

Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

May 2019

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Next Meeting]
7 May 2019
7pm at I site Centre
Annual General Meeting
Programme planning
What speakers would you like to hear

Report April meeting

This was a amazing night for all members. There was a very wide variety presentation of **'Your Best Finds'** which made a difference to your tree. Elaine had discovered a birth for business man in East India, another had investigated and found her husband's Maori ancestors, and another had trawled through all the Ancestry DNA results to eliminate and discover who she was actually related to. Congratulations to everyone for doing the research and presenting it to us all. Hopefully each member will write a small or large bio for this newsletter so everyone may read them.

Hokonui Heritage Center

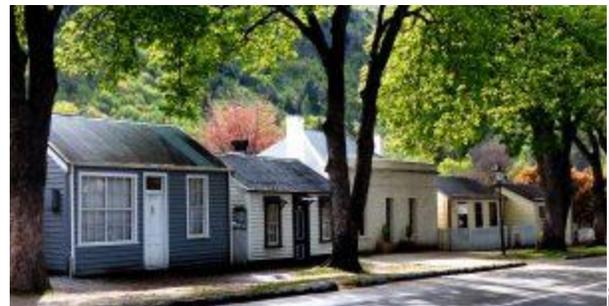
The task of entering and filing 248 recent funeral Service sheets has been achieved. If you have any we would welcome them to our collection. These sheets, along with the large number of family and local district histories are invaluable to researchers throughout New Zealand. We have the indexed local births, intention to marry and deaths which are constantly updated. The Ensign papers hold a wealth of information and are currently being indexed. Not everything is accessible from the internet.

PAPERSPAST NEWS

Additions have recently been made to five titles:
The Press: some gaps in the years 1887 and 1903 have been filled; coverage now 1861-1945
Lyttelton Times: years 1915-1920 added covering WWI; full coverage now 1850-1920
Manawatu Standard: years 1924-1945 added covering WWII; coverage now 1883-1945
Nelson Evening Mail: years 1923-1930 added; coverage now 1866-1930
Waikato Times: years 1922-1928 added; coverage now 1872-1928

Additions to Ancestry include the following:

- UK World War Two Alien Internees Index Cards (with images)
- Ireland Cork Marriage Licence Bonds Index 1623-1750
- Norway Censuses for 1891, 1900 and 1910
- New York (Eastern) Vital Records 1777-1834 (10,000)
- New York (Central) Vital Records 1813-1850 (10,000)
- France (Haute-Alpes) Censuses for 1836, 1856, 1876 and 1896
- France (Vienne) Census for 1896
- Germany, Nuremburg Births 1876-1905
- Germany, Nuremburg Marriages 1876-1925
- Germany, Nuremburg Deaths 1876-1983
- Germany, Berlin Births 1874-1906
- Germany, Berlin Deaths 1874-1920
- Germany, Minden Births, Deaths & Marriages 1809-1873 [later ones after 1874 already there]
- Germany, Minden Military Records 1783-1856
- Germany, Saxony Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1760-1890
- Sweden Emigration Registers 1869-1948
- Sweden Births 1859-1947
- Sweden Marriages 1860-1947
- Sweden Deaths 1840-1947



1864 Arrowtown had a population of about 200 with 10 hotels, wholesale and retail stores and several private

dwellings. There was even a school with the average weekly attendance of 17 children.

<http://www.kaelewis.com/>

THE GOLDMINER'S DATABASE

Search over 66,000 records of goldminers from the goldrushes of New Zealand spanning the years 1861 to 1872.

SOURCE OF RECORDS INCLUDED IN THE GOLDMINER'S DATABASE

Otago Mining Records (1861 - 1866)

Thames Mining Records (1867 - 1872)

Codes for Record Types in the Database

Notes on the Thames Goldfields.

Miner's Rights in Thames.

The Major Goldrushes of the 1800s.

A quote from the book

'GOLDRUSH TO THE THAMES New Zealand 1867-69'

by Kae Lewis (2017)

"It took grit and determination to decide to dig a shaft down 100 feet and enter into the bowels of the earth each day in search of a gold-studded leader, or better still, a wide wide reef full of gold. Using only the flickering light of a candle, the digger chipped away at the rock with his pick, examining each chunk of quartz as it fell for the tell-tale signs of gold. When he locked on to a 'likely-looking' leader, he would follow it wherever it lead him, further down into the earth, or across with a horizontal drive, then back down again with a winze. Soon he was lost beneath the earth, with tons of rock over his head and knowing always that it could all come down on him at any moment."

Sluicing for gold

METHODS USED TO FIND GOLD IN THE GOLD RUSHES OF THE 1800s.

Panning for alluvial gold

(called placer gold in California)

Specs, grains and occasionally nuggets of gold were found loose in the sands and gravels of rivers or alluvial soil, especially in California USA, Victoria Australia and Otago New Zealand.

The heavier gold is caught in slats, raffles or a blanket as the gravel passes through the sluice box in a steady stream of water



FINDMYPAST

Added databases not mentioned previously include:

- The History of the Lincolnshire Regiment 1914-18
- The Green Howards in the Great War
- The *Pinner Observer* (added to the British Newspaper Archive)
- The *Kingston Informer* (added to the British Newspaper Archive)
- Liverpool Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1754-1988 (from 47 parishes)
- Liverpool Workhouse Registers (from 7 different institutions)
- 1st Battalion Royal Scots Guards in the Boer War 1899-1902
- Scotland Criminal Database 1801-1917
- Banffshire Kirk Session Minutes 1334-1851
- Irish newspaper BDM extracts 1756-1850 (54,000)
- Cincinnati Roman Catholic Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1880-1979 (from 103 parishes)

Sincere thanks to Riccarton Branch

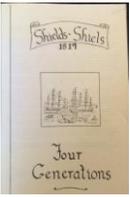
Your best ever find

that made a difference to your tree!

Shields family -

In 1970 a relative, Jenny, who was housebound, researched this family. She wrote to Hudson Bay Company for records pertaining to Robert Shields, born 1799, Edinburgh Scotland who had immigrated on the Hudson Bay company ship *Prince of Wales* to Fort Douglas, Kildonan, Red River Settlement, North America (Saskatchewan Canada). After they had portaged up the river to Red River Settlement, Robert married in 1891 to Mary Brown who had been on the same ship. They had two sons Andrew and John, and lived in Fort Douglas, but it was a very hard life with battles of Indians and fur traders, locusts and extremely cold winters and scorching summers. In 1824 the family portaged back down to Hudson Bay and sailed on *Prince of Wales* to London and then to Edinburgh. The first son was killed in a cycle accident, but the 2nd son John married Elizabeth MILLER and along with their eldest child Agnes sailed on the ship *Blundell* from Greenock, Scotland to Port Chalmers arriving in 1848, on the fourth ship to come to the colony. All but one of John's 6 siblings married and came to NZ. Many had large families.

In 1970, Jenny who was an excellent researcher and meticulous record keeper, interviewed many of the early NZ relatives. She published the book



SHIELDS – SHIELS 1819 Four Generations

This book was invaluable when I started researching this large family. I visited her frequently but she would not permit me to even photocopy the correspondence she held. As her eyesight and health deteriorated I kept visiting and asking, could I please copy and return all the research she held, but the answer was always an emphatic **NO**.

Jenny told me when she died, it was all going to be dumped. When I told her I would follow to the dump and retrieve it, she finally relinquished it.

The early SHIELDS SHIELS book and all the information was the basis from which I interviewed many later relatives, and updated wrote the SHIELDS SHIELS book in 2017.

Avis McDonald



My O'Connor family of Twins

My grandparents had 11 children that I knew about, my father, *Isaac*, being the youngest born in 1896. In fact they had twelve live babies.

James born in Leeston 20 Jun 1879

Mary born in Leeston 18 November 1880 according to their baptisms.

They now shift to Longridge Village and *Margaret* and *Vincent* are registered as twins in 28th October 1883 born at Waimea Station. So there were twins in the family!

Alas that was not fact as *Margaret* was born in 1882 and *Vincent* in 1884

Next to arrive was *George Archie* 11 September 1885. He died young aged 19.

In the Riversdale cemetery, I found a burial for a male child who had died aged 6 weeks old born on 11 June 1886 and died in 26 July 1886.

Paul who died in WW1 aged 31, was registered as a twin with *Thomas* on 15th September 1887. His actual birth date according to his Army records was 11th June 1886 so now he was the twin of the son who died at 6 weeks.

In July 1981, *Thomas* died and on his headstone his age was 87. I thought he would have been older than that, so sent for his death certificate. Sure enough another sleight of hand was mastered by grandfather. He struck a log jam of babies unregistered so put a few together. When Tom applied for his pension, once again the school registers came into play. Tom was born on 11th September 1885, making him a twin of *Archie* and thus almost 96 and not *Paul*, who had the same birthdate as the boy who died at 6 weeks. So there was a set of twins *George* and *Thomas* born 11 Sept 1885 then another set of twin boys born 11 June nine months later, *Paul* and the baby who died at 6 weeks. Wow. Four babies in under a year. Any wonder poor Michael lost count.

Catherine was born 17th February 1889
Domnick was born 5 September 1891

While we were taking out the births from the register in Gore I found my aunt *Matilda*, when she applied for the pension in 1958, discovered that she was registered as a twin with *Isaac* born three years after her! She found school registers to prove that she was born on 8th August 1893. A letter was to be attached to the register and the new date for the birth registered to be accepted under Sec 14 of the Births Registration Act. 1951. This created more mayhem down the line when a relative announced that she had been adopted. I only came upon this when the relative had died. Another misconception follows her research down the line!

Isaac born 19th June 1896. It is true there were 2 sets of twins!

Catherine died aged 90 years, gardening to the end. She had a large weeping fibrosarcoma on one arm for 22 years! Talk about tough eh?

Carol Perwick



Findmypast is home to the best collection of English and Welsh crime records available online. Search over 5 million court, prison and police records from the National Archives at Kew to find out whether there are any black sheep hiding in your family tree.