

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

August 2017

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Next Meeting
 1 August- Tuesday
 Visit to Invercargill Library
 Bus leaving ISite car park
 6pm Departure
 Cost \$5.
Numbers to Elaine Scott
By 26 July ph 0279293914



Meeting report of July 2017

What an amazing night of stories and memories members enjoyed when Jocelyn Grace spoke at our meeting. Local members remembered the Gore Main school when there were 611 pupils, the ramp all pupils had to

traverse down to go over to the dental clinic, (better known as the Murder House) with white walls, white nurses uniform. Many could all relate to 'feared foot operated drill' which whirred slowly as it inflicted pain on the victim for several hours. Jocelyn's wide scope of stories of normal events in everyday life were an inspiration to all present. Hopefully you have all started to write a story of your memories, or your grandparents way of life, or a holiday, or your personal experiences of going to the local dental clinic.

Our Programme 2017

- 1 August** – Visit Invercargill Library
- 15 August** – 50th Anniversary NZ Society of Genealogists Lunch, and live broadcast (Invercargill) –
- 5 September.** TBA
- 30 October** –Ancestry.com
- 7 November** - Bob Matthews **OASES** – *Otago and Southland Early Settlers database*
- 5 December** - Christmas Outing – TBA

Our sincere thanks go to Liz O'Connell who has set up, and maintains our amazing Genealogy Website. When did you last look at it?

100's of Members families we are searching are listed alphabetically, and newsletters from 2013 are all available in to read. It is informative, educational attractive, and very impressive... please use it



Remember Tinker Bell

J M Barrie wrote in *Peter Pan* that "Whenever a child says 'I don't believe in fairies' somewhere a

fairy falls down dead", and I'm sorry to say that this all too accurately reflects what happens when a family historian says that they don't believe in finding cousins, or even worse that they don't have any cousins to find.

We all have thousands of living cousins, but sadly neither we nor our cousins will live forever - surely we should make an effort to connect with them while we still can? Use all the resources available and websites..ie FamilySearch Tree database, Ancestry, Findmypast, My Heritage

Learning from the mistakes of others

All successful family historians have learned to cope with mistakes, whether transcription errors, incorrect ages on the census, the wrong father's name on a marriage certificate, or any of the other traps that are waiting for the unwary. Occasionally even the birthplace is unknown.

ALWAYS look for variations of the surnames. Allan - Alan, Helen -Ellen, etc. Different accents, caused Registrars problems. They wrote down what they thought they heard, and many of our ancestors could not sign their own name, so they didn't check the entry in the register..

Sentenced to Death

“A parish in Yorkshire had records in their burial index for living people that the rector believed to be ‘spiritually dead’, for reasons such as talking through the service or being discovered displaying a little too much affection on a rare late-evening inspection of the church!”
found in a Tunbridge Wells Family History Society Journal

(Seen on display board near Lyell in the South Island! Lyell is a ghost town now but was a thriving centre of gold-mining in the old days.

“After a death in Lyell, there would be drinks in a hotel before the coffin was carried up the hill to the cemetery. The track was uneven and often the coffin and its contents would drop into the creek and empty its contents. The journey would restart once the contents were replaced in the coffin.”

Thanks to New Plymouth Branch

Lyell is the site of a historic gold mining town in the Buller Gorge in the South Island New Zealand. It lies on State Highway 6. The location is now a campsite maintained by the Department of Conservation.

None of the original buildings remain but a track from the campsite leads to a cemetery and an old stamping battery. The gold rush in Lyell was in 1862.

There are 2 cemeteries in the Lyell Creek district. There's one up the hill that stopped interments in 1900 - probably due to the rocky and steep terrain being too difficult to bury people in. The 2nd one, closed to interments also, is on the flat beside Highway 6 in the Buller District. This one has only 2 headstones, where the one on the hill has 7. There are many more bodies, but due to the earthquakes last century, the headstones were destroyed or badly damaged.

The cemetery on the hill, which is a 10-15 minute walk up an easy, well kept path from the camping area, is fascinating and beautiful. It's very well maintained, surrounded by native bush & most of the remaining graves still have the wrought iron fences around them. The headstones also are very well preserved and the majority of the epitaphs are very easy to read.



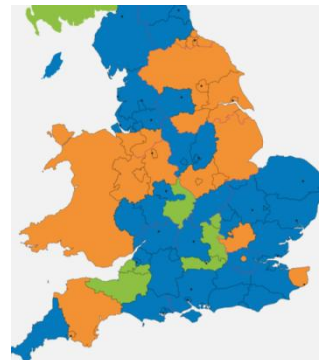
BRITISH INDIA

Details of almost 10,000 European soldiers who served in British India have been uploaded to the Families in British India Society (FIBIS) database website. The information is taken from the Registers of Bengal Army European Soldiers for 1790-1839, held in the India Office Records at the British Library. The [transcribed records](#) include the names, ranks and date of arrival in Bengal of enlisted men, including casualties. They were originally compiled at East India House, the headquarters of the East India Company, mainly from the muster rolls.

Thanks to Papakura Branch

Parish Registers

Ancestry were the first of the big websites to put parish registers online with their first instalment from the [London Metropolitan Archives](#), October 2009 - it's amazing to think that 8 years ago neither Ancestry nor Findmypast had any images of parish registers, yet now registers for half of England and most of Wales are online. This map from the Findmypast site shows - in orange - the parts of the country for which they have original parish register images which are exclusively online at their site (they also have images for Norfolk and Lincolnshire, but these are non-exclusive).



Simplenote.

This is a handy free app to have on your computer, phone and tablet and have them synchronised. Evernote used to have this, but have limited it use to only two devices, anymore and you pay
Treepad is similar, but different www.treepad.com.
Treepad Lite is free, the more powerful versions you pay, but very reasonable I use Treepad to build a profile on my ancestors in a detailed way.
Simplenote is used for “simple notes” that are needed on the fly. Another player is Microsoft's One Note – good, but more suited to university students - See: <https://simplenote.com>



Glasgow West-end addresses People and Their Occupations.

http://www.glasgowwestaddress.co.uk/Addresses_Index.htm

This site will tell you all about who lived in the address that you are interested in, whether it is the house you live in, the house next door, or whether you are engaged in researching a street or district. This site will, in time, inform you of the occupants of the house, who they were, what they did, how long they stayed at the address, where they worked.

Work is in progress to compile a full register of [West End Addresses](#) such that by means of a simple search facility it will be possible to trace the flittings of an individual over a number of years, or to search for a person to complete an entry in a family history, or just to establish whether a person stayed in the West End.

For the moment, a number of West End addresses can be accessed via an address index button below for the years 1836-1915. Once the Addresses Index button is activated, all you need to do is to click on the address that interests you. Happy searching!

Remember that this site will be continually updated, so it will be worth your while to look into it every now and again to see what is new. New addresses will be added to the list, and further information will be given on the occupants listed.



Jan's Hints



Family History Library

What did I learn after three weeks using the Family History Library???

I learnt just how much is there in FamilySearch's Family Tree data base.

I learnt I could spend hours just quietly adding names and connecting with other researchers.

I learnt that I could work at correcting my family tree - and yes, deleting people who should not be there!! And saying why.

I learnt I could start a discussion with the person who had included extra children so we could both accept what should not be there.

I learnt how simple it was to look at 24/7 suggestions from FamilySearch, My Heritage, Ancestry, Findmypast. Also Legacy and RootsMagic.

I learnt it was fun to start a new tree on My Heritage and throw everything in - accept what ever other people had entered. Then to create a .ged file and bring it into Legacy and really look at it. Run a Potential Problem report to see those children born after the parents had died etc. Being very careful to keep this .ged away from MY family database!!

I learnt that finding other people related to me and older generations going further back gave me new places and people to research.

I learnt that I STILL needed to keep track of my research!! Darn!!!!

Thanks to Jan Gow and www.famnet.org.nz/

Findmypast

Last year Findmypast made available a collection of more than 10 million Catholic records from Ireland (and whilst these Irish records are also available at other sites, you'll know by now that searching at more than one site can be advantageous); then in February 2017 they launched exclusive collections totalling 3 million records from the Archdioceses of Philadelphia in the US, Birmingham and Westminster in the UK.

Bear in mind that an Archdiocese can cover a wide area - for example, Birmingham includes the counties of West Midlands, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire

You can find out which parishes are included in the collections using the following links - but remember that there are millions more records for the US and UK to come over the next 12 months:



Findmypast



Catholic parish registers

Although there are now parish registers online for about half of English counties and most Welsh counties, many collections only include Church of England records. Earlier this year Findmypast announced that they were collaborating with the Catholic Church to make available online around 100 million baptism, marriage, and burial records from the UK and the US.

You can find out which parishes are included in the collections using the following links - but remember that there are millions more records for the US and UK to come over the next 12 months:

<https://lostcousins.com> LostCousins is one where you enter ancestors who were listed in 1881 census records. The wider the net, the better chance you have to make contact.

The Gore Branch Ancestry session at St Peters College IT room many years ago was my break through when I made contact through Ancestry with the Finlayson family in London.

A 'First Cousin twice removed' was ecstatic to discover there was an unknown branch in NZ and I had traced the family back 1665 in Caithness. I have visited her in Kent, and we travelled by car to Caithness to meet relations and do research at Caithness Library. Carolyn has come to NZ twice, attended a wedding and met many of her 2nd cousins. *Avis*



The link from the Aussie Red Cross site took me through to my g/parents POW cards (which are like another language to read!) which will be interesting to

decipher to learn more about their experiences. It is a shame the actual files are no longer, but the cards will be interesting never the less.

Thanks Liz

Liz O'Connell

Ancestry DNA has reached 4 million peoples test results in its autosomal database.

www.edu.global - new genealogical and historical search engine. Most are digital books, 52 million resources indexed, nine million maps. \$25 annual cost

www.history.co.uk/shows/Vikings - do you have Viking ancestors? Orkney & Shetland heritage is strong. Flett, Scarth, Heddle & Halcro could signal Viking family history.

Ancestry.co.uk have updated Ireland Obis index 2004 -17, English & Scottish cemetery registers, British ph books, Liverpool parish records, Irish court martial& RIC records, New York marriages.

Familysearch.org – Warwickshire parish registers, nNorfolk & Manchester bishops Essex transcripts, Nonconformist parish records for Northumberland **Findmypast** – parish for Devon and Kent; 6.7 million more US marriage records.

Census records are a great place to start your search.

Findmypast holds over 716 million North American census records, but only fragments survive for 1890 census.

AncestryDNA -www.ancestry.co.uk.DNA

FamilyTreeDNA www.familyfreedna.co.uk

LivingDNA – www.livingdna.com

MyHeritage DNA -www.myheritage.com/dna

23andMe DNA testing Kit - www.23andme.com/



Bomber Command

Records and details of almost 58,00 men, who lost their lives in World War 2.

This has been cross referenced

from CWGC, Internationals Rolls of honour, National Squadron Ass. Chorley Volume, and prisoner war records. Searchable by name, provides age, rank, squadron, date of death, service number, details of decorations, aircraft service number. Free launch this September..

<http://internationalbcc.co.uk/history-archive/losses-database/> -



Every year thousands of old graves are disturbed in UK, and the bodies moved just so that cemeteries can fit

in more new graves. In some instances cemeteries are completely cleared to enable redevelopment of the site. Headstones are stacked against walls, trees or where there is space.