

# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists May 2021

CONVENOR Elaine Scott 208 5392  
 SECRETARY Vicki Newman 027 728 7505  
 TREASURER Margaret Milne 208 7312  
 BULLETIN Avis McDonald 208 6812  
 WEBMASTER Liz O'Connell 208 3727  
 WEB SITE <http://goregenealogy.weebly.com/>  
 NZSG WEB SITE [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

**Next Meeting**  
**4 May 2021**  
**7.pm Maruawai Center**  
**AGM Do please come**  
**DNA Hints FOR EVERYONE**  
 Elaine Scott.



## April Meeting Report

It was wonderful to have a good number of members to hear the speaker, Lisa Sleeman, a State registered nurse who is now working as a 'Funeral Professional' for a local Funeral home. She was excellent and later answered the many questions from members. Cremations from this area are conducted in Invercargill. Heart Pace makers have to be removed but not artificial hips. Unexpected deaths require a Post Mortem which is held in Dunedin. Publication of **Death notices in the newspaper is not mandatory or a legal requirement.** Family members can wash and dress their loved ones bodies if they wish. They can also have them resting at home. It is hoped we can to join Southland Branch for a meeting this week on Family Search'

Members - Members Christmas photo 2020 – Finally



\*\*\*\*\*

### Regional Report Update - April Meeting NZ /Society of Genealogists

- New Office Manager, job re-scoped Kiwi Collection on-line by the end of April. \$20 per month or \$50 per year
- New Regional Guides
- On-line classes becoming available
  - Check out the "Getting it Right" series on DNA, by Sarah Hewitt and on the website
- Robyn Williams, via internet, showed us how to operate the Library Catalogue
  - See e-resources
  - Items can be scanned and e-mailed
  - It is possible to go directly to Library without logging in.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FINDMYPAST NEWS

A database that was added during the past few weeks is:  
 - Royal Air Force and Commonwealth Second World War Mentioned in Dispatches

### ANCESTRY.COM UPDATE

Free access via Gore Library or Elaine Scott's computer to Ancestry One database that has been uploaded recently is: -

### Cardiff Asylum Indexes

Thanks to Riccarton Branch

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Zealand website



NZ Legal Information Institute website

<http://www.nzlii.org/>

Facebook group, NZ Super Sleuths which is a Facebook group of genealogists who help each other solve their research problems.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Overseas News



### Family Search additions:

- 1891 Census for Norway
- New York, Index to Passengers Lists of Vessels, 1897-1902
- Sweden: Vasterbotten Church Records 1619-1896; Index 1688-1860

### Ancestry additions:

Ireland, Valuation Records 1824-1856. Related to Griffith's Valuations that took place 1848-1864  
Ireland, Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records 1839-1920



### England:

Looking closer at **Middlesex** maps?

<https://www.layersoflondon.org/>

<https://maps.nls.uk/.../6inch-england-and.../middlesex.html>

<https://www.lwmfhs.org.uk/images/stories/Middx.pdf>

Ancestors in Salford,

### Greater Manchester?

<http://www.weasteheritagetrail.co.uk/about/the-history-of-weaste-cemetery/index.htm>

### Lancaster:

1785 Map of Liverpool showing the names of individual landowners. Apparently this is a very rare and important map.

[https://alteagallery.com/view\\_product.php...](https://alteagallery.com/view_product.php...)

Kent wills pre 1858

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~mrawson/wills.html>. This collection has been collated from contributions from many

folk. It is not complete and is being added to.



### Wales:

Welsh Anglican parish records previously only found on Find My Past are now available on Ancestry

and The Genealogist websites.



### Scotland:

Each parish in Scotland had its own kirk session, the lowest of the church courts which was comprised of the minister, elders and heritors, who not only officiated on cases of kirk

discipline, but also maintained the daily affairs of the parish. Also available are some records for the higher church courts of the presbytery and the synod.

Records are a gold mine for ancestry, often listing members who were disciplined for breaches of the kirk's rules, such as blasphemy, antenuptial fornication, and working on the Sabbath, as well as listing people in receipt of poor relief. And a conviction by the session for dirty dancing ('promiscuous dancing')!

The images have been made freely available to view in a new section of the site named Virtual Volumes (after the computer system in use at the NRS Historic Search Room), but to download any page will cost 50p, or 2 credits. A full guide on how to use the records is available at <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/using-virtual-volumes>. From the site:



*Virtual Volumes currently contains more than 6,000 volumes from the courts of the Church of Scotland and other Presbyterian churches. The records are mainly those of kirk sessions, presbyteries and synods between 1560 and 1870. To see what is available for a parish, presbytery or synod, use the volume search page or the place search. NRS is grateful to the Church of Scotland for their participation and support in this endeavour*

There are challenges to overcome when using the records, particularly the further back in time you go, with handwriting and old forms of vocabulary, not least of which the use of the Scots language. But whilst the 1921 census will be fun to see when it appears later this year, this is the undoubtedly the biggest release we'll see from ScotlandsPeople in many years. Well done to all who succeeded in getting them to us online!



### Australia:

NSW Archives - Newly digitised in Collection Search is the Card Index to

Publicans' Licenses, 1920 -1937.

It's searchable by name of establishment or locality: <http://ow.ly/4DgX50DNmRH>.

They also have Railway Cards too – helpful if you know they worked within the Railway Department.. (Taken from Facebook Australian Genealogy page)  
*Thanks to Southland Branch*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Findmypast** updates

[Cheshire](#), [Devon](#), [Hertfordshire](#), most of East [Kent](#), [Leicestershire](#), [Lincolnshire](#), [Norfolk](#), [Plymouth & West Devon](#), [Rutland](#), [Shropshire](#), [Staffordshire](#), [Warwickshire](#), much of [Yorkshire](#), and most of [Wales](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## Is census information always hidden for 100 years?

Early next year Findmypast will be releasing the 1921 England & Wales census, though like other previous releases of a similar stature (1901 Census, 1911 Census, 1939 Register) it will initially be available on a pay-per-view basis, rather than being included in any subscription. Since the Census Act was passed in 1920 there has been a 100-year restriction on the release of censuses – fortunately the 1939 register wasn't covered by the Act.

\*\*\*\*\*



### DNA

The very first thing you can do to further your own research is to test yourself in three ways:

**Autosomal DNA** – Test at all 4 primary testing vendors,

**FamilyTreeDNA, MyHeritage, Ancestry and 23andMe.**

The reason for testing at (or transferring to) multiple vendors is because they each have a unique focus and tools. Perhaps more importantly, they each have different people in their databases. Each testing company has benefits.

**FamilyTreeDNA** has people who tested as long as 20 years ago and are no longer available for testing.

**MyHeritage** has many European testers and you'll find matches there that you won't find elsewhere if your ancestors came from Europe.

**Ancestry** has the largest database, but fewer advanced tools.

**Full Sequence Mitochondrial DNA** – Available at **FamilyTreeDNA**, this test allows focus solely on your matrilineal line, meaning your mother's mother's

mother's line directly without confusion introduced by DNA from other lines.

- **Y DNA** – For males only, also **available at FamilyTreeDNA**, provides focus on the direct patrilineal, or surname, line.
  - (The females wanting to test their Y chromosome must locate a male – brother; or father; or father's brother or a male descendant of her paternal grandfather etc.

▪ **A DNA test for genealogy will not tell you the name of an ancestor, nor where that ancestor was born.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Writing Your Family Story...

All research will be more susceptible to outlasting the lives of the researcher by being written up in some sort of narrative **like a book, published article in journals or newsletters like this.**

**The mantra is “write it up or risk losing your valuable research”.**

An article becomes very boring if all we have is birth, marriage and death dates, headstone photograph and lists of children. We need to put “flesh on the bones”. So where do we go to? The most likely answer is old newspapers. During your long lifetime have you believed everything you read in the newspapers? *Trump had a name for it – fake news.*

Nowadays we all jump on anything that we find in the papers and cut and paste it into our narrative. Why, that “rubbish newspaper” that your parents hid away from you – The Truth – has become an acceptable source.

So poor old great great grandfather who accidentally fell over after a few drinks now becomes labelled a drunkard because of one unfortunate episode. An exceedingly poor great grandmother, who attended a local dance once in her lifetime and managed to become photographed gets written up as a regular attendee to such functions and always looked as beautiful as the photograph rather than the scruffy milking shed slave she really was.

In the old days it was easier to get a divorce if one of the partners could obtain a co-respondent, irrespective of whether the alleged act or acts took place. Thus, a mutually-agreed role playing exercise ends up labelling one partner as “one of those loose people”. Let alone

what the obliging “co-respondent” gets labelled even though they may not “have sampled the goods”.

This means that the old standard procedures of interviewing the living oldies is perceived as no longer necessary.

\*\*\*\*\*

A number of factors that occurred in the first 40 years of the 1800's which combined changed British life for the majority forever ( we must remember that most of the population at the time worked on the land)

Corn laws were introduced in 1815 putting a very high duty on imported grain in an effort to boost domestic farming. This while helping the farmers turn a profit meant great difficulties for the average family as they could no longer afford to buy bread. It is a myth that it was all home-made bread then, you can't bake bread over an open fire and farm labourers wouldn't be able to afford to buy an oven.

Farm wages fell to an all time low in the 1820's and most of the population lived at starvation level.

Commoners rights as well as the common land itself hand slowly been whittled away over the previous 100 years. So where once the ag lab could grow his own food, collect firewood and graze pigs and be somewhat self-sufficient it was no longer the case. Poaching in what had once been pubic woodland became common, just to put some food on the table.

To make matters worse threshing machines were slowly being introduced, these machines took the winter work away from the farm labourers. Each machine took away the work of 10 to 15 men

In the parish of Waltham (south of Canterbury) I can count at least 7 old farms, so this small parish would have 70 to 105 unemployed men in the winter. If we guess at an average of 4 per each unemployed man (some of these would be single men, some family men and some the grandfathers just supporting their wives) give a total of somewhere in the region of 280 to 420 people that had to be supported by the parish during the winter months!

This figure must be somewhere near right as on the night of Sunday 29th August 1830 some 400 men from Elham and surrounding parishes, destroyed a threshing machine in Lower Hardres. Within three weeks about 100 machines had been broken in east Kent!

Since the 1500's it was the parish that looked after it's poor from money collected in tithes from the landowners which appears to been able to cope up until this period....paying for families to emigrate was one option for the parish to rid itself of the problem of looking after it's unemployed.

The Poor Law Amendment of 1834 tried to stop poor relief for people who refused to enter the Workhouse (where families were forced to live apart).

The late 1830's saw bad harvests and potato blight (the potato blight spread to Ireland later) making a bad situation worse.

The knock on effect must have hit whole villages,if the farmers had no money to spend the other trades people would have less money in their pockets etc.and the plight of the poor ???

In Victorian society there was a belief that poverty was an inherited disease!!!!

With that in mind it is easy to understand why people were transported for petty crimes and the Workhouses and parishes assisted emigration.

I think that most of them would have beyond the point that they still had any dreams or hope, and any route out of the living hell they must have been in would be welcome.

The following is quoted from *EAST AND WEST LONDON* By the Rev. Harry Jones. Published by Smith, Elder & Co., 1875

The emigrants are fed and taken to New Zealand free of charge, excepting £1 each for 'bedding-money' for those over twelve, and 10s. each for those under that age. I was struck with the air of confidence displayed by most. They were leaving the old country with less regret than I liked to see, though some of the elders looked sad. The majority were labourers.

The officials told me that on the arrival of the ship at its destination they were for some time lodged in a depot free of expense, but that they were generally engaged at once, or soon fetched away by friends.....At Blackwall, a point of embarkation for New Zealand alone, has seen the departure of seventeen thousand emigrants from May 11th, 1874, to August 7th in this year, which gives an average of more than a thousand a month,