

# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists March 2021

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**Next Meeting**  
**2 March 2021**  
**7.pm Murawai Center**  
**Research - Shipping**  
*They didn't swim, so how, or which ships did they come in*

## February Meeting Report

A very successful February meeting subject was Family Heirlooms. These included an old 1938 scrapbook with Aunts and Uncles signatures, 1850 silver pocket watch, silver cruet set, silver hair clasp, many photos, 1909 diary, picture made of ancestors hair, a brass tobacco tin given by Queen Mary to all soldiers fighting in WW1, two 44cm crocheted table clothes with a State Registered Mental Nurse badge. Jill Wellford (nee Grant) showed slides of the book she had published on the well known Whittingham family who lived in Gore. She kindly presented the book she had written to our library.

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## Sokonui Heritage Research Center

Bruce Cavanagh is available at the Maruwai Center Tuesday 1.30 – 5pm to assist, or you can do your own research of the many valuable resources of the Gore Branch and Heritage Research Center: death notice scrap books back to 1976, obituaries, books of local school schools, churches, districts and Electoral rolls plus many more.

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## New Zealand News

New releases on [paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers](http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers)

- [Manawatu Times](#) (1937-1945)
- [Nelson Evening Mail](#) (1938-1945)
- [Timaru Herald](#) (1929-1935)

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To a new member Lyn Jones.  
 We hope we can assist you with your research.

## Wiltshire records online

Researchers with ancestors from Wiltshire are particularly well catered for – not only are the parish registers from 1538-1916 online at Ancestry, Findmypast have well over 6 million transcribed entries from parish registers.



Key record sets at Ancestry include:

- [Wiltshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812](#)
  - [Wiltshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1916](#)
  - [Wiltshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1916](#)
  - [Wiltshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1916](#)
  - [Wiltshire, England, Non-Conformist Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1810-1987](#)
  - [Wiltshire, England, Wills and Probate, 1530-1858](#)
- Transcribed entries at Findmypast include:
- [Wiltshire Baptisms Index 1530-1917](#)
  - [Wiltshire Marriages Index 1538-1933](#)
  - [Wiltshire Banns Index 1538-1933](#)
  - [Wiltshire Burials Index 1538-1990](#)
  - [Wiltshire Wills and Probate Index 1530-1881](#)

The Findmypast transcripts include more entries from the 20th century. However the coverage varies enormously depending on the parish. Many, but not all of the Findmypast transcripts have been provided by Wiltshire Family History Society.

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**History isn't about dates**  
***It's about the people who fill***  
***the spaces between them***

## What will the 1921 Census reveal?

One of the things that made the release of the 1911 Census so exciting was the inclusion of information that had never been recorded in a British census before, such as the number of years that a couple had been married, and the number of children born to that marriage.

Neither of those questions were asked in 1921, but those who were married or widowed were asked to state the total number of living children and step-children below the age of 16, and indicate how old each one was last birthday. The form is quite complex, so it wouldn't be a surprise if some householders made mistakes in answering these new questions – after all, there were quite a few mistakes in 1911 (though ironically some of the inadvertent errors turned out to be helpful to family historians).

Each person was asked to give their age in years, and Months. This might enable some of us to finally track down missing birth certificates. Birthplaces of those born outside the UK were to be given as country and state, province, or district – in 1911 this extra detail was only required for those born in the British Empire.

But perhaps most intriguing of all is the requirement for children to state whether their parents are still alive – where children were living with their parents at the time of the census. It might throw up some surprises for those who were in an orphanage or other institution, at boarding school, or living with other relatives.

The 1921 Census was planned for Sunday 24th April, but industrial unrest resulted in it being postponed until Sunday 19th June, even later in the year than the 1841 Census, which took place on 6th June.

### PAPERSPAST UPDATE

Four new additions to existing titles were uploaded in January, 3 of which include the World War Two era.  
*Timaru Herald* 1929-1935 [begins in 1864 *Nelson Evening Mail* 1938-1945 [begins 1866]  
*Waikato Times* 1936-1945 [begins 1872]  
*Manawatu Times* 1937-1945 [begins 1877]

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## NB

**Read Elaine's report on pg 4 before the meeting .**

1. **Ancestry holds two useful databases** in their freemasonry Membership registrations dataset: England, united Grand lodge of England freemason Membership registers, 1751-1921 and Ireland, Grand lodge of freemasons of Ireland Membership registers, 1733-1923.



2. The Grand lodge of Ireland Museum, library & archive <https://freemason.ie/museum-library-archive> helps researchers to learn more about the details of their ancestors' membership or for researching the Masonic fraternity in general.



3. Check the website of the Museum of Freemasonry <https://museumfreemasonry.org.uk/freemasonry-and-family-history> The Museum holds the archives of: the united Grand lodge of England (including predecessor bodies); the Supreme Grand chapter of England (including predecessor bodies; buildings and sites associated with the Grand lodge; charitable bodies associated with freemasonry; individual freemasons; and many lodges and chapters that are now closed.

4. Masonic Periodicals online [www.masonicperiodicals.org](http://www.masonicperiodicals.org) offers searchable digital copies of the major English Masonic publications held at the library and Museum of Freemasonry, London

5. Launch of interactive map of every Scottish Episcopal place of worship, from 1689-2021. Eleanor M Harris has created a project to list and geolocate all places of worship in Scotland. Access the map at: [https://qgiscloud.com/eleanormharris/Episcopal\\_places\\_of\\_worship\\_map\\_online](https://qgiscloud.com/eleanormharris/Episcopal_places_of_worship_map_online)

From <http://eleanormharris.co.uk/2021/01/10/scottish-episcopal-places-of-worship-interactive-map/>



6. Bevin Trainees are now in the India Office Family History Search in 1941. The British Minister of Labour, Ernest Bevin, supported the establishment of the Bevin Training Scheme to provide practical training in engineering for young Indians. The India Office Records Team has transcribed all the names and details from lists of the first seven batches of trainees invited to the UK, into the British Library's India office family History Search. *From Matthew Waters, India Office Records.*

<https://blogs.bl.uk/untoldlives/2021/01/bevin-trainees-now-in-india-office-family-history-search.html>

**FamilyTreeDNA and Gene by Gene Merger.**  
FamilytreeDNA and our parent company, Gene by Gene, have merged with myDNA, a leading genomics company that is revolutionizing the field of pharmacogenomics.

The merger of myDNA and Gene by Gene is built on the belief that genetic information can give us a scientific foundation for understanding how best to care of ourselves and maintain optimal health and wellness, both physically and mentally. *Thanks to Kapati Branch*

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**Family Search additions:**

Australia, Victoria Petty Sessions Registers 1858-1985 (sadly no images, browse only).



England, Middlesex, Westminster, Marylebone Census 1821 & 1831 (no images).



England, Devon, Plymouth – they appear to be doing a lot more work in this area – check it out.

France, Iser and Nord regions Civil Registrations 1524-1893/1900 (no images).

Germany, Catholic records for North Rhine-Westphalia & Rhineland areas (no images).

**England:**

GRO Online Indexes have now extended to 1934 with births

Find My Past have released Shropshire Quarter Session Rolls Index 1831-1920 as well as Ecclesall Bierlow

Workhouse Admissions 1883-1915 so if you are missing you folk in Sheffield, Yorkshire it may be worth looking there.

Lancaster and Liverpool newspapers added online with Hereford Prison Register Index 1849-1915 and Bedford Gaol Registers also on Find My Past

The Genealogist have released more headstone images.



**Wales:**

**Find My Past** have released more records from Denbighshire for baptisms, marriages and burials as well as Court of Great Sessions (if your relative appeared in the courts on charges

**Scotland:**

**Scotland's People** saw the release of 1000 Maps and Plans of waterways in Scotland. There are now over

2,500 maps that can be accessed and downloaded FREE from their site. *Thanks to Southland Branch*

**South Africa:**



<http://www.theheritageportal.co.za>

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**Ancestry.**



- Church of England Marriage Bonds 1611-1861 from Archdeaconries of Richmond & Manchester.

This covers Lancashire and part of Cumberland. Note that these bonds date up to 1861, which is 24 years after the start of civil registration. There are images of these documents.

Westminster, London Non-Conformist Baptisms, Marriages and Burials 1841-1964 (with images)

- UK Calendar of Prisoners 1868-1929 (with images of the printed pages)

- UK After-Trial Calendar of Prisoners 1855-1931 (with images of the printed pages)

- UK Registers of Habitual Prisoners + Police Gazettes 1834-1934 (with images of the printed pages)

- UK Prison Commission Records 1770-1951 (has images of registers, photos, minute books, etc)

- Lancashire Home Guard WW2 Records 1940-45 (with images)

- North Dakota Naturalizations 1873-1952 (with images)

- Canada Newspapers.com Marriage Index 1800s-1999 (an index only to another website's records)

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**New Zealand News**

**Family Search** have recently added 1.6 million records to their 'New Zealand, Obituaries, 1844-1963' collection, search it from the link. This includes post 1950s obits that are not covered in Papers Past

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2538222>

- Oamaru: the museum is finally open
- Remember the Archives NZ Christchurch office is now at the old Wigram Air Base if you were planning to go
- to Christchurch
- Find My Past has now got Lyttleton Times online! Easier and cheaper to use Papers Past

*Thanks to Southland Branch*

## Car Registration Plates



### Did your Ancestors own a car in early New Zealand?

As cars were registered every year and new number plates issued each time, by the style and colour of the plates, you can determine the year(s) they had owned the car.

Prior to 1925 numbers were issued by local authority and painted on to the car or otherwise displayed by the owner. For the years 1925/26, there was a symbol of a square between the years; with the years were white numerals on green background. These plates were manufactured in the U.S.A. Number plates continued to be issued with various colours and symbols between the years. This system continued until 1965 when plates were issued for the life of the vehicle. These lifetime plates were silver letters and numbers on black background. They started with AA1 to AA9999, then B1, etc. Of course we now have personalized number plates .

*Thanks to Iris Taylor ,Papakura Branch member*

In USA and Canada number plates for each state and Province number plates Indicate where the car and occupants are from.

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### HERITAGE Month March 2021

The museum is closed this year, but the following talk could be very valuable to genealogists. It is to be held are at the Maruawai center – **Monday 1 March 7pm**  
**Costume packing workshop**

Laurence Le Ber and Rosemary Jackson – Hunter will show us how to care of our treasured textiles.

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Bring your "hard to find on any shipping list"

ancestor, and Bruce and Elaine may be able to help. We will both have access to paid websites and can look outside the square. We would also love to hear the stories that go with those ancestors. **Where did they settle. What religion were they? Little things sometimes make a big picture.** *Thanks Elaine*

## A century of Remembrance

Commonwealth War Commission 1917 – 2017

An estimated 8.5 million men served in the British Army 1914-1918 - a million died, and thousands from Commonwealth countries. **Fabian Ware** was a British Red Cross worker, Commander of a mobile unit and his job was to bring injured and dead back to the field hospital. He had worked in South Africa and seen the decaying gravestones and memories for the fallen of the Anglo –Boer War – he could imagine how distressing would be for the relations to learn of. He didn't want this to happen again, but Fabian and his team couldn't keep up with the number killed in action. Fabian Ware and his team started to record the makeshift graves and wooden crosses they found after the retreat of the British Expeditionary Force from Mons in the autumn of 1914.

It became the responsibility of any unit finding a body to identify, bury and register the burial- fighting permitting. Burial parties would be sent out to this end. By March 1915 the work of Fabian and his team had been officially recognized by the War Office, named Graves Registration Commission. The name changed at least three times until 1960 when it became the **Commonwealth War Graves Commission.**

From 1914 each serviceman was issued with a red identity disc, marked with name, rank and number. From 1916 they were issued with 2 discs: one red to be removed for recording purpose, one green to remain with the body. The soldiers service and paybook carried in right breast pocket also helped identify them. In recent times DNA has been used, for instance to trace the identities of descendants of the men killed at the battle of Fromells 1916.

All memorials had to be identical, in the CWGC cemeteries regardless of rank or race.

The names of 600,000 and 67,000 killed in the Home Front , together with those for First World War can be searched at [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org).

Learn about post war work to clear the battlefields and ensure the dead were honourably buried :

<http://familytr.ee/Clearingthedeath>



Rome, Italy

All the soldiers who were buried over Crete were re interred in Souda Bay, War Cemetery, Chania and unidentified bodies in