

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists February 2019

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Next Meeting
5 February 2019
7pm at I site Centre
Research night bring your queries and search the Findmypast, ancestry and the many books

Report December Christmas Dinner 2018

This was enjoyed by 20 members with the tables decorated with beautiful Christmas tinsel thanks to Elaine and Rhonda. The meal was scrumptious and it was a lovely way to finish a very successful year. Congratulations to Elaine and Vicki for all their continued expertise and time, plus Rhonda for being our amzng bus driver.

In the Queen's Christmas message she spoke of 100th Anniversary of the Royal Air Force. She



recalled her father's Royal Navy service in the First World war on board the *HMS Collingwood* the Battle of Jutland in 1916. "The British fleet lost 14 ships and 6000 men in that engagement, and

he wrote a letter saying "How and why we were not hit beats me". *If it had been hit, imagine how that could have changed the accession of the Royal family!!!*



There is an online site 'medals reunited New Zealand' based in Nelson which returns lost medals to owners



We extend our deepest sympathy to Sue Johnston and extended family for their sad loss of loved husband and father.

Seasons Greetings to Everyone

Hopefully all members had a wonderful Christmas with family and shared and gathered many interesting new stories of ancestors.

It is so easy to access facts and figures on the internet, but older family members are a unique source of those family stories and anecdotes which are seldom printed anywhere. They are completely lost when the older members die. A library dies with each person of al any age. And the elderly often die when you least expect it. .

Do you know?

How did they go to school; walk through paddocks, or on a gravel road, who was their first and favourite teacher, what was their first or most loved pet, who taught them to drive, and what vehicle did they learn to drive in, their first car, when and where your parents first met, the actual place where they became engaged, and what their first job and what their wages were. Irrespective of how many sites you search...

This information will not be found in their DNA results or on the internet.

Have you shared all this information of your own live with your children?

PLEASE PLEASE, DO IT NOW.

DNA record vanishes for ever when someone dies. Other than identical twins, no two people have precisely the same DNA - siblings each inherit half of their parents' DNA, but it isn't the same half. And no matter how many children you have, there will be some of your DNA that isn't inherited by any of them.

After three failures. maybe I should send in a 4th DNA kit with hopes of it being successful.



How to get the most from Findmypast

Remember -Findmypast is free at the Hokonui Heritage Center.

All searchers don't get the same excellent results when they search at Findmypast....

There are two ways of searching at genealogy websites.

1. One is to enter lots of data on the Search form in the hope that some of it might lead to the record you're looking for – **this type of search works best at Ancestry**, where it typically produces lots of results (though most of them won't be relevant).

2. Enter the minimum amount of information on the Search form, see how many results you get and - only if there are too many results to glance through - filter the results so that you're only left with those that are most relevant. **This type of search works best at Findmypast.**

Use wildcards rather than type long surnames in full - this has the secondary benefit of sometimes picking up records that might otherwise have been missed.

How minimal should your searches be? If searching the census enter just a forename, a surname (possibly using wildcards), and an approximate year of birth. Don't enter a place of birth as this tends to vary so much from one census to another, but enclose it in wildcards, eg *London*

Different surnames require different tactics. The surname Smith is very unlikely to be spelled differently or mis transcribed - but you are likely to get lots of results, so you'll need to narrow your search in some way. By contrast, if searching for Vandepier ancestors, ignore I'm

misspellings and simply search for v*d*p*r* and leave the other boxes empty.

Tip: even as you're filling in the search form Findmypast are looking to see how many records they have that match what you have typed so far; a running total is displayed on the Search button so you'll know when there's no point entering any more information.

Put these tips into practice and you'll immediately see the difference. But don't stop reading, because I've got another, even more important, tip for you - one that even Findmypast won't tell you!

Did you realise that at Findmypast there can be three or more ways of searching for the same historical record? Would you like to know which of those three ways The gateway to all of the different approaches is the *Search* menu:

Note: there are a few record sets which currently can't be found using the A-Z of Record Sets; for example, if you're looking for the Chelsea pensioner records you'll find them under British Army Service Records because Findmypast have grouped together all service records.

Other instances reported to me involve Australian cemetery records. But 99 times out of 100 the A-Z is the best solution.

Finally, another useful tip - one that even regular users of Findmypast frequently miss. When you search an individual dataset you'll see a list of *Useful links & resources* to the bottom right of the page - and when the records in question are parish records there will usually be a link to a page with a list of parishes that are included, showing the dates that are covered.

Here is a table of links. (all searches are free, so you don't need a subscription unless you want to look at the records themselves):

1841 British census
1851 British census
1861 British census
1871 British census
1881 British census (FREE transcription)
1891 British census
1901 British census
1911 England & Wales census
1939 Register (England & Wales)
GRO birth indexes for England & Wales
GRO marriage indexes for England & Wales
GRO death indexes for England & Wales
Hertfordshire parish registers*
Cheshire parish registers*
Kent (Canterbury archdeaconry) parish registers*
London (Westminster) parish registers*
Devon parish registers*
Lincolnshire parish registers*
Shropshire parish registers*
Staffordshire parish registers*
Yorkshire parish registers*
Wales parish registers
British Army Service Records
School Admission Registers
England & Wales Electoral Registers 1832-1932
UK Electoral Registers 2002-18



Findmypast

The partnership with Living DNA will be the main focus for 2019. The testing kits (inset) launched in November 2018, and Findmypast will be

developing and expanding on this throughout the year.

It's also launching an intuitive matching system, allowing researchers to connect more easily with living relatives. You can also upload DNA test results from other providers, including 23andMe, AncestryDNA, Family Tree DNA and MyHeritage.

Hearth Tax Online

This popular resource was knocked offline by a cyber attack in 2017. The extended hiatus is coming to an end, with a new and improved version due back on our screens by January 2019.

There will be greater functionality with access to full transcripts, allowing users to work across returns and counties, and references to the archival source of each record. You'll also be able to search by keyword, or by the number of hearths.

GRO to increase certificate costs from February

From February, 2019, the General Register Office (English), will increase the fees it charges to order copies of birth, marriage and death certificates.



The National Archives (English) TNA

The project to catalogue at item level over 300,000 miscellaneous Navy Board in-letters from 1650 to 1837 (ADM 106) is due to be completed in 2019. The Navy Board looked after docks and the building of ships as well as paying warrant officers and dockyard workers.

The detailed catalogue entries include any names mentioned and can be searched via [TNA's online catalogue](#).

Other cataloguing projects that are due to be completed in 2019 include criminal petitions and clemency (HO 17) and WW2 Prisoner of War index cards (WO 416).

There will be also be improved guides to a number of record sets including Court of King's Bench, intellectual property, the Old Bailey and overseas births, marriages and deaths.

[National Archives of Ireland](#)



The National Archives of Ireland expects to launch a new version of its website in January 2019.

The site will be more user-friendly and integrate better with the online catalogue. The search page will also be redesigned.



National Library of Scotland

The maps team at the NLS is publishing online all out-of-copyright Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 and 1:10,000 maps of England, Scotland and Wales between 1945 and 1968.

Map curator Christopher Fleet says that they hope all of the Scottish sheets will be online by the end of 2018, and that English and Welsh sheets will be uploaded by spring 2019.

He adds: "This series is the main topographic authority for postwar Britain. It was the most detailed scale of OS mapping to cover all of the country, although urban areas were covered at more detailed scales."

Thanks to *WDYTYA*



More Additions from Findmypast

Hampshire, Portsmouth, Portsea Island Rate Books

Million pages of poor rate Books from as early as the 1700 through to the 1921 Poor rate books were records of the amount of rates paid and by whom. Rates were levied annually and collected from both property owners and occupiers. The money was used for local poor relief. The Poor Law Act of 1598 made the parish responsible for the poor. The original records are held at the Portsmouth History Centre.

Hampshire, Portsmouth Hospital Records

Hospital records and medical journals from St James Hospital between 1878 and 1918. At that time, the hospital was known as the Portsmouth Lunatic Asylum.

Hampshire, Portsmouth Burials

Discover your ancestor's burial entry in over 129,000 additional Portsmouth parish records to uncover the location of their final resting place. The new additions cover Portsea, Highland Road and Kingston cemeteries between the years 1831 and 1902.

Papers Past

Latest additions to Newspapers (November 2018):

- Ashburton Herald (Mar 1878-Oct 1880)
- Evening Star (1943-1947)
- Gisborne Herald (Jul 1939-1950)
- Northern Advocate (1940-1945)
- Otago Daily Times (1943-1950)
- Te Aroha News (misc.1890-1912, 1914-1925)
- Thames Guardian and Mining Record (Oct 1871-Aug 1872)

Thanks to *Balclutha Branch*



Timelines and maps:

When working on your tree, do you look up what was happening in the world at the time they were living, not just major world events such as WWI and 2. Where were the places they lived? What was life like for new emigrant women in New Zealand? Were your family affected by the flu pandemic? Were they living in London at the time of a coronation or one of the pea-souper fogs? At an even more grass root level. Were there floods in the area they lived in? Was there bad weather that damaged crops? Etc etc

There are a number of places to look for this sort of information. Newspaper reports are an easy source of information. Several places have their own websites describing life in older times.

For major world events try

<http://worldtimeline.info/> (You can scroll to the bottom of the page and select a time period to view) Sites like www.londonlives.org, <https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>, <https://historic-liverpool.co.uk/>, can all give you a wider perspective with maps, information and pictures specific to the location.

The National Library of Scotland has a lot of maps <https://maps.nls.uk/> or have you looked at Scotland's Places? <https://scotlandspplaces.gov.uk> Closer to home <https://teara.govt.nz/en/history> gives a potted history of NZ.

Thanks to *Papakura Branch*