

**OTAKI BRANCH
(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)
NEWSLETTER**

JUNE 2019



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Meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month (February to November) at 7.30 pm, in the **Dr Gertrude Atmore Supper Room** of the Otaki Public Library, corner Aotaki and Main Streets, Otaki.

Please Note: When the Branch has a guest speaker we have a gold coin collection.

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**OUR NEXT MEETING IS:
Thursday 27th June 2019
7.30pm start**

**“Out of the Box”
Bring an heirloom to the meeting
and share its story**

Committee news:

- As you'll have seen from the separate email sent out, we are sharing a display with Otaki library in their Art Space just inside the door, from 1st August to 2nd September. The display, Tuko Iho, will be about family heirlooms and there will be a number of locked cabinets for precious items. Either bring your item to our June meeting and talk about it there or contact Len Nicholls about something you'd like to show. The information for each item will be needed by 5 July so the library can set up and print appropriate signage.
- We will be taking part in the Otaki Community Expo again this year – it is to be held on September 7th in the Otaki Community Hall.

- The AGM was held at the branch meeting in May and as all the present committee were standing again and there were no other nominations, the committee remains as it was.

We also had an interesting presentation from Merv Judge about passenger lists. A long list of websites for passenger lists is attached.

- **SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE! PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED MEMBERSHIP FORM AND PAY ONLINE OR BY CHEQUE OR CASH TO GAIL HALL**

PLEASE NOTE: THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOUR SUB HASN'T BEEN RENEWED, AND, YOU WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO USE OUR LIBRARY RESOURCES IF YOU HAVE THE NEW MEMBERSHIP CARD. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU BACK!

- The committee and Otaki branch would like to congratulate our member Anne Coury on the publication of her article "Land and houses starting in Geashill, County Offaly, Ireland" in the June issue of the NZ Genealogist. The article was also published at the beginning of the year in the 2018 Journal of the Irish Family History Society, Dublin. If you aren't a member of the NZSG, the branch receives the magazine and it is available to be borrowed from a stand on the computer bench.
- **Please note:** it would be helpful if members did their research in the library any other time rather than Wednesday mornings, so that if members of the public come in there is plenty of room for the person on duty to talk with them and help them with their research. Thanks.

Library Duty

Carol Moore	3 July	Glennis Balloch	24 July
Len Nicholls	10 July		
Anne Williams	17 July	Sue Carroll	31 July

And: Anne McLellan Saturday 13 July

If you cannot do a duty day, please contact one of these members listed below to swap:

Sue Carroll 364 7263	Carol Moore 364 7159	Anne Williams 364 2300
Lois Coles 364 6011	Frances Milne 06 927 9053	Anne McLellan 021 159 8478
Glennis Balloch 364 5825	Len Nicholls 364 7638	Gail Hall 364 5865

Research items of interest

For our new members, Findmypast.com, Ancestry.com, and [The Genealogist](http://TheGenealogist.com) are freely available on our computers at the Otaki Library. Just remember **NOT** to sign out of Findmypast OR The Genealogist, just click on the **red cross** at the right top of the screen, rather than Sign Out symbol.

If you find that Findmypast or The Genealogist has been signed out and you can't get into it, contact a committee member.



IRELAND

- More historical Irish civil registration records have been released online by the Irish Government at the free website, www.IrishGenealogy.ie. Earlier years have been added to the marriage records while more

recent years have been added to birth, marriage and death records to bring them up to date (in line with the 100/75/50 year privacy rule).

What's been added?

- * Births: 1917 & 1918.
- * Marriages: 1864 to 1869, 1942 & 1943.
- * Deaths: 1967 & 1968.

Overall the following records are now available:

- * Births from 1864 to 1918.
- * Marriages from 1864 to 1943.
- * Deaths from 1878 to 1968.

- Just over 3,300 baptismal and marriage records from Adamstown Roman Catholic Parish, Co. Wexford, have been uploaded to our Wexford database at www.wexford.rootsireland.ie.

For a full list of sources for Co Wexford [please click here](#)

To search these records, go to wexford.rootsireland.ie. [Login](#) and [Subscribe](#) if required.



UNITED KINGDOM

- Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk) has added a series of datasets for the English county of Essex: **Essex, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1918**
<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/essexbaptisms/>

Essex, England, Church of England Marriages, 1754-1935

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/essexmarriages/>

Essex, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1994

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/essexburials/>

Essex, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/essexearlyparish/>

- [Findmypast](#) [England & Wales Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1861-1913](#) Over 135,000 new Portsmouth records have been added to the collection of Merchant Navy Crew Lists. The records document the role and employment of each member of the crew. Individuals would 'sign on' when they began their employment, either at the start of the voyage, or when they joined the ship at one of its ports of call. They 'signed off' at the end of the voyage or, if they chose not to finish, at a port of call.

A ship that sailed in British coastal waters completed a crew list every six months. If a vessel sailed outside of British waters then a document called a crew agreement was completed for each voyage. Crew members include a wide variety of professions, such as deckhands, engine staff, stewards, nurses and maids.

- [TheGenealogist](#) is expanding its occupational records with over 300,000 records of Masters and Apprentices included in a nautical set of apprenticeship records.

These BT 150 records from The National Archives comprise of an index that had been compiled by the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen and its predecessor. It consists of apprentices indentured in the Merchant Navy between 1824-1910.

Family historians can use these records to:

Find ancestors who had learned the trade of a professional merchant seaman
Discover the age of an ancestor at the time that he went to sea and his year of birth
Find the name of the company and the port that he was registered as an apprentice
In some cases also learn the name of the ship that your ancestor sailed on.

➤ [Findmypast](#) **Britain, Physicians and Surgeons, 1830-1923**

Search for your English ancestry in thousands of pages from the Calendar of The Royal College of Surgeons in England and Members of The Royal College of Physicians. Containing over 31,000 names, these publications will provide you with your ancestor's residence and years of appointment.

Prisoners of War 1715-1945

Over 876,000 additional records created by the International Committee of the Red Cross during the First World War have been added to our collection of Prisoner of War records. Between 1914 and 1918, all belligerent countries involved provided lists of prisoners to the ICRC, which created an index card for each prisoner and detainee.

British Armed Forces, First World War Soldiers' Medical Records

Over 85,000 additional records have also been added to our collection of First World War Soldiers' Medical Records. Including both transcripts and images of original documents, these records will enable you to discover when and where your ancestor was wounded, the nature of their disease or wound, the medical facility they were sent to and the dates of their treatment as well as details pertaining to their military career.

➤ [Ancestry.co.uk](#) has a new collection of nearly 100,000 [Welsh wills and probate records](#), dating from 1513 to 1838. **What can the records tell you?**

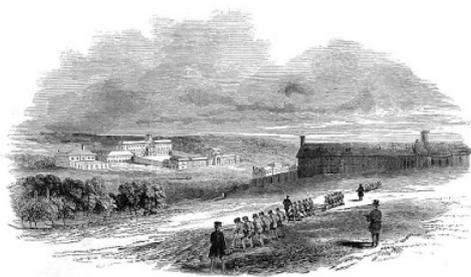
Searching for your ancestor's name and date of death could reveal the full copy of their will – potentially helping you identify other members of their family and even locate new relatives.

Where do they come from?

Until 1858, wills were proved in ecclesiastical courts. These records include the courts of the six historic dioceses in Wales – Bangor, Brecon, St David's, Llandaff, St Asaph's and the Peculiar of Hawarden – as well as the Diocese of Chester, which covers four parishes in Flintshire and Holt in Denbighshire. The exact dates for which wills are available vary by diocese.

If you're not an Ancestry subscriber, the wills are also available for free on the [National Library of Wales website](#). However, the Ancestry collection is easier to search, and allows you to download the will without paying an additional fee.

➤ [TheGenealogist](#) has released over 100,000 individuals into their expanding Court & Criminal Records collection. With this release researchers can find the details of ancestors that had broken the law and were incarcerated in the harsh conditions of early Victorian convict prisons - including some that were only children!



The new data will allow the family history researcher to discover:

Over 100,000 individuals in records covering the years 1838 to 1875
Registers of prisoners inside Millbank, Parkhurst (pictured) and Pentonville prisons.

Each prisoner's age on conviction
The marital status and whether the prisoner can read or write
The convict's former trade
When and where they were convicted, their crime, sentence, where and whence received, previous offences, when removed and to where.

- National Archives UK has redesigned their website, making it easier to find information and links <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
- Most people are aware of the 1851 census, but there was a second census carried out in 1851 - the "1851 Religious Census". This documents the vast majority of churches, chapels, synagogues and religious establishments.
The census is organised by registration district just like the usual returns for people. For a non-Church of England church (using the page for Stebbing Independent Chapel for this example), the pre-printed form gives:
 - The name of the establishment;
 - Its location (Parish, registration district and county);
 - Religious denomination;
 - When erected [a very useful guide as to when the establishment existed on or before];
 - Capacity of the building;
 - Average attendances;
 - Notes [frequently helpful];
 - The person who submitted the return.

Since detailed County directories didn't really cover the whole county until the 1840s, this is a very useful resource for tracing the history of, for example, Baptist churches.

So the key questions are: where can I get it; and how much does it cost?

- It is available for FREE download.
- See the next point.

To get the parts of the census of interest:

1. Go to <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/advanced-search> .
2. Specify, for example, the name of the county in the "Find words" section; and specify HO129 in the "Search for or within references" section [I assume that HO stands for Home Office].
3. Click on the "Search" button.
4. The results page should list the registration districts in the county.
5. When you click on an item, it takes you to the catalogue detail page for the item and there is an "Add to basket" button which you should click on.
6. The website behaves as if you are buying something but it spots that the value of the basket is £0.00, so it skips past the credit card payment pages.
7. You will be asked for an e-mail address - you get a confirmation e-mail with links to download the requested items.
8. If you want to get details of all of the religious establishments in Essex, don't forget to include Bishops Stortford (Hertfordshire) and Sudbury (Suffolk).

Thanks to Macha



SCOTLAND

- ScotlandsPeople (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) has added the 1940 Valuation Roll for Scotland to its site.

National Records of Scotland have published valuation rolls from 1940 on their online research service, ScotlandsPeople, adding more than 60,000 new digital images.

You can now search over 2.8 million new indexed names and addresses for owners, tenants and occupiers of properties throughout Scotland.

Valuation rolls were created to help with collection of taxes, recording details of buildings, properties and their value, and the names of their owners and tenants.

They are a valuable tool for local history research and can be used to add foliage to your family tree by searching for people and properties between census years.



NEW ZEALAND

- Archives New Zealand launched their new website, replacing the old Archives website and the Records Toolkit website. Their other sites (War Art, Audio-visual Archives and Online regional exhibitions) will gradually be migrated into the new site. They are working to make a lot more of their valuable records accessible to all New Zealanders. Check it out at archives.govt.nz.
- <http://www.whakapapaclub.nz> your first stop for finding whakapapa



GERMANY

- Over 57 German million births, baptisms, marriages and burials are now available to search and explore on [Findmypast](http://findmypast.com). Consisting of three new indexes covering the years 1558 to 1958, these new additions will generate hints against your Findmypast family tree. The new collections include:

Germany Birth and Baptism Index 1558-1898

Germany Death and Burial Index 1582-1958

Germany Marriage Index 1558-1929

OTHER COUNTRIES:

- The International Tracing Service has changed its name to the Arolsen Archives as it releases millions of concentration camp victim records online arolsen-archives.org/en/



The arrival of Hungarian Jews in Auschwitz-Birkenau, June 1944 (Credit: Galerie Bilderwelt/Getty)

The [free database](#) consists of records from Second World War concentration camps, including prisoner cards and death notices.

In total, they contain the names of over 2.2 million victims from across Europe.

“Our archive bears testimony to the atrocities perpetrated by the National Socialists,” Floriane Azoulay, director of the Arolsen Archives, said. “Soon there won’t be any survivors left to tell us about them.

That is why it is so important that the original documents can speak to coming generations in their place.”

The Arolsen Archives was founded by the British Red Cross in 1944 under the name Central Tracing Bureau, in order to register and find missing persons. After the war, it established its headquarters in Bad Arolsen in Germany. It changed its name to the International Tracing Service in 1948.

It holds over 30 million documents, with records of 17.5 million people, which are listed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register.

It is one of the major resources for tracing Jewish people, other minority groups, political dissidents and foreign forced labourers who were imprisoned or killed by Germany's Nazi regime between 1933 and 1945.

In addition to changing its name Arolsen Archives – International Centre on Nazi Persecution, it has launched the online archive and a new website, intended “to reach out to a larger audience and inform more people about the consequences of anti-Semitism, discrimination and racism”.

The concentration camp database was developed in partnership with [Yad Vashem](#), the World Holocaust Remembrance Centre, which provided the technology for fast data management and extended place and name search.

The Arolsen Archives now plans to improve the searchability of the site, including by using text recognition methods, and to release more of its collections online in the future.

The best part of this database is that it can be searched in English. Since the database had so many records uploaded quickly, the search abilities are limited to names and topics for now. These records are in German but some records have English written along the German. Anyone who lacks German language skills could try [Google Translate](#) to switch the typed German into English.

- [Findmypast](#): Over 12 million SWEDISH baptisms, marriages and burials are now dating back to 1611 are now available to search on Findmypast. The Swedish collection consists of the following indexes:
 - Sweden Baptism Index 1611-1920
 - Sweden Burial Index 1649-1920
 - Sweden Marriage Index 1630-1920