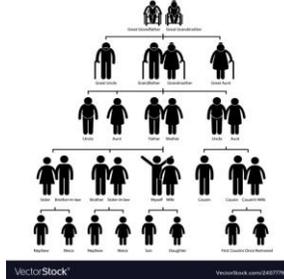


# Gore Branch of New Zealand Society of Genealogists November 2020

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**Next Meeting**  
**2 October 2020**  
**7pm at the**  
**Maruawai Center**  
**(Beside Heritage Center)**  
**Origin of Your Surname**  
 All Welcome

## October Meeting Report

The subject was ship wreck cemeteries. The first was on SS Tararua shipwreck in 1881 at Waipapa point - NZ's worst civilian maritime disaster. the graves of the 131 passengers who lost their lives in graves are located at Tararua Acre Cemetery about 300m off the road to Waipapa point. This was presented by Gail Williams. Some of the bodies were buried at the other NZ cemeteries as per their families wishes, There are several sites on this wreck. The second excellent presentation was by the Commander of the Navy re the sinking of the HMS Orpheus on the Manukau bar on 7 February 1863 when 189 men lost their lives.

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Famnet <https://www.famnet.org.nz/>

How many of you now receive this newsletter every month? **Remember this newsletter is free.** It has some very interesting articles and a whole section that you can access at any time on that baffling subject of DNA by Gail Riddell.

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Elaine and I attended the Regional South Meeting in Mosgiel. There were branch representatives from Oamaru down to Invercargill We were connected by Zoom to NZSG office and all had the opportunity to ask questions of Robyn Williams and Sarah Hewit Previously a NZSG board member came down from Timaru to give a report. Wendy Shaw from Southland branch presented a power point on Southland and Otago hotels and the sly grogging during the prohibition which was very interesting.

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**Ancestry and Findmypast sites** are available at Elaine's house – Saturday 1 -3 . Sincere thanks to Elaine.

## FINDMYPAST UPDATE

- US Passenger and Crew Lists arriving in California, Texas and New York (15 million names added)
- Devon Burials (19,000 from 3 cemeteries)
- Surrey Methodist records

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## PAPERS PAST UPDATE

- Hawera Star* This is a new title with the years covered being 1924-1935
- Marlborough Daily Times* This is a new title, daily from 1882, covering 1880-1888
- Te Puke Times* Thirty years 1921-1950 so coverage is now 1913-1950
- Feilding Star* Five years 1925-1929 added so coverage is now 1879-1929
- Manawatu Herald* Nineteen years 1921-1939 added so coverage is now 1878-1939

*Thanks to Riccarton Branch*

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**Roots Tech 2021** is online and free. RootsTech is a big genealogy conference, conducted annually in the USA. It is attended by thousands and is famous for all the genealogy experts, know-how and new products on show. For 2021, it is online and free to attend. The dates are 25 - 27 February 2021. For more information visit their website, where you can register to attend.

[www.rootstech.org](http://www.rootstech.org)

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to a new member Anna Bouzaid gew up in Gore, attended St Peters college. She is searching for Joan KENSINGTON and Elsie BRINKWORTH



**Ancestry Library Edition is free during open hours at Gore Library.**

It continues to put up more and more databases: **Victoria, Australia, Divorce records, 1860 – 1940.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmKc6Izz80>  
**Curt Witcher—Finding the World with WorldCat.**

WorldCat.org is the largest bibliographic data base in the world and on the web—and it’s free! This lecture focuses on how genealogists can best use this resource to identify materials that deal with the families, geographic areas, religions, ethnic groups, and occupations, and further, to link to other online sources off the beaten path.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e23-lrk5fw0>  
**Curt Witcher—Something for Everyone: Genealogical Reference Services in the 21st Century.**

With the explosion of significant data on the web, there is absolutely no reason genealogists and family historians cannot get top-shelf customer service in any library, regardless of the size of the book budget, the extent of the collections, or the existence of a genealogy/local history section. Hear some strategies for serving this dynamic patron population—genealogists—with just a computer, a good customer service attitude, and great reference interviewing skills.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIBLtPNTxcA>  
**Curt Witcher—Passenger & Immigration research.**

This lecture challenges the student of genealogy to view an ancestor’s travel to this continent as a three-step process -- leaving, arriving, and settling down -- with each of these steps containing the possibility of record generation. Sample documents are viewed and suggestions provided on how to access immigration related data.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3F3m9Uvnp7U>  
**Curt Witcher—“Pain in the Access:” Getting more from the internet for your genealogy.** Library, archive, government, and GenWeb sites have much to offer genealogists. This presentation will demonstrate sites and strategies for getting meaningful data from the web, and assists genealogists to use the Internet for more than just hunting for names.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XElb0H\\_W56g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XElb0H_W56g)  
Thanks to Seonaid Lewis from the Auckland City Library and Papakura Branch

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**It's that time of year again..... these days everyone knows about Black Friday – 13<sup>th</sup> November.** This year is likely to provide an even bigger bonanza than usual for online retailers - Ancestry DNA, FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) kits. And much more

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*The article about the Fortrose Cemetery and Stephen England Gillingham, sparked an interest. His widow, Emily Louise re married Francis Henry SMITH from Waratah Station, she is buried in the Burkes Pass cemetery.*

*Stephen England GILLINGHAM's brother Sandham GILLINGHAM'S first wife was Annie Louise SMITH who sadly died in England after her husband took her there for her health.*

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**Census confusion;** Scotland's decision to postpone continues! Will it be released in 2021 or 2022? **Watch this space!!!**

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**Understanding how the GRO's indexes were compiled**

Until November 2016 there was only one set of GRO indexes for **England & Wales**, the quarterly indexes that were compiled soon after the end of each quarter.. Some of the handwritten volumes were replaced with typeset printed copies when they deteriorated; later indexes were typewritten.

The information recorded in the indexes varied over time - for example, the age at death wasn't shown in the Death indexes until after 1865, and the mother's maiden name wasn't recorded in the birth indexes until the third quarter of 1911. Middle names were often abbreviated to initials. It's fair to say that the accuracy of information in the early indexes often made it particularly difficult to identify the correct entries, leading to frustration for researchers and disappointment when the certificate turned out to be for the wrong person.

**It's these original quarterly indexes which have been transcribed by FreeBMD, Ancestry, Findmypast and other sites,** and the images you see are typically scans of microfilmed pages. Transcription errors can be identified and rectified by referring to those images.

In November 2016 the GRO launched indexes of historic births and deaths which had been newly compiled from the registers they hold.

Because they were compiled 'from scratch' it meant that errors and omissions in the original quarterly indexes were unlikely to be repeated, but inevitably new errors and omissions were introduced instead. *Humans make mistakes*

But the biggest benefit is the inclusion of information that was omitted when the original indexes were compiled - ***every forename is transcribed in full, and in the birth indexes the mother's maiden name is shown from 1837 onwards (provided she was married to the father of the child). In the death indexes the age at death is shown from 1837 onwards - another significant improvement.***

### Things to bear in mind when using the new indexes:

The various fuzzy-matching search options don't work very well - don't expect to be able to find mis-transcribed entries.

- The **GRO** search only returns a maximum of 250 results, but you won't be warned if there are more results that aren't shown.
- The age at death of children under one year old may be shown incorrectly - there is nothing to indicate when the age is in days, weeks, or months rather than years.
- Births identified as illegitimate are treated differently - nothing is shown in the mother's maiden name field.
- In the early years of civil registration (prior to 1850) it isn't always obvious from a birth register entry whether the parents of the child were married, so in some cases illegitimate births will appear in the index as if they were legitimate, and in others legitimate births will appear in the index as if they were illegitimate.
- Occasionally the name of the registration district will differ between the new indexes and the old; usually it's simply a different way of saying the same thing, but where boundaries have changed it may be a different district altogether.
- Don't make the mistake of looking at an entry in the original indexes and trying to predict how it might have been mis-transcribed - it won't be the same handwriting as in the register.
- But despite the flaws in the new indexes they've proved amazingly useful, allowing researcher to reduce or even eliminate the possibility of ordering the wrong certificate - and sometimes providing so much information that it isn't necessary to order the certificate at all!

### Things to bear in mind when reporting 'errors' in the new indexes:

- Unless you purchase a certificate or PDF from the **GRO** you cannot see the register entry – so you cannot be sure that the discrepancy you've noticed is a transcription error (the register entry might be wrong).
- The fact that an entry differs from the corresponding entry in the quarterly indexes doesn't necessarily mean that it's wrong.
- The original quarterly indexes were also produced by the **GRO**, not by **FreeBMD**, **Ancestry** or whoever – they have merely transcribed the data in the indexes so that is searchable.
- If the mother's maiden name isn't right it's not necessarily an error in the birth indexes – the register entry could be wrong; check the index entries for siblings as if another birth has been registered with the same 'wrong' maiden name it probably isn't a transcription error.

### Why it's better to search the birth indexes at Findmypast

Although the birth indexes at **Findmypast** are based on the original indexes, in many cases they've added the mother's maiden name, even before 1911 - presumably taking this additional information from the new indexes.

If you've used the GRO indexes you'll know that the search is limited and inflexible - for example you can only look for males or females, not both, and you can only search a maximum period of 5 years.

**Findmypast** doesn't have these limitations, so it's particularly useful if you're looking for several children born to the same parents, perhaps over a period of 20 years or more (since one search at Findmypast could do the job of 8 or more searches at the GRO site).

Another advantage of searching at Findmypast is being able to search by county, something you can't do at the GRO site. You can even choose multiple counties (particularly handy if your ancestors lived near the county border), or multiple registration districts - something else that you can't do at the GRO site.

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### DNA doesn't lie; people do

Jermaine in Australia wrote about her experiences with DNA (all names have been changed):

*"I have done a DNA test, under pressure from my daughter. One of my brothers, Bruce, 72 yrs. old, also did his under pressure from his children, his was a birthday gift.*

*"Oh dear, what a load of family secrets came out. Both parents apparently had affairs that resulted in children: I discovered a half-brother here in Australia, a very unhappy man (my father was in the*

*Merchant Navy so heaven only knows if any other matches will turn up.). Then Bruce discovered that his father was an Italian - and to top it off, other members of the family already knew, and had kept it from him until he discovered it himself through the DNA test!*

*"I now understand why my mother said 'mind your own bloody business' and refused to give me any information at all when I asked questions when I first started to get interested in family history. Got to have a sense of humour to survive!"*

*As family historians we're used to discovering skeletons in the closet, but when they're so close to home it can be unnerving. But better, surely, that we find these things out ourselves, rather than our children or grandchildren unearthing the truth and spreading it all over social media.*

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## Origin of Surnames

Amazingly, surnames didn't come along until fairly recent times. In Britain, for example, they weren't common until the 12th to 14th century, and even then the practice wasn't universal. Many European Jews began using surnames only when it was mandated in the late 18th and 19th centuries. We genealogists, of course, are glad our families finally adopted these identifiers. The patronymic naming system is thus: son of their father i.e. Stevenson surname is the son of Steven, Robertson is the son of Robert etc. In Shetland daughters last name was listed as Johnsdaughter!!!

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## Searching for Family Pedigrees



We all have our favourite searching places when we are seeking pedigrees or trees for our family members. The common places to search for family pedigrees are Ancestry trees and FamilySearch.org trees. Always being aware that some of these trees are incorrect.

Those of you who are members of any of my surname DNA projects with FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) will be familiar with my style of placing such pedigrees in the 'Results' pages (you will find this in the 'About' and 'Results' section of the project concerned – always assuming I have been given them and that those who supply them are happy for me to do so).

Even if you are not a member of FTDNA, these are still available to you if you know where to look.

That begs the question of those of you who have joined FTDNA – whether you have transferred your results into or taken an FTDNA test – as to why you have chosen to not join your surname project.

Perhaps you do not know your biological surname? If this is the case, join a project of your closest YDNA matches name.

Perhaps you are female and uncertain whether to use your married name or your birth name? (Please test under your birth name).

Perhaps you want to join a project carrying your mother's birth name but the administrator has disallowed? Consider getting a mitochondrial test and join a mitochondrial project.

Perhaps you are female and an administrator has removed you? **Please get a male in your family to take a YDNA test.**

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Over eight million Welsh parish records have now been published on family history websites

[Ancestry](#), [TheGenealogist](#) and [MyHeritage](#).

The collection includes baptism, banns, marriage and burial records from 14 Welsh counties, dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

The parish registers were initially digitised through a project run by the [National Library of Wales](#) (NLW) and released on [Findmypast](#).

However, Findmypast's 10-year exclusivity deal has now expired, meaning other family history websites are free to add the records.

The parish records make it possible for family historians to comprehensively trace their Welsh roots beyond the introduction of civil registration in 1837.

The eight million records contain 14.5 million names.

Ancestry and TheGenealogist have added searchable indexes of the records accompanied by digital images of the original documents.

## *Some more strange facts ?????*

*The average woman consumes 6lb of lipstick in her lifetime. Cockroaches like to eat the glue on the back of stamps, and soap bars. A shrimp can swim backwards. Plastic pieces on the end of shoe laces are called aglets. A tuna will suffocate if it ever stops swimming.*