Thank you for your continued support of GEDmatch. If you have questions, please reach out to us at gedmatch@verogen.com. We will update you as soon as we have more information to share

Research Project: The Auckland Medical Research Foundation through the Auckland University School of Nursing is researching the views and experiences of New Zealanders age 70+ regarding Covid-19 and Lock-down.

This research will become part of a permanent archive at the Auckland Museum and will be an important historical record for future generations of genealogists (and scientists). Website: <https://haveoursay.org> Link sent out by the NZ Association of Gerontology
<https://mailchi.mp/5c6cde7e7c04/free-aag-webinar1297258?e=550fee567d>

Ancestry.

Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

**FamilySearch tree <http://FamilySearch.org>
a must use site or genealogy, free, also
offering sources galore+++**

Chances are your ancestors are already included and that you need not be put off by thinking "but I've x000 people to input if I start again on yet another tree".

You will have a gateway ancestor to link to, somewhere on your tree that makes life easier, and leaves the tree healthier, less duplicated and of course well sourced for the future generations. eg using RootsMagic (RM), start with your closest ancestor no longer living, do the search from within RM on the FamilySearch tree, select a match if there is one.

Switch to the FamilySearch tree using the show in FamilyTree option, tidy up the FamilySearch tree by merging duplicates (after checking of course!) add sources, missing data.

Then go back into RM and match/import as you go back up your family of interest. You will be very unlucky if you have to do a lot of keying. We can cover this in more detail in the next RM session in July (see page 7) Regardless of where you put your tree online, be mindful of basic input guidelines, which are covered well in this series of articles, of which the link is to the first

<https://www.dataminingdna.com/indepth-guide-to-ancestry-part-1-the-essential-tree/> Do not be put off by the Ancestry / DNA focus, the input guidelines apply to ALL trees, including your genie program on your computer.

Thanks to Lorna Henderson <http://LornaHen.com>

Redan Flaxmill A historical Industry



Robert Johnson (1873- 1952) arrived in New Zealand from Shetland Isles I 1912. He was followed two years later by his wife Margaret

Barbara (nee Cumming) and their six children. A reunion was held 2014 at the New Zealand's only authentic flax mill plant operating still on its original

site at Otaitai, near Riverton. This is the Templeton Flaxmill.

Because the Redan mill was 8 miles from Wyndham, and very few workers owned cars, there were several social facilities and activities.

Euchre was played in the Redan school weekly during winter, cricket was played on a pitch behind the scutching shed, tennis at Mokoreta until courts were built at Redan, Indoor bowls were played in the Redan Mokoreta hall, as was Rifle shooting - on a different night!

There was an annual Sports picnic, and a well supported and active Hunt club, both followed by dances in the hall. .

The younger generation of Johnston's had never seen, heard or visited the Johnston flaxmill because it closed in 1972 along with the other two Southland flaxmills, Templetons & Neideriers at Gorge Road.

People of all ages attended this reunion and were amazed and astounded at the noise and how labour extensive it was.

The book of this family was compiled in Microsoft Word, then transferred to Publisher where photographs, copyright, page number and the family's name could be placed at the base of each relevant page.

Photographs, certificates, death notices etc could be set straight or on a slight angle, and text flowed around them. It was printed by Colortronics, Dunedin. An index is absolutely essential in family and history books to assist future generations.

Avis McDonald



Stripped, bleached, 'hanked' fibre ready to go into the scutching shed



Single mens huts



Restored huts and road sign at bottom of hill Redan