

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

April 2023

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Next Meeting
4 April 2023
Time 7 pm
I Site center
Elaine Scott
Roots Tech video

February 2023 Meeting report

Lindsey Crazywolf, who was born in Georgia, USA was a very interesting and excellent speaker on the differences between USA and New Zealand health insurance and system, wages and life. Her husband Roger also contributed. Along with their two young children they arrived in Auckland on New Years Day 4 years ago and they love New Zealand. And there are No snakes! Or sharp thorns in the grass that penetrate through shoe soles.



The Gore Historical Society organized a visit to the well cared cemeteries of:

Mataura, Riversdale, Riversdale and Waikaia, and 'Otarara'.

Pukerau cemetery has recently re opened after the district researched and tidied all the graves, including a Moslem plot. As was the custom of the time, the Catholic graves are in a different area, away on the opposite hill to the Protestant graves. There is a road up to it now, and it is fenced and looks amazing. The Otarara grave with a rusty iron fence is in the corner of a paddock on the back road from Mataura to Clinton. It opened 1880, and closed 2004. The earliest burials /deaths are: Mataura 1876 Riversdale 1887, Waikaia (Switzers) 1887. After weeks of sunny hot weather, it was a cold wet windy autumn day.

Anzac Day 25 April

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders "who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations" and "the contribution and suffering of all those who have served".



National day of remembrance and first landing of the Anzacs at Gallipoli
 By the time the campaign ended, more than 130,000 men had died: at least 87,000 Ottoman soldiers and 44,000 Allied soldiers, including more than 8700 Australians. Among the dead were 2779 New Zealanders, about a sixth of all those who had landed on the peninsula.

This day is observed by: [Australia](#); [Christmas Island](#); [Cocos \(Keeling\) Islands](#); [Cook Islands](#); [New Zealand](#); [Niue](#); [Norfolk Island](#); [Tokelau](#); [Tonga](#)



Deaths in World War 1?

The total number of military and civilian casualties in World War I, was **around 40 million**. There were 20 million deaths and 21 million wounded. The total number of deaths includes 9.7 million military personnel and about 10 million civilians.

Over 60 million people died in World War II. Estimated deaths range from 50-80 million. 38 to 55 million civilians were killed, including 13 to 20 million from war-related disease and famine.

Websites.

New Zealand Ancestry Search Helper

ash.howison *this is amazing*

This prototype tool is designed to assist with NZ - focused genealogical research. It collates results from NZDIA's [Births](#), [Deaths](#) and [Marriages](#) searches, as well as results from dozens of council cemetery websites and several other online resources such as ["Auckland Museum online Cenotaph and Papers Past"](#)

You can find the actual birth, death and marriage dates. from this site!!!!

Ireland - Surname Distribution Maps

www.swilsoninfo/sdist.php

43,000 Historical Scottish prison records released.

www.scottishindexes.com

This is from March FamNet 2023 with Peter Nash's permission.

Last week I was approached to do some research for a client.

I am always bewailing the avalanche of digital data that inundates my fragile brain. I am always moaning about how easy it is research nowadays and am always nostalgic about the good old days when each fact found was the result of many long hours of painstaking fiche and film reading and thus was treasured and spoken about with pride.

In those days, getting three levels back in a family tree would take many hours of research and the purchase of a number of certificates.

Well, this latest client provided me with a death certificate for his mother who died at a very young age. He asked for a family tree and wanted to know who, in each branch of his tree, was the first into New Zealand and what was their country of birth.

In this case it took two hours to get three levels back with double sources for each birth, marriage and death and certificates are not needed. It took longer to write the report..

Firstly, I did not consult Ancestry.com family trees until after I had finished my report and I found that I was right (if you believe the "facts" you find in those trees).

The first source I checked was **the Wilson collection** – what a wonderful website. But then I'm biased because some of my work is there and I contributed to some of the databases there. I always check the **"Matching Brides and Grooms"** and **Burial Locator** databases. This produced year of marriage and full names of brides and grooms and the cemeteries in which they were buried. I used the headstones on **Findagrave** and **cemetery webpages** to give death dates and who was buried in with whom.

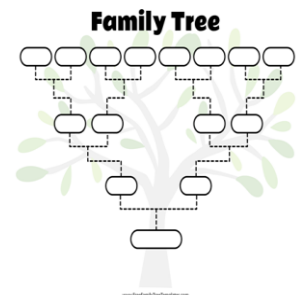
I then used **Papers Past** to find articles on marriages, deaths, inquests and obituaries. World War 1 service records for two different service men confirmed that I had the right parents and siblings and even the birth country of one parent (in Ireland and named the town). I found that one of my client's great grandmothers had a horrible month in 1897 when her husband died after being kicked by a horse and, one month later, her father died as a result of being hit by a train. In small town New Zealand, if anybody burped it made the newspaper which immediately reported as to what caused it, how loud it was and whether it was a "one off" or a repeated "performance". I am always amazed at what this source can produce.

It is also an amazing fact that I never believe everything I find in a modern newspaper but believe everything I find in an historic newspaper.

All my "people" lived in or around Ashburton. They were, I think, Irish Catholics and bred very prolifically. So if you are researching BROWN, McCORMICK, BUCKLEY and McSHERRY ancestry in the Ashburton area contact me. I have done your research.

Ancestral Mathematics

- 2 parents
- 4 grandparents
- 8 great grandparents
- 16 second great grandparents
- 32 third great grandparents
- 64 fourth great grandparents Etc



Think for a moment.

How many struggles?. How many battles? How many difficulties? How much sadness? How much happiness? How may love stories? How many expressions of hope and future-did your ancestors have to undergo for you to exist in this present time??.



Ancestry wins contract to digitize MoD records

The National Archives have announced that the contract for digitizing the **military records** that are in the process of being transferred from the Ministry of Defence has been awarded to Ancestry. Three million records for personnel who served after 1920 will be made available exclusively at Ancestry between 2024-2029.



1931 Canada census to be released in June 1st 2023

After 92 years in the vault, the highly anticipated 1931 census will be made available to the public.. Collected during the Great Depression and at a time of significant immigration, the census provides a snapshot of the more than 10 Million people living in Canada 1931.

[Library and Archives Canada](#) will be releasing the 1931 Census, which enumerated 10,376,786 people, on 1st June this year. Initially the images will be available to browse, but Ancestry will use their handwriting recognition technology to transcribe the data, with help from FamilySearch volunteers who will check the transcriptions.

How good is Ancestry’s handwriting recognition software, and how long will it take? When the 1940 US Census was released it took 9 months to produce a transcription using conventional methods, but the 1950 US Census was, amazingly, transcribed in just 9 days. No one knows what Ancestry’s target will be, but we could be surprised and able to search the census by name during June.

Findmypast Connect to your Irish lineage . **Thousands of new Irish family records have been added.**



New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG)

The changes will make branches that chose to be so, more autonomous, **with no need to distinguish between full NZSG and non-NZSG members within our membership (and no levy to be paid).**

We will likely take steps to become Incorporated, with our own set of rules (currently our rules are the NZSG rules) complying with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. NZSG will prepare a template to help this process once the government has their new template builder in place. On current information, your branch committee supports these changes and looks forward to an ongoing relationship with NZSG.NZSG news: Those of you who also belong to our governing body, the New Zealand Society of Genealogists (NZSG), will have recently received a welcome email about an improvement to the Certificates Collection service. Up until now any requested documents were copied and mailed in the SAE you had to supply.

Recent discussions between the Register-General and NZSG have resulted in the ability of NZSG to now supply email copies of requested certificates. This collection is one of their jewels. If someone has already submitted a certificate you wish for your research you will have saved yourself the cost of purchasing it yourself.

Those without access to the (partial) index in the online Kiwi Collection on the NZSG website can always request an Individual Search or Surname Printout which will provide you with a PDF printout of the requested surnames. You can then request the relevant certificates. This collection has been built up over many years by all those who have contributed their purchased certificates (and other documents).

Members can log in and read about it here: <https://genealogy.org.nz/NZSG-Certificates/11162/> The postal service is still in operation for those who wish to use it.

FindMyPast Releases Two New Collections of Irish Probate Records

21 Mar 2023 5:00 PMAnonymous

Genealogy site **FindMyPast** has released two new sets of Irish probate records from the 19th century. A new collection of more than 300,000 records created by the British Government's Inland Revenue Wills & Administration between 1828 and 1879 is now available to view on the site.

The collection was created to determine tax obligations on Irish estates and features a number of rare documents that predate the Irish Famine. "These important records are a rare survival of priceless information about early Irish wills," FindMyPast said. The collection includes indexes for all years between 1828 and 1879, while it also includes surviving registers from 1828 to 1839 which contain extracts from the original documents. You can read more in an article in the IrishCentral web site at:

<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/genealogy/findmypast-irish-probate-records>



Hard Times and Bleak Houses

Victorian families were big. By 1861 age average was six, and one in six families had 10 or more children.

The population in England and Ireland rose from 16 million at the beginning of the 19 century to more than 41 million in 1901.

Children under the age of 14 made up 40% of the population compared to now with less than 20%. Millions of poor children worked long hours in grown up environments. In order for a family to survive both girls and boys went out to work. Dangerous machinery and pollution caused crippling injuries and fatal illnesses. Children of 8 or younger were working in underground coal mines. Young boys worked as chimney sweeps up to 1942. Many former mine workers were prematurely old and infirm cripples. Parents from poor backgrounds worked 12 hour days or more. Many children lived on the streets, while babies were drugged with Godfreys Cordial, or some concoction of opium and treacle. In 1848, it was estimated the number of children in workhouses was between 40,000 and 50,000.



The English Women's Land Army Index World War 2 Cards. It was established in January 1917 to help

increase the amount of food grown within Britain. It was wound up in 1919, and then re-established shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, in June 1939. It was finally disbanded in 1950.

At its peak in 1943 over 80,000 women often in their later teens or early twenties worked as 'land girls'. They tackled a wide range of duties from ploughing to planting, rat-catching to harvesting and everything in between.

They came from a wide range of backgrounds including towns and cities as well as the countryside. Search for an index card recording service in the Women's Land Army, 1939-1948, ([MAF 421](#)) on [Ancestry](#) (charges apply).

The index cards can show name, address, date of birth, Women's Land Army number and occasionally present occupation, where transferred to and when demobilized. The majority of women employed in the Women's Land Army were unmarried, so it may be useful to search using maiden and married names.

The government only begrudgingly paid them a £150 resettlement allowance after the Queen made clear her support for their cause.

Now, some 68 years after the first of the women volunteered for service on the land, the surviving members of the WLA are to be officially recognized for their contribution to the war effort with a commemorative badge to celebrate their efforts.

Applications for the medallion, which is being awarded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It follows a campaign to reward the estimated 20,000 women still alive, mostly in their seventies or eighties, who undertook the gruelling work on the Home Front.

Hilda Gibson, 83, spent two years in the WLA killing rats in Lincolnshire before transferring to Norfolk to muck out and feed poultry. She said the badge was a "powerful and touching gesture to thank us for what we did".

There was a Land Army in New Zealand, but no records were retained by the NZ Army. And no badge.

A bronze sculpture commemorating the largely unsung women's heroes of New Zealand's World War II effort has been unveiled in rural South Canterbury.