

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists February 2021

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Next Meeting
2 February 2021
7. pm Murawai Center
Please bring a Family
Heirloom to share
Jill Wellford – re
Whittingham Family

December Meeting Report

It was wonderful to see so many members join together for companionship, a lovely dinner and enjoy a Christmas cake. The special photo was taken and will appear at the end of the newsletter. Our thanks go to Convenor Elaine who organized the Christmas cake which everyone enjoyed.

Irish News

Find My Past collection of Irish family history records is the largest you find anywhere on line.

www.findmypast.ie.

Members are very fortunate Elaine is willing to share her subscription at her house on Saturdays 1 – 3pm until we can access the Gore Genealogy group subscription at the Murawai center.



The National Archives Ireland (NLI) have a new website

www.nationalsarchives.ie. It features a new introduction to the NLI's sources for family and local history. Many of these sources are searchable online including the 1901 and 1911 censuses, the Tithe Applotment survey books and WW1 soldiers wills.

There is also an online list of suffragettes who were incarcerated in Ireland.

The National Library of Ireland Digital images of Catholic parish registers are **FREE** on this website www.nli.ie/registers. They cover most Roman Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland, up to 1880. Indexes for this collection are available on www.findmypast.ie



Four tips for starting
 As one year ends and new one begins,

Ancestry is there to help you go back into our journey and make 2021 a year of discovery.

Don't overlook the Card catalogue

Searching the card catalog is the fastest way to know what types of records exist on Ancestry®.

Use Wild cards when searching

This handy trick helps you track down records when the exact spelling is unknown.

Search members trees

Uncover photos, confirm names and dates, or find new leads with public members trees.

Connect with Ancestry Members

Collaborate with other members to share information, track down details and learn handy tips.

Have you registered for the Rootstech connect conference? (see page5). Do watch the video archive to see what it's like. It's a real opportunity to hear overseas speakers and gain a different perspective on family history. It's run under the auspices of Family Search.

The General Register Office in Ireland (www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/55ccbe-general-register-office-gro-research-facility/) has raised the cost of some services, including research copies for birth, marriage and death records from €4 to €5 each. These research copies, available via email, are particularly useful for more recent records for the Republic of Ireland not available on the free to access Irish Genealogy platform at www.irishgenealogy.ie.



We extend our deepest sympathy to member George Smith and family in the shocking loss of Catherine, a beloved wife, mother and Grandmother.



More information from Ireland

The General Register Office in Ireland (www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/55ccbe-general-register-office-gro-research-facility/) has raised the cost of some services, including research copies for birth, marriage and death records from €4 to €5 each. These research copies, available via email, are particularly useful for more recent records for the Republic of Ireland not available on the free to access Irish Genealogy platform at www.irishgenealogy.ie.



In 'Family Tree' for October 2020,

a very topical article by Paul Carter gives lots of tips on how to "Get in Charge of your Family History Files".

Much of it might be common sense, but how often does common sense prevail? His top tips are as follows:

1. Store files in clearly labeled folders, relevant to their subject.
2. Use standard naming techniques for files to make them easy to sort and find again.
3. Label photos and remove duplicates.
4. Aim for an empty inbox by using labels or folders for emails.
5. Clean up your web Browser and remove unwanted bookmarks.
6. Clean up deleted files that remain in the recycling bin.



DNA News: DNAPainter

Shared cMs project interface* has had a tweak. It now also reports on the most DISTANT

common ancestors you and the match are likely to share <https://dnainter.com/blog/recent-updates-most-distant-common-ancestors-and-more/>

This saves all the mental gymnastics of how many greats a 4th cousin shares (answer count the gs, 3 for the greats and one for the grand) * use this tool to check the ranges of possible relationships for a reported match, a highly recommended process.

Sincere thanks to Kapati Branch for their excellent items



Rosemary Dixon-Smith's [Research Guide for Beginners](#) is enormously helpful when beginning genealogical

research in South Africa, and some of its recommendations can be supplemented these days with newly available web sources. The list of *Natal Civil Marriages* was already available at the FamilySearch site when Rosemary wrote, however it's worth noting that the name is misleading since the marriages concerned are not only those contracted in front of a magistrate, but also include church weddings and weddings at private residences conducted by clergy of all denominations. Also bear in mind that the records only include those that were submitted to central authorities; tribal marriages are never recorded (and their legality was often contested).

Since then, an ever-increasing number of South African records has become publicly available at FamilySearch including estate files, parish records of baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials, and a large proportion of these are now indexed as well. There are also some Zimbabwean estate files online there.

No census records survive for any year in South Africa, and although certificates of birth marriage or death, where they exist, can theoretically be ordered from the central authorities, doing so is often a waste of time (and sometimes money). Those certificates that survive in estate files are often the most accessible.

The Genealogical Society of South Africa site also have miscellaneous information – the latter has searchable transcriptions from various South African newspapers. Even the most useful South African newspapers have rarely been digitized, so it is sites like these that are most likely to have transcriptions of early passenger lists from shipping reports in the papers. Note: see Rosemary's warning about expectations regarding information from passenger lists.

To make sure your family tree is rock solid, you should always double check any information that you find... on Ancestry, Findmypast Familysearch.

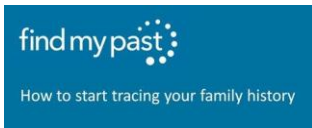


United Kingdom

It has been reported that the number of excess deaths in the UK in 2020 exceeded anything that has been seen since World War 2 – and sadly 2021 has not got off to a good start. Major British supermarkets have banned shoppers who don't wear masks – **We are so very fortunate to be living in New Zealand and especially in Southland.**

PAPERSPAST UPDATE

Three new titles were added last month.
Waipawa Mail 1878-1940
Northland Age 1904-1950
Pahiatua Herald 1893-94 & 1897-1943
Also, look under the Magazines & Journals tab for *Forest & Bird* magazine 1924-1945



FINDMYPAST UPDATE

Databases added or updated recently are follows:
- Yorkshire School Registers

- West Riding Yorkshire Monumental Inscriptions
 - Sheffield Baptisms
 - WWI Soldiers Medical Records
- Thanks to Riccarton Branch*



Ancestry
- Canada Obituaries
- West Midlands Police Files & Ledgers 1850-1950 (39,424 records

about policemen, not criminals)
Ancestry was bought by investment firm Blackstone mid-year for US\$4.7 billion.

When will the 1921 census be available?

Findmypast have confirmed that the long-awaited release of the 1921 census will go ahead in **January 2022**. When we spoke to Pete Benson at the Office of National Statistics, he explained what family historians can look forward to from the records

Next Auckland Family History Expo

Auckland Family History Expo committee has set the date for the next Auckland Family History Expo

Friday 13 August to Sunday 15 August 2021

Suggestions for speakers welcome.

If the Covid situation continues our international speakers will speak virtually as they did this year

Famous New Zealanders You have Probably Never Heard Of

Sydney Alfred Smith (1883-1969)



One of the leaders of forensic science and pathology during the 20th Century was born in Roxburgh, Otago in 1883. Sydney Alfred SMITH was the son of James Jackson Smith, a goldminer and later drayman for the borough council and Mary Elizabeth KINASTON née WILKINSON.

After schooling at Roxburgh, Sydney was apprenticed to a local chemist.^[1] He passed the Pharmacy Board's examinations while working at the Dunedin Friendly Societies Dispensary. While dispenser at the Wellington Public Hospital, he studied part time at Victoria University College. From here he began his studies at the University of Edinburgh, supporting himself with part-time tutoring.

Sydney graduated Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB, B.Ch) in 1912, Diploma of Public Health of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgery, Edinburgh and Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 1913 and Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1914. In 1914 he also won the Gunning Prize in Forensic Medicine from the University of Edinburgh.

By September 1914, Sydney was in Wellington, giving notice that he was applying to have his name placed on the medical register for the Dominion of New Zealand.^[2] He became district health officer for Dunedin and in July 1915 was attached to the Trentham military camp at Upper Hutt to oversee health improvements. He was given the honorary rank of Captain and later Major.

In March 1916 New Zealand was suffering from an Infant Paralysis (polio/poliomyelitis) epidemic and as district health officer Sydney warned parents of allowing "children under the age of fourteen years to frequent places of public assemblage or entertainment."^[3] He made visits all over New Zealand checking on conditions and oversaw the closing of schools etc. The epidemic resulted in 125 known deaths, most of them children and teenagers, with many more being infected.

In January 1917, Sydney was appointed as medico legal expert to the Egyptian Government and lecturer on medical jurisprudence. This involved scientific and medical knowledge to legal problems, such as inquests. One of Sydney's most important cases in Egypt was the murder of Major-General Sir Lee Oliver Fitzmaurice Stack, Governor-General of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. On the 19 November 1924 Stack was assassinated while driving through Cairo. The pistols and bullets used were identified by forensic science.

In 1928 Sydney was appointed Regius Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Edinburgh. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1931-1953 and in 1954, was elected Rector. In 1935 he was one of the forensic experts who used forensic anthropology to superimpose a photograph over the X-ray of a victim's skull. His books, *Forensic Medicine: A Textbook For Students And Practitioners* and his autobiography *Mostly Murder* are still referred to today.

He was knighted in 1949 and retired in 1953. Sydney Alfred Smith died on the 8 May 1969 in Edinburgh, Scotland, married with two children.

Thanks to Famnet

Do you know of anyone who had Infant Paralysis (polio/poliomyelitis)?



Honouring the Dead

Short life expectancy, high infant mortality and

the fact that most people died at home meant death was more visible for our ancestors. In some rural communities, the church bell was rung to signal when someone lay on their deathbed. It tolled 6 times for a woman and nine for a man, and a peal of bells was rung for every year of their life. While the body lay in the house, mirrors were shrouded to prevent the soul of the departed getting trapped.

Blinds and curtains were drawn and any clocks in the room where the person died were stopped by hand at the time of death. Ladies were not expected and seldom attended the burial.

Burial clubs were established to avoid the shame of a pauper's burial being paid for by the parish. Poor families paid each week into a fund that insured them against the high cost of a funeral. Prudential life, assurance had over a million members by 1870. Most burials took place in the local church yard. Few relatives attended the burial because the cemeteries were very overcrowded and insanitary.

Many Victorian cemeteries have now gone, but the records may be lodged at the local records office. They usually state the name, address, age and occupation, death and burial, and the location of the grave.

Online resources include www.deceasedonline.com will return basic information. www.freeReg.org.uk is Nonconformist registers including burial records. Findmypast and Ancestry also have searchable death, burial and obituary information.

Beautiful memorial cards were sent, stating the name, date of death and place of burial. A child's funeral wasn't an all black affair like an adult's. Children had a white coffin and mourners were given white gloves to wear and hats to wear.

In N, funerals were generally held at the residence. In the 1950's neighbours closed their blinds and curtains when they knew the hearse would be passing, and in the streets all people stood at attention and men removed their hats as mark of respect. The hearse moved very slowly which resulted in some of the older cars stalling on steep hills enroute to the cemetery.

Formula for living for the New Year

Live beneath your means.

Return everything you borrow.

Stop blaming others.

Admit when you make a mistake.

Give clothes not work to charity.

Do something nice and don't get caught.

Listen more, talk less.

Every day take a 30 minute walk.

Strive for excellence, not perfection.

Be on time. Don't make excuses.

Don't argue. Get organized.

Be kind to unkind people.

Let someone cut ahead of you in line.

Take time to be alone.

Cultivate good manners.

Be humble.

Realize and accept that life isn't fair.

Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.

Learn from the past. Plan for the future.

Live in the present

Don't sweat the small stuff.

It's all small stuff.

Thanks to Balclutha Branch

Use the Covid app EVERYTIME
YOU ENTER A BUILDING and stay safe.