



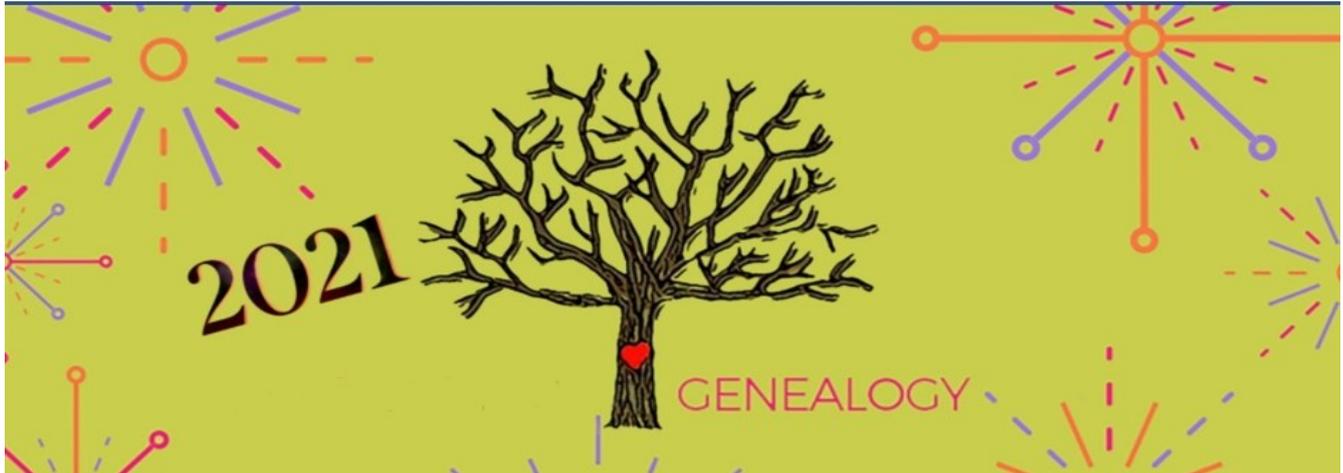
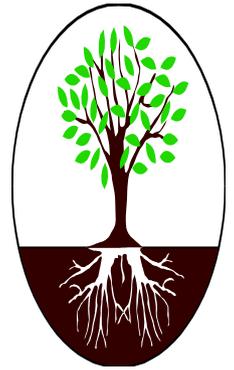
# NZSG—CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

[www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

February 2021

Email: [Cambridge@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:Cambridge@genealogy.org.nz)

Branch meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month at 7.30pm  
Feb – Nov room open from 7.00 pm  
Venue: Cambridge Health & Community Centre,  
22a Taylor St, Cambridge



**Welcome fellow genealogists to the February 2021 newsletter.**

We are sure that all of you are not the only ones looking forward to the end of 2020, with feelings of relief and of achievement for simply having endured. With our first meeting coming up in February we hope that some of you have made a discovery for your family history research over the Christmas break. “What were your festive finds?”. Would you like to share them at the meeting?

As Nancy noted in the December newsletter, she has decided to step down from her role as Convenor. She has served in that role for nearly nine years and we thank her for the continued support and energy she has given. She will remain an active member of the branch.

The committee is inviting members to consider the position of “Convenor and Committee”. if you are interested please talk to a committee member.

Bruce, Vicki, Peter, Sandra and Stella

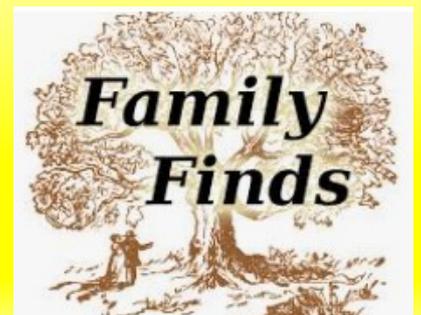
**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**“Stories of Success—At Last!”**

**Bring along any family finds/stories that you have had over the holidays to share with members.**

**Meeting starts at 7.30pm in Cambridge Health Centre**

**Door Fee \$4.00**



## Researching family history in South Africa

I've done very little research in South Africa – as far as I can tell none of my ancestors went there, though my 2nd cousin once removed married an Afrikaner in the 1930s and settled there. But LostCousins member Geoff is much more familiar with South African records, and kindly agreed to write the following introduction to South African research as a prequel to an interesting story from his tree:

Rosemary Dixon-Smith's [Research Guide for Beginners](https://molegenealogy.blogspot.com/p/beginners-guide-to-south-african.html) [https://molegenealogy.blogspot.com/p/beginners-guide-to-south-african.html] 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.

For all the categories that Rosemary lists, it is worth combining a search on NAAIRS (National Automated Archival Information Retrieval System at the South African National Archives [website](http://www.national.archives.gov.za/)) <http://www.national.archives.gov.za/> with one at FamilySearch. When using the former, bear in mind that searches do not permit wild cards and that the texts in the indexes are sometimes mistranscribed, so it is worth being creative with possible misspellings.

For the latter, I suggest restricting the location to South Africa but using a minimum of other information, and trying both the 'exact search' and the 'inexact search' options. Bear in mind that some of the FamilySearch records were transcribed by volunteers who had little or no knowledge or understanding of South African placenames or personal names.

There are also some significant constraints: 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.

Rosemary's own [site](https://molegenealogy.blogspot.com/) <https://molegenealogy.blogspot.com/> and the Genealogical Society of South Africa [site](https://www.eggsa.org/index.php/en/) <https://www.eggsa.org/index.php/en/> 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.

*Cont'd page 3*

## Researching family history in South Africa continued

The Rootsweb email lists that Rosemary recommends are no longer operational: all Rootsweb lists, including those relevant to South African genealogy, were closed during 2020, but some of their postings may still be found through Google searches. There were in any case too many Rootsweb lists for South Africa, subdivided by geographical region, and some lists attracted hardly any traffic. Since the Rootsweb closure, at least two new lists relevant to South Africa have been set up: [southafricangenealogy](https://southafricangenealogy.com), <https://groups.io/g/southafricangenealogy> run by Keith Meintjes and (covering the whole of Africa) [afgen](https://groups.io/g/afgen) <https://groups.io/g/afgen>, run by Steve Hayes. The memberships of both groups include knowledgeable people.

A site which was recommended to me by my 3rd cousin Steve, and subsequently by Geoff is the [1820 Settlers](https://www.1820settlers.com/genealogy/) <https://www.1820settlers.com/genealogy/> site run by Paul Tanner-Tremaine. Although it is restricted in scope there is a lot of information to be found. In the following article you'll see how Geoff used a range of sources to knock down a 'brick wall' in his own tree.



From Peter Calver LostCousins Newsletter 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Papers Past <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/>

Latest additions to Newspapers (January 2021):

[Manawatu Times](#) (1937-1945)

[Nelson Evening Mail](#) (1938-1945)

[Timaru Herald](#) (1929-1935)

[Waikato Times](#) (1936-1945)



## When will the England & Wales 1921 census be available??

Findmypast have confirmed that the long-awaited release of the 1921 census will go ahead in January 2022.

## Scottish Interest Group – Waikato

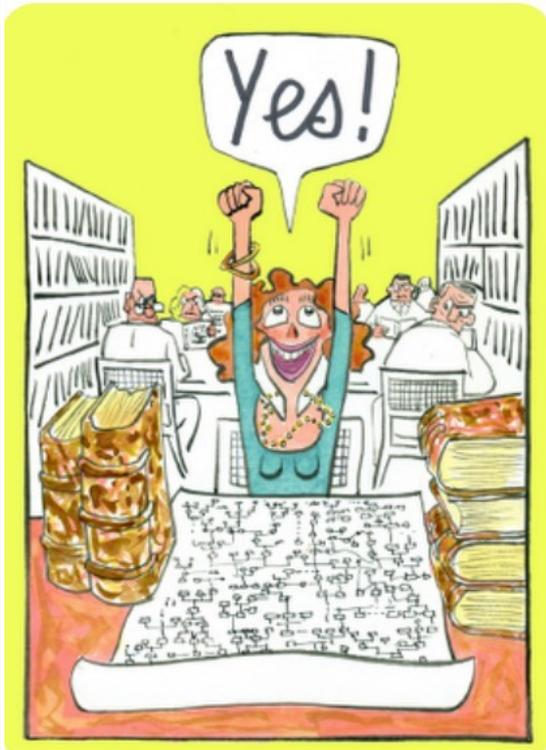
Thursday 11 March 2021 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

### The Effects of World War 1 on the Scottish People

Venue: Scots Church Hall, Vardon Road, St Andrews, HAMILTON

Please bring your own lunch \$3 door charge – A hot or cold drink is provided





## What Happened to Julius?

During the Christmas break I was researching my ancestor Julius Stephen Hay FRENCH. I found his birth and marriage certificates, he married in 1896 at Portsea Island, England but no luck finding his death certificate.

Frustrated, I contacted the researchers at NZSG for help.

They found a death notice for Julius at Kwala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1898, he was only 41. Interestingly, they also found a record for Julius as a member of the highly secretive Freemasons in Malaysia.

Vicki Ellis

## A GUIDE TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN ANCESTORS ON YOUR FAMILY TREE.



### The Family History Centres

**Sandwich Road** is open daily Tuesday to Friday 10am to 1pm, with a late night 6pm to 9pm on Wednesdays. Phone: 849 1758.

**Foster Road** is open Monday 1pm to 4pm, and Wednesday and Friday 10am to 3pm. No telephone.

## New Zealand Websites

<https://www.propertyvalue.co.nz/> -the old Valuation Dept website for anyone who wants to re-search the history of a house.

<https://www.feildingarchive.nz/> - for those who have interests in the Feilding area.

<https://hamiltonlibraries.co.nz/heritage/family-history/> has a list of lot of New Zealand websites.

<http://www.museumnp.org.nz/early-settlers/> Nelson Provincial Museum Early Settlers Database

<https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/hocken/index.html> Hocken Library produce 40 guides on what and how to retrieve information found within the Library

<http://canterburypilgrims.nz/> Canterbury Pilgrims & Early Settlers Association

The Committee would like any ideas members have for meetings in 2021.

Please forward any ideas to a committee member.

*Thanks.*

**Room 17 from 10am**

**Open for February**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

## Events for 2021

**1 Feb** —Auckland Anniversary

**8 Feb**—Waitangi Day observed

**9 Feb** - Stories of Success—At Last!

**9 Mar**— The Treasury Thames— speaker David Wilton

**11 Mar**— Scottish Interest Group

**13 Apr**—AGM with A Blast from the Past presented by Nancy Cooke

**13 Aug to 15 Aug** —Auckland Family History Expo

**20 Aug—22 Aug**—Christchurch Family History Expo

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