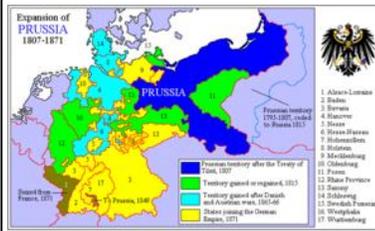


# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists

## July 2019

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**Next Meeting ]**  
**7 May 2019**  
**7pm at I site Centre**  
**Jill Graeve will speak**  
**on Prussian Research.**

### Report June meeting Research and brick night

There was a good discussion on ways to achieve the best results. The DNA from the saliva can be identified on an envelope, which is amazing.

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### Wises Directories

**Henry Aitken Wise** was born 1835 in Edinburgh. Aged 23, he went to Melbourne, Australia, working in a printers firm, then moved to Dunedin, where he remained until his death. By the time he married Elizabeth Walker 1864, he owned his own stationery and printing office. They had four sons, and two daughters. He sold his business to concentrate on a nationwide directory of households, locations and firms. It was based on the London publication called Kelly's Post Office Directory.

In 1872 the first edition of **Wises** came out, mainly through subscriptions. He employed enumerators, mainly women, who had to trudge all the streets, knocking on every door, shacks to mansions, shops to public buildings, recording all the names of occupants and their occupations, which were put into alphabetical order. They asked who was the head of the household was, if it was rented or owned, **but spouses were often not listed unless they were the owners.** Male lodgers over 18 were listed.

By 1887 it had already known as **Wises 'Post Office' Directory'** for 16 years. Henry Aitken Wise died 1922, aged 87 years. His wife Elizabeth Walker died 1910,

These directories are invaluable to Genealogists: some are available at the Hokonui Research center, Invercargill and Dunedin Library and Hocken Library in Dunedin.

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There is a large Eastlight folder upstairs with many of the surnames and family trees of Germantown-which was out at Whiterig.

If you have ancestors it is an amazing source. The men worked on laying the railway between Pukerau and Gore and learnt English but the wives didn't have the same opportunity to learn English. They frequently took their children with them to interpreter for them in the grocery store.

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### Hint

- **When reading the old fragile Ensign papers, which are printed on poor paper and tear very easily, please use both hands to carefully turn the pages over.**

As I watched 'Who Do You Think You Are' on TV I cringed to see the casual way the old newspapers pages were treated.

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Something different to find people in the white pages <http://www.numberway.com/nz> or [au](http://www.numberway.com/au) or [uk](http://www.numberway.com/uk) etc. Gives you some more choices.

From <http://www100.govt.nz/cenotaph-database-redevelopment>

The redeveloped Cenotaph database, Online Cenotaph, includes a page about every New Zealand soldier who served in the First World War.

The Auckland War Memorial Museum's enhanced [Online Cenotaph website](http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/online-cenotaph) is a digital social space where enthusiasts, families, and researchers can share their interconnecting experiences of New Zealand servicemen and women.

To coincide with the First World War Centenary commemorations, Online Cenotaph has been redeveloped in collaboration with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, with new content contributed by Auckland Libraries. Contribute or discover more at <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph>

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## Irish birth and marriage certificates from 1864 to be available online

Death certificates from 1878 to 1968 also accessible for free on new website

### [Patsy McGarry](#)

A further tranche of Ireland's historical Registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths are being available to the public online from Tuesday.

Accessible for free at [irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie), they cover births from 1864 to 1918; marriages from 1864 to 1943; and deaths from 1878 to 1968.

Included are the November 30th, 1967 death certificate for poet [Patrick Kavanagh](#) and for his nemesis [Brendan Behan](#), who died on March 20th, 1964.

This digitization process is part of a joint initiative by the Departments of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The records were prepared and uploaded by the Civil Registration Service and officials from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Minister for Culture [Josepha Madigan](#) described this addition of further years of historic registers of births, marriages and deaths as "an exciting development in family history research for Irish people here and all Irish descendants around the world."

She noted how "since this online service became available in 2016 over 2.1 million visitors to the website have viewed these records."

Minister for Social Protection [Regina Doherty](#) described the Civil Registration Service as "one of the State's essential services and one of the greatest resources for those establishing their family histories. Providing this open and free access to older records and register entries will further support the efforts of many family historians throughout the world".

Research by the [ancestry.ie](http://ancestry.ie) has established how these historic registers show that many of our ancestors' jobs have become extinct. Included would be that including a snob, someone who repaired shoes; a knocker upper, whose job was to tap on the windows of workers to wake them for work ;

and rat catchers who, as the name suggests, had a job catching rats in a specific area.

Also gone is the job of lamp-lighter, responsible for lighting and extinguishing street lamps around cities and towns; the linotype operator, who used hot metal to produce the daily newspaper; elevator operator; fishwife - a woman who sold fish; town crier, who shouted news at street corners; and, a tweenie or junior domestic maid who helped older housemaids and cooks.

Latest additions to Papers Past Newspapers (May 2019):

Bay of Plenty Beacon (1946-1950) Feilding Star (1921-1924)

Franklin Times (1921-1933) Hutt News (1946-1948)

King Country Chronicle (1921-1939) Shannon News (Jun 1921-1929)

Thames Star (1921-1938) Waipa Post (Apr 1911-1935) *Thanks to Hutt Valley Branch*

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### **Genealogy is not the same as Family History.**

Genealogy is the skeleton or the pedigree of a particular family and consists of names, places, and dates. On the other hand, Family History puts the flesh on that skeleton. It is the Family History which keeps us rivetted to our self-allotted tasks.

To get your pedigree, you pore over birth, death and marriage documentation. Depending on the country in which you are searching, this may be a time consuming and possibly expensive task as you are keen to purchase documents verifying your information. After time has passed, you start running into brick walls and so you turn your mind to researching particular lines of your family in the hopes that you will find something like a 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage or an adoption or even a change of name which will invigorate your pedigree research.

Along the way, you will become fascinated by what you are discovering and start delving further and further. Again, you may start facing brick walls. And this is where another tool may be most helpful.

No prizes for guessing that I am going to suggest that the tool is taking a DNA test with a firm which specializes in such testing.

Understand that if you do take this path, you will be facing the risk that all your work just might have been in vain.

This is because you may discover you are not who you think you are. And I am not referring to you learning you have something like one too many of the gender chromosomes! I am referring to the possibility that you are biologically the descendant of someone who is not in your meticulously researched family.

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### **United States Immigrations records on line**

The complete records and images of immigrants who arrived in New York 1820-

1957 are available free at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

A database of over 63.7 million names has been created including immigrants, crew and other passengers. The ship manifests list each passenger's age, last place of residence, American sponsor, port of departure and arrival date into America. This collection is divided into three stages reflecting the different stages. New York's first station was Castle Garden in Manhattan from 1820- 1891, The Federal government took over in 1890 and established Ellis Island 1892, which closed in 1954. The third collection covers 1935-1957 and also lists immigrants arriving at New York airports. Ireland was among the top 10 most popular migrants passing through Ellis Island from 1891 - 1931



This nervous atmosphere in this place was very obvious with large wall black and white panels of families with wicker holdalls of their meager possessions, wondering if their whole family would pass the English language and health examinations. An amazing place with large scale maps and the % of migrants indicated from each country. .

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## **GRO**

Although the Register General office started recording all births marriages and deaths in England and Wales from 1 January 1837, it was not compulsory. For ten years. If parents did not register a birth within 6 months it could not be included in the official records. Some parents were further confused if the child was baptized-

It was 1920 before an illegitimate child could be registered with the father's name, and ONLY if the couple married.

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## **How a Best Find becomes a Brick Wall**

Several years ago, at a family gathering, my cousin Malcolm Sinclair asked me what I knew about the Wilson family, our great grandfathers' family. My reply was "only what was written in my aunt's book 'The Family from The Terrace'" because, as she had already done the research I had never looked any deeper. He went on to say that his mother had discovered the "Wyndham Sampler" following the death of her aunt and had given it to the Wyndham and Districts Historical Museum, where, at its unveiling, George Smith realized it also tied into his family tree.

So Malcolm wanted to know "what was the link between the two families?"

The sampler had been stitched in 1836 by Mary Meikle (George's gt-gt-grandmother) and along the top had the names Miss Fleming, Robert MEIKLE, Andrew WILSON, Sarah McPHERSON, and further down, initials RS, SM, AM, WW, MW, RW, MM, together with the inscription "I have done this to let you see how kind my parents were to me." As Robert Meikle was stitched in black he was presumed to have died before 1826 when a marriage was recorded between Andrew Wilson and Sara McPherson in Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

In the book, my gt-grandfather, Robert (Stobo) Wilson's <b. 1855> mother was believed to have been Charlotte Wilson (un-married), a daughter of Thomas Wilson and Janet Gibb together with sisters - Marion m. Robert Stobo and Margaret m. William Meikle. 1861 & 71 census details showed him being brought up by Marion & Robert as a nephew.

In light of the sampler I decided to go back to the records through Ancestry & Scotlands People to get the parents of Marion b. 1828 & Margaret b. 1830 – Marion's marriage was in 1853 so no parents but her death entry gave them as Andrew Wilson, farmer, deceased, and Sarah Wilson m.s. McPherson, as did Margaret's marriage entry – although her death entry did not give a mother. Further census checks for Andrew & family showed there was a William b. 1827 & Robert b 1832 so checked William's death and once again the same parents details as his sisters. Moved to Robert who married Jeanie Meikle in 1861, parents given as Andrew Wilson and Sarah Wilson, formerly Meikle m.s. McPherson dec., and his death in 1897 also gave Andrew Wilson, farmer, dec., and Sarah Wilson, previously Meikle, m.s. McPherson dec. These two entries gave the tie-up to the sampler and my best find!

While Andrew's death entry in 1874 said he was "widower of Sarah McPherson" hers, at Sanford, in 1860, merely said "wife of a farmer, married", parents Malcolm McPherson and Sarah McPherson m.s. McCallum - William Wilson, son, was the informant on both. In the 1841 census, Sarah McPherson was back at Raws (where Mary Meikle was born) with the two Wilson daughters, occupation given as Independent and in 1851 she was at Sanford as an annuitant, together with a 15 year-old niece\*, Margaret Stewart, so possibly there was an estrangement from Andrew. (\*Sarah Meikle and Robert Stewart had a daughter Margaret b 1836 so maybe entry should have been grandchild).

Of the initials on the sampler I now believe them to belong to Robert Stewart – who married Sarah Meikle in 1830; Agnes Meikle – worked in dark colour so may have died young as can find no trace of her; William Wilson; Marion Wilson; Margaret Wilson; Robert Wilson; and the MM -worked in a dark colour as well - may have been another deceased Meikle child.

Mary Meikle married Donald McCallum in 1837 and they had eleven children before he died at Over Tweedieside, Stonehouse in 1873. By this time Mary's son Robert Meikle McCallum was managing the Seaward Downs Estate for the NZ and Australian Land Company so later Mary and some of her family also moved to NZ where she

died 7<sup>th</sup> March 1896 and was buried in the Wyndham cemetery.

Another link to the two families is shown in Robert Wilson's 1897 will where it appears a bond etc., that was owing to Mary Meikle or McCallum from the now deceased Thomas Jackson over the lands and farm of Over Tweedieside (Sasine recorded 4 December 1879) is now due to Roberts' estate with interest.

With the information about the early Wilson family mainly coming through records around the Stonehouse, Strathaven, and Lesmahagow areas, I began to doubt the parentage of Robert Stobo Wilson so decided to order his marriage and death certificates but because he married in 1877 no parents were recorded, however his death certificate gave his parents as Robert Wilson and Jessie Wilson m.s. Meikle. This is where I hit my brick wall – so far all my searches on Scotlands People have been fruitless, for although his birth is said to have been 1855 it could have also been earlier before registration begun, or, as I suspect, he could have been born to Robert Wilson & Jeanie Meikle before their marriage. His middle name of Stobo was added at the time of his marriage to Catherine Hanlon – he had promised his aunt Marion that he would take the surname of Stobo when he married but his bride-to-be was not amused with that name on the licence so he had to go back and get another one!

The Robert Wilson born 31 July 1855 to Charlotte Wilson, Cotton factory worker, in New Lanark died – with the death being entered as Wilson alias Montgomery, Robert, 22 May 1856, aged 10 months, mother Charlotte Wilson, Cotton factory worker, informant Robert Montgomery, his mark, Father, (not present). I have not been able to find any more information on Charlotte.

When Robert visited Scotland in 1925 there were very few people he knew left in the Stonehouse district he grew up in as he had been away for 50 years. He stayed in Glasgow with his cousin Grace Jackson Meikle (now Mrs Dougal Torrence) who was a daughter of Margaret Wilson and William Meikle and was also brought up by Marion Stobo following the Margaret's death. Maybe the sampler came to her following Marion's death in 1922 and she gave it to Robert to take back to NZ – I guess we'll never know.

*Thanks to member Margaret Milne*