



# WANGANUI GENEALOGY

## (August-September 2011)

Newsletter of New Zealand Society of Genealogists – Wanganui Branch  
c/o Wanganui District Library, Private Bag 3005, Wanganui Mail Centre, WANGANUI 4540

### Wanganui Branch Subs (1 year subs are from 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012)

**Single Subscription:** \$15; **Double Subscription:** \$20; **Visitor/Casual:** door charge \$3 each.

**NB.** If paying by cheque, please make payable to “Wanganui Branch NZSG”.

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## Meetings

All Wanganui branch meetings are held in the Heritage Room, Alexander Library, on second Monday of each month - February to November at 5-8pm (unless otherwise specified). The formal part of the evening is usually from 6.30pm with research undertaken before/after the formal session.

### Meetings/Events

Monday 8 August 2011: Heritage Services Leader, Gillian Tasker will speak about the upcoming event for family history month (see next event below). She will also speak about some of her ancestors and research. (*Trading table and the raffle will operate as usual.*)

Sat 13 August 2011 Australia & NZ Research/Heritage Day; 10am-4pm at Heritage Room, Wanganui. Wanganui District Library staff and NZSG - Wanganui Branch members will be available to help you. We will be joined by Deborah Shuker, of the NZSG - Australian Interest Group with their resources. Be the first to see the Wanganui Founders’ Society ‘Wanganui Portrait Collection’ at the official launch. Beginners welcome! Entry: Free.

NB. There will be two computers with Ancestry Library Edition and two computers with Find My Past UK and Australasian Editions available. Bring your wireless enabled laptop for free access to the Internet and to Ancestry Library Edition in the Library. There will be a charge for any printouts from the computers. ENQUIRIES: [heritage@wanganuilibrary.com](mailto:heritage@wanganuilibrary.com) or ph (06) 3491000.

Monday 12 September 2011: Genealogy/Family History Quiz Night. (*Trading table and raffle operating.*)

## Editorial *by Bruce Isted*

### Recapping the last two events:

**June:** A research evening along with a brief talk by Jasmin Ratana about the upcoming Whakapapa Family Heritage Event (see next page for a brief report and photos). Next, Wendy Pettigrew spoke about the NZSG School Records Project – the background, what it entailed, the importance of information to get transcribed, and the need for more volunteers to help with inputting (transcribing) and checking the admission registers for the remaining Wanganui Schools. If you can help, please contact the School Records Coordinator, Grace Phillips, phone 344-5247; email: [gracie\\_W07@hotmail.com](mailto:gracie_W07@hotmail.com)

**July:** We had a members participation evening re ‘Pitfalls of Researching’. Several members shared a brief talk on their personal research pitfalls, such as following the wrong family tree (easily done if copying data from others, especially online) not verifying records, problems confirming which person links to the right family, etc. Certainly the examples given show how easily you can get information wrong and it is very important to verify data from several sources if possible.

This newsletter once again has several contributions from our members. This is greatly appreciated. More contributions are required from ‘other’ members to help fill our 2011 newsletters. I await your contact!

# NOTICES/NEWS (Branch & NZSG)

## New Branch Acquisitions:

- 1. New Zealand Early Settlers CD** compiled by Diane Wilson. This is a compilation of early records of NZ Settlers, including 1853-54 Electoral Rolls and Jury Rolls. Because NZ did not keep the National census records, these lists have become useful in locating missing ancestors for this early period. Published by NZ Family History Fair 2011.
- 2. Irish Surnames CD** compiled by John Grenham, a noted Irish historian. It has details of thousands of Irish surnames as well as some Coats of Arms and parish records. Published by Eneclann. Donated by Chris Mahoney.
- 3.** We received the updated version (2011) of the **Whakapapa, Maori History, Heritage & Culture** publication from the NZSG - Maori Interest group. (This supersedes the former 2008 copy.)

### Wanganui School Records Project

Some of you are already volunteering to help with this project and on behalf of the branch I thank you for this. For those that attended the last branch meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June, you would have heard Wendy Pettigrew talk about this important project which we'd like to complete in the next few years.

This email is calling for more volunteers to help with inputting (transcribing) and checking admission registers for remaining Wanganui schools. It is a straightforward process to input the data as well as checking, but if you are a newbie then you will be shown. There are no deadlines to meet so it can be done at leisure. Access to computer is useful but not a requirement as some initial checking can be done from printouts given to you. **If you can help, please contact School Records Coordinator Grace Phillips, phone 344-5247; email: [gracie\\_W07@hotmail.com](mailto:gracie_W07@hotmail.com)**

**NZSG Kiwi Index V1** - A new index is currently under construction and it is hoped that it will be ready for release sometime late in August. Pre-sales are likely to be available via the NZSG website, so watch the website for details.

**The Heritage Research Room has some microfiche readers to give-away for free.** You don't have to be a member of the branch, can be from another branch. Contact: Gillian ph (06) 3491000 [Gillian@wanganuilibrary.com](mailto:Gillian@wanganuilibrary.com)

**Also the Heritage Research Room has some credits left on the Irish Family History Foundation website [www.RootsIreland.ie](http://www.RootsIreland.ie)** They will expire at the end of September and would be happy to sell the credits to anyone wanting to research their Irish ancestors on that site. Contact: Gillian ph (06) 3491000 [Gillian@wanganuilibrary.com](mailto:Gillian@wanganuilibrary.com)

### Wananga Whakapapa by Jasmin Ratana (Maori Information Librarian, Wanganui District Library)

A Wānanga Whakapapa was held at the Alexander Library on 25<sup>th</sup> June as a part of our Whanganui Puanga Celebrations and to support researchers of Māori family history. The day was a great success with around 55 attendees on the day from as far away as Turangi and Wellington.

The Aotea Māori Land Court gave some very interesting presentations concerning their organisation and the information they hold. Of particular interest was the presentation by Bronwyn Hika showing how to find your ancestors by following the land ownership records back to find the original owners and their brothers, sisters, cousins etc.

The information about the use of [www.maorilandonline.govt.nz](http://www.maorilandonline.govt.nz) was also very helpful and members of the Aotea Māori Land Court Team stayed until the end of the day to answer any questions.



We were also pleased to have in attendance Haimona Rzoska who is an acknowledged exponent of whakapapa in the Whanganui region and of course Brenda Joyce of the NZSG Maori Interest Group who was very much in demand.

Special thanks must go to Frances Haddock and members of the NZSG – Wanganui Branch who supported the day and helped out with queries and the use of research tools. All the feedback from attendees was very encouraging and it was pleasing to see many first time researchers having a go.

## Genealogy Snippets *from various sources*

**While researching on PapersPast website** I was reading the *Otago Witness* looking at my gold mining ancestors who lived in Skippers Canyon more than 100 years ago and on 24 Feb 1866 page 13, I came across the following humorous snippet -

*“Ma” said a young lady to her mother “What is emigrating?”*

*Mother. “Emigrating, my dear is a young lady going to New Zealand.”*

*Daughter. “What is colonising, Ma?”*

*Mother. “Colonising, my dear, is marrying there and having a family”*

*Daughter. “Ma, I should like to go to New Zealand.”*

So now we know how our female ancestors came to be in New Zealand!

*A learned Coroner being asked the other day how he accounted for the great mortality this year, exclaimed: “I cannot tell; There are people dying this year that never died before.” (12 July 1865 p 10)*

I always thought that my great-grandfather, James Stephenson from Atwick, Yorkshire, died in 1896 from miners' lung disease. Now I know the real reason!

I have learned a lot from being a member of the NZSG - Wanganui Branch (*John Stephenson*).

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### **The Great Cursing by The Archbishop Gavin Dunbar of Glasgow against 77 Reiver families in 1524:**

Had some reiver families paid their tithes and attended mass regularly, Archbishop Dunbar might have looked past some small transgressions of his congregation. The Archbishop took umbrage to the families around those parts as Tevidale, Esdale, Liddisdale. Ewisdale, Nedisdale, and Annandereail had returned to their pagan ways, which included stealing from and burning church property. The homelands of the Border Reivers still exist as Tavendale and Tevidale which still exist in tranquil valleys once dominated by lawless reiver clans. Never mind the murders, robberies, blackmail and mayhem committed against common folk, when the Archbishop had enough of such shenanigans, he lowered the boom, and did so with substantial journalistic vigor.

#### **Bishop's Curse**

“Good folks, (herewith) my Archbishop of Glasgow’s letters, under his round seal, directed to me, or any other chaplain, making mention with great regret, how heavy he bears the piteous, lamentable, and dolorous complaint that passes over all realms and comes to his ears by open voice and fame, how our Sovereign Lord’s true lieges, men, wives, and children, bought and redeemed by the precious blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ, and living in his laws, are innocently, some murdered, some slain, burned, hurt, despoiled and cut openly by daylight and under silence of night, and their farms and lands laid waste, and themselves banished there from, also church lands as well as others, to be common traitors, rapists and thieves, dwelling in the south part of this realm, namely. Tevidale, Esdale,

Liddesdale, Ewisdale, Nedisdale, and Annandereail; they have been, in diverse ways, pursued for punishment by the temporal sword of our Sovereign Lord’s authority, and they fear not the same.” (*The church has condemned them in fear for their souls, and it has no prohibitory effect on their actions.*)

“And therefore, my said Archbishop of Glasgow has thought it necessary to strike them with the terrible sword of Holy Church, that they may not long endure and resist; and has charged me, or any other chaplain, to denounce, declare and proclaim them openly and generally cursed, at this market crossroads, and all other public places.”

*(Numerous paragraphs follow, but I have had to abridge. It finishes with the following paragraph)*

“And, finally, I condemn them perpetually to the deep pit of hell, there to remain with Lucifer and all his fellows, and their bodies to the gallows of Burrow moor, first to be hanged, then ripped and torn by dogs, swine, and other wild beasts, abominable to all the world. And their candle (light of their life) goes from your sight, as may their souls go from the face of God, and their good reputation from the world, until they forebear their open sins, aforesaid, and rise from this terrible cursing and make satisfaction and penance.”

*(Oh dear, never mind! Obviously it didn't pay to get offside with the Church in those days? Several versions, one in Scots tongue, can be found by Google.)*  
{Contributed by Ann Morgan nee Johnstone; abridged version from newsletter, Clan Johnstone Association NZ Inc; Jan 2011.}

## Memories of Chatham Islands by Trevor Gibson

(NB. This article along with more pictures appeared in NZ Memories, June/July 2011)

My father was Jim Gibson, who was cook on the *Tees* during the early 1930s. My mother Agnes and brothers Allan and James (Jimmy) spent holidays on the Chatham Island at times. I joined the *Port Waikato* as an ordinary seaman in May 1947, working up to Leading AB (bosun) and sailed aboard her for two-and-a-half years, trading to the Chatham Islands and around the New Zealand coast until Christmas 1949.

The hospital was staffed by nursing nuns (Canadian I think). Their introduction to the Island was a rough trip down. On account of bad weather and swell, the ship could not berth, so the nuns had to climb up over the ship's side into a lifeboat to be rowed ashore. There was also an English doctor and his wife on board the same ship. During one voyage back to the mainland, the ship was going backwards while still steaming ahead into a southerly storm with 50 foot swell. The log (ship's speedo) had to be handed (pulled aboard).

Another voyage, we left Waitangi (the main port at the Chathams) into a southerly storm. That night there was a lot of remorse among the Islanders, as one of the passengers was an anthropologist from the Canterbury Museum - she carried what was reported to be a bag of bones from a remote burial site. They were not very happy at all. One of the Elders said that the ship would not get back to the mainland without having to return to the Island, or something happening at sea. We got a wire runner around the propeller five hours into sailing and had to send out a distress call. Whether this was a coincidence or not - who will ever know? The fishing vessel *Manuka* answered the distress call and stood by until a ship (the *Kamo*) was sent out to tow the ship back to Wellington. The sheep cargo was unloaded at Petone for sale at Wellington instead of Christchurch.

Other times we defied superstition - we sailed from Lyttelton on Friday the thirteenth with a priest, two nuns, women passengers and a body being returned to the Islands for burial. According to superstition you should never undertake any of these when going to sea, but we had the best voyage ever. Flat seas and no swell for the 50 hour passage. The ship always sailed back to the mainland with open hatches so there was ventilation for the stock below decks. They were checked every morning and any dead ones were dumped overboard during the afternoon watch.

Captain Keith was the Master during the two and half years I was on board. His wife and son made trips to the Island during school holidays. Some of the names that I can recall are: Jim Hunt, Hamish Hunt, Brown, Gregory Hunt, Langdale Hunt, Herbert Hunt, Lanauze, Tuanui, Kamo, Fraser, Pohio, Grennell, Gus Weisner, Solomon, Clough, Preists, Donaldson, Goomes, Pomare, Preecel, Holmes, Waitere. There are other faces that come to mind but the names escape me.

Normally unloading started at 0800 and continued through until the ship was ready for departure, which was normally around 2300-2400 depending on how many sheep were running. The longboat that was used for running the stern line to the mooring buoy was also used once by us to drag for an anchor and cable (chain) that parted on account of heavy swell. We were using a grapnel and my shark hook (12 inches long). It was the hook that snared the chain which was recovered.

There was an annual wool trip around the Island, with the surf boat carting out the wool from the shore starting at Waitangi West, Wharekauri, Kaiangaroa, Owenga and Pitt Island with extra trips to Pitt for sheep. The unloading crew consisted of Ron and Graeme Seymour, Dennis Day, Andy Hough, and Arthur Grennell. The loading of cattle was the most entertaining, especially the drive down to the wharf. Some of the cattle turned and gave chase instead of being herded, and sometimes one would turn around in the race and cause all sorts of problems. The discharge of cattle at Lyttelton was also a humorous affair - once the sling was around the animal, someone had to get on its back to get the crupper rope on to stop the animal sliding out of the sling.

The ship *Port Waikato* had the distinction of carrying the last cement in jute sacks to Wanganui and the first paper bags of cement. The wharfies complained that it was too hot to handle and required gloves to be provided. Also we took steel pipes for the Cobb dam from Hume Pipes in Wanganui to Onekaka. They were approximately 30 feet by 6 feet in size.

The *Port Waikato* was eventually sold to Lanena Shipping Co in Hong Kong. She departed Wellington on 12 Dec 1959 and was broken up in Hong Kong two years later.



*Port Waikato* anchoring Pitt Island



Bill Morgan & Trevor Gibson loading cargo



Chatham Islands Post Office & Town Hall 1949

**M V. PORT WAIKATO:** Motor Vessel, steel. Built by Henry Robb Ltd, Leith, Scotland, 1929. Taken over by Union Co 1946.

Dimensions: 180'2" length overall, 28'9" beam, 13'3" depth. Ship's crew: Master, Chief officer, second mate, Chief engineer, second & third engineers, Radio officer, Leading AB (bosun), four ABs, one ordinary seaman, Donkeyman, cook, Steward. Passengers: 14.

## A Genealogy Story *by Jean Hanna*

My husband's grandfather William John Hanna married Agnes Weir in Biggar, Scotland, in January 1888. They had a son later that year called Joseph. Sadly Agnes died the next day, age 24. William managed the baby with the help of his widowed mother, Rachel. I have been trying to find William's birth place and date. His parents John Hanna and Rachel Boyd were married in 1859 in County Antrim, Ireland and in the early 1860s came to Scotland then returned to Ireland where they had a daughter in 1867 before returning to Scotland again. The father John died in 1877 and Rachel became part of William's household after that. She was there in the 1881 census.

By February 1891 William John had met and married Barbara Mackay, 28, from Inverness. My husband's father John was born August 1891. A daughter Christina Mackay Hanna was born in 1894. She had spina bifida and died at four months old of cardiac failure. In November 1895 another daughter, also called Christine was born. Then a son William was born 1897, who died two years later from whooping cough. Robert was born in April 1899. Less than a month later, Barbara, his mother died of chronic Brights disease and a stroke. As if that was not enough baby Robert died in the August of the same year. So William a widower for the second time was left with: Joseph 11, John 9, Christine 5 and they lived in the same house as his mother Rachel.

Unbelievably by April 1900 William married again to Jessie Cairns a 28 year old widow with an eight year old son and she brought her widowed mother with her. At this point Rachel had moved out to stay with her married daughter Rebecca and took young Joseph with her. It is possible that relationships might have been a bit strained.

In 1901 the household consisted of: William 37. Jessie 29, her son Archie 8, William's son John 9, Christine 5 and Jessie's mother Mary 59. In early 1901 Jessie had a son, another William but in May that year William died of nervous spasms (we would call it fits maybe) and then Jessie died in July of TB.

Less than a year later William married a 4<sup>th</sup> time to Jeannie Boyd, a 20 year old spinster in March 1902. At the end of 1902 they had a son another William, a premature birth; he died a week later in January 1903. They went on to have a son James in 1904 and a daughter Jeannie in 1906 who thankfully survived. William John Hanna died in 1929 age 61 from a stroke; Jeannie survived him.

What a terrible legacy of child births and deaths over a decade for this family. It makes you wonder about the prospects of those who survived. My father-in-law John, although brought up in a separate household from Joseph must have kept in touch. When Joseph married in 1913, his half-brother John was his best man. Joseph and his wife went on to have a son William who had two daughters, Katherine and Arlene.

When our son Andrew was doing this research in Edinburgh last year he traced both sisters (Katherine and Arlene) now in their 50s. Neither of them had any idea that their grandfather Joseph had any living relatives. The only thing they knew was that when his stepmother Barbara died (when he was about nine), he went to stay with his Aunt Rebecca and his grandmother Rachel, who died when he was 14. They were delighted to be in touch with our family and when we were in Scotland last year we spoke with them by phone. One in Stornoway and the other in Kent. Katherine has a granddaughter called Hanna, so the name lives on.



Barbara Hanna c1895



William John Hanna 1915



John Hanna (RN WW1)



Arlene Baxter & Andrew Hanna 2009 Stornoway  
(Arlene is a granddaughter of Joseph Hanna)

# Genealogy Websites *Reprinted from various sources*

[www.genealogymedia.com/talks/](http://www.genealogymedia.com/talks/) **Genealogy book & software reviews**, news, commentary, and notes.

<http://stevemorse.org/onestep/onestep3.htm> **A One-Step Portal for On-Line Genealogy.**

[www.worldcat.org/](http://www.worldcat.org/) **WorldCat** connects you to collections/services of more than 10,000 libraries worldwide.

[www.dogpile.com/dogpile/ws/results/Web/Free%20Genealogy/1/302357/RightNav/Relevance/iq=true/zoom=off/qlnk=1/\\_iceUrlFlag=7?\\_IceUrl=true](http://www.dogpile.com/dogpile/ws/results/Web/Free%20Genealogy/1/302357/RightNav/Relevance/iq=true/zoom=off/qlnk=1/_iceUrlFlag=7?_IceUrl=true) **Web Search Results for "Free Genealogy".**

[www.archive.org/web/web.php](http://www.archive.org/web/web.php) **Browse over 150 billion web pages** archived from 1996 to few months ago

[www.livingrelativesearch.co.uk/](http://www.livingrelativesearch.co.uk/) **Living Relative Search.** As a valued partner of Ancestry.co.uk, we can provide you with a fast and convenient way of searching for people. Pay per view website.

[www.ellisland.org/](http://www.ellisland.org/) **Ellis Island (New York) Passenger Lists 1892-1924.** Is Free to search indexes (Name Index, Ship Index). You have to register to search the records but there is no cost to register. If you can't find a person by clicking on link "View Passenger Record"; click on "View Ships Manifest" and if found, you'll be able to access (view image) passenger record for FREE!

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ourstuff/OurPassengerLists.htm> **NZ Passenger Lists**, sorted by name as well as port of arrival. Not complete, but there are quite a few lists on the site.

## NZSG - Wanganui Branch Directory

### Officers:

#### **Convenor**

Frances Haddock, ph 347-9519; email: [feh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:feh@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #19762)

#### **Secretary**

Jenny Heywood, ph 345-7553; email: [jenny\\_heywood@hotmail.com](mailto:jenny_heywood@hotmail.com) (NZSG #8519)

#### **Treasurer**

Chris Mahoney, ph 347-9273; PO Box 958; email: [cmahoney@orcon.net.nz](mailto:cmahoney@orcon.net.nz) (NZSG #14983)

### Committee:

#### **Editor**

Bruce Isted, ph 347-7358; email: [bruce.isted@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bruce.isted@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #3332)

#### **Librarian**

Penny Stewart, ph 348-8337; email: [malidog@xtra.co.nz](mailto:malidog@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #24906)

#### **Scrapbook**

Roz Nieuwenhuis, ph 343-7393; email: [mehr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mehr@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #23152)

#### **School Records**

Grace Phillips, ph 344-5247; email: [gracie\\_W07@hotmail.com](mailto:gracie_W07@hotmail.com) (NZSG #9370)

June Thompson, ph 348-8126; email: [junet@xtra.co.nz](mailto:junet@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #10313)

Colin Wright, ph 345-5758 (NZSG #21229)

Margaret Calman, ph 344-7443; email: [calman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:calman@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #20811)

### Ex-Officio to the Committee:

**Research Officers:** June Springer, ph 345-0488; email: [rspringer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rspringer@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #191)

Joan Egan, ph 345-5789; email: [joanegan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joanegan@xtra.co.nz) (NZSG #11706)

**WDC Cemeteries Index Co-ordinator:** Judith Amer, ph 343-7172; email: [judith.amer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judith.amer@xtra.co.nz)

**Genealogy Help Desk at Heritage Room:** email: [Wanganui@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Wanganui@genealogy.org.nz)

## LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE WANGANUI (4 Arundel Place, Springvale, Wanganui)

Anybody wishing to use the LDS Family History Centre may have access by contacting the following person and make an appointment: Anita: (06) 344-1317; Mobile: 027-3701555; email: [micklesbeanie@yahoo.com](mailto:micklesbeanie@yahoo.com)

**Usual Hours Open:** Tues: 9.30am-12.00pm; 6.30pm-8.30pm; Thurs: 9.30am-12.00pm; Sat: 1pm-4pm

Hours are subject to change especially Saturday so please confirm day & time when making an appointment.

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or sent by Email by editor of NZSG - Wanganui Branch**



### **We gratefully acknowledge support from:**

Wanganui District Library, Wanganui District Council,  
Powerco Wanganui Trust, New Zealand Community Trust



**(NB. Although the above organisations provide support for the NZSG - Wanganui Branch, they are not responsible for the newsletter or statements by them.)**