

OTAKI BRANCH
(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020



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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 February 2020

Mythbusters
- what genealogical myths have you exploded over the summer?

Committee news:

- **March branch meeting:** Jonathan Newport from the Department of Internal Affairs is to come to speak to us about the Wellington land district deeds records they hold and also Crown Grant and lease records.
- **Trip to Wellington City Archives** in the second half of April – details to be advised. We will get an idea of who would be interested in this trip during the February meeting.

The WCC Archives have been established for about 20 years and it has been hard work by dedicated archivists to convince important people in the Wellington area, of the importance of their collection. They currently receive on average 1,000 requests a month for look ups or viewing. Not only do they hold Wellington City Council records, but also those from various museums in Wellington, including the Maritime Museum and the Carter Observatory. Their collection holds extensive records for the Union Steamship Company.

They hold records for performing arts groups, such as the Wellington Competition Society, who held a yearly concert for many years until the 1970's. Due to earthquake strengthening of some buildings around Wellington, they are also holding historical papers such as every programme for every concert that was performed in the St. James Theatre. These are available for viewing. There are also art works from the Town Hall, including photos of Mayors and councillors throughout the years.

Of the more traditional records held, there are thousands of Rate Books, Property Records, Resource Consents and Permits, dating as far back as 1842. Digitalisation is happening at a rapid rate and records are regularly being digitised. Only 20% of records are currently online, so a visit is still the best way of accessing records. You can contact WCC Archives any time and they will look things up for you or find the appropriate 'box' and you can search through it yourself. There is a huge collection of books of old Wellington photos which you are permitted to view (most are not yet available online), so definitely worth a look at these. There are some records from Kapiti, but most only go as far north as Tawa. Kapiti records were donated to the Otaki Historical Society, who care for these records. *(This information was in the Wellington genealogy newsletter after their trip to the archives last year)*

○ **This year's "Let's Talk" sessions:**

- ❖ Tuesday 17 March 1-3pm. Beginning Your Scottish Genealogy, presented by Frances Milne
- ❖ Tuesday 19 May 1-3pm. Beginning Your Irish Genealogy, presented by Anne Coury
- ❖ Tuesday 21 July 1-3pm. Using DNA in Your Genealogy Research, presented by Anne McLellan
- ❖ Tuesday September 15 1-3pm. Good Internet Researching and Using Maps, presented by Len Nicholls
- ❖ Tuesday 17 November 1-3pm To Be Advised

These sessions will all be held in the Supper room off the Memorial Hall and a koha is appreciated.

- If any of you are looking for assistance with your **Irish research**, the Kapiti Genealogy branch have invited our members to come to their local Irish Interest Group, held at the Paraparaumu Library. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (from 2.00 – 4.00pm) at the Alison Proctor Family History Centre, which is on the right as you enter the library and at the end where all the computers are. If you are interested please email Donna Bridgeman at grrlgypsy@gmail.com, and she will send you reminders.
- **NEW ZEALAND ARCHIVES HOURS UPDATE!** Archives were planning to drastically reduce the hours they are open to the public, removing Saturday hours and weekday afternoons. Fortunately the research community rose up and Archives have just announced that from 2 March, Auckland and Wellington will be open Wednesday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and Dunedin and Christchurch, Monday to Friday, 9am to 1pm.

EASTER RAFFLE

This will be our main fundraiser this year.
It will run on Tuesday 31st March, Thursday 2nd April,
Tuesday 7th April, and Thursday 9th April at venues to be advised.
The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 12th April.

Please bring suitable grocery items to the branch meetings
on Thursday February 27th and March 26th.
Items can also be dropped off at Otaki Travel (Arthur Marychurch),
opposite the Memorial Hall on Main St, Otaki.

Please don't donate chocolate (I know it's Easter but they'll melt!)
or "smellies" (bathroom items)

○ DAVID ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN

We were sorry to get the news at the end of last month of David Bridgeman's passing. David was a Branch and NZSG member for about 12 years, and was Convenor of our branch for three years commencing May 2011. Through his research into family history he developed an intense interest in military history, culminating in being interviewed on the subject for a TV programme. He also took part in writing groups associated with the branch.

After relinquishing the position of Convenor in 2014 he continued to play an active role in the branch until mid-2019, when failing health caused him to gradually step back. Following a period in Meryn's care at home, he was in care in Levin and the Hutt before his death on 29 January, at the age of 87.



We remember David for his enthusiasm for family and military history, his willingness to help and encourage others in their own research, and his unstinting efforts on the committee and as Convenor.

Six of our members attended his funeral in Upper Hutt.

Library Duty

Glennis Balloch	4 March	Lois Coles	18 March
Len Nicholls	11 March	Sue Carroll	25 March

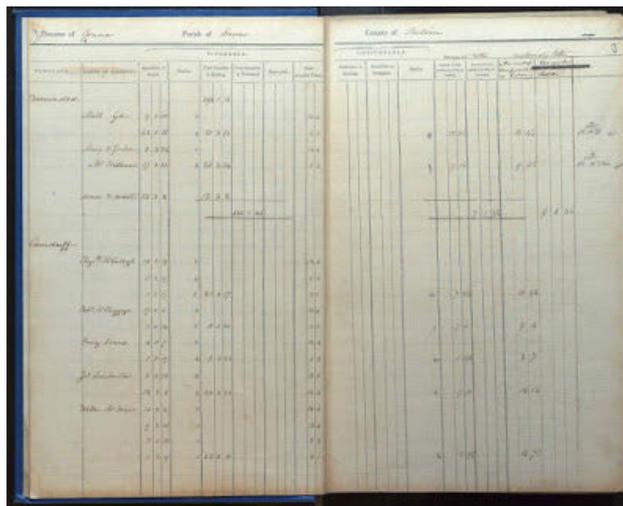
And: Anne McLellan Saturday 14 March

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

click on it you will first be asked to agree to a copyright statement:

Then you will be asked if you wish to save the relevant PDF file or to open it. Upon completion, this is the sort of thing you will then see:



COMMENT: Some of the files are quite large, but the quality of the digitisation is superb. Note that the records **cannot be keyword searched** - you'll have to go into them the good ol' fashioned way!

Tithe records for the Republic of Ireland are already freely available at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie>.

National Education Commissioners Grant Aid Applications

The search technique for these is similar to the above, with the results portrayed in county order over a series of files covering different periods from 1832-1899. For example, County Antrim is presented across ED/1/1 to ED/1/10, each of which subdivides further to individual schools - the ED/1/1 link, for example, leads to individual PDFs for 163 separate school applications (ED/1/1/1A to ED/1/1/164). Note that the applications are for **named schools**, so don't be going in looking for parish names in these.

With thanks to Chris Paton

➤ FamilySearch updates Ireland Deaths 1864-1870 collection

FamilySearch (www.familysearch.org) has added 753,398 indexed records to its **Ireland Deaths, 1864-1870** collection at <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1584965>, up from the previous number of just 51,249 records.

The records are transcribed in some detail, with then following a useful example:

Margaret Graham		Tools
Ireland Deaths, 1864-1870		
Name:	Margaret Graham	
Event Type:	Death	
Event Date:	21 Oct 1870	
Event Place:	Ballynameen, County Londonderry, Ireland	
Event Place (Original):	Ballinameen, Londonderry, Ireland	
Gender:	Female	
Age:	3	
Marital Status:	Single	
Occupation:	Labourers Child	
Birth Year (Estimated):	1867	

Have a look for BDM records for Ireland on Familysearch, Ancestry or Findmypast sites first as it is easier to find someone in a general area. Once found you can use the details (e.g. registration district) to get the free certificate on the irishgenealogy.ie site where you have to search by the civil registration district.

➤ **Ireland Poverty Relief Funds, 1810-87** [Familysearch](#)

Digital images of originals housed at the National Archives. Index includes the borrower's name and the guarantors or witnesses for the loan. The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund was a micro credit scheme set up in 1824 to provide small loans to the 'industrious poor'.

Local associations and committees administered the scheme, most often from a small town in a rural area, and county committees oversaw their work. The records of the local associations and county committees are in the The National Archives record series (PRO) T91.

As well as the notes of security for the loans, there are loan ledgers, repayment books and defaulters' books. The minimum information supplied is address and occupation, but much additional detail is often given in the local association records, including notes on health, family circumstances and emigration. The local records generally run from the late 1830s to the mid-1840s.

➤ **More free Irish records**

New register records are now available to the public on the irishgenealogy.ie website:

- ➡ • Birth records—1864 - 1919
- ➡ • Marriage records—1845 -1944
- ➡ • Death records—1878 – 1969

The update includes the latest additions for birth records to 1919, marriage records (Republic only) to 1944, and deaths (Republic only) to 1969, respecting the online closure periods for access to these records of 100 years, 75 years and 50 years respectively.

(Note that Northern Ireland's records platform at <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk> has a rolling programme of updates to its database to comply with the same closure periods.)



➤ [FindmyPast adds Lanarkshire and Angus records](#)

Scotland, Poor Law & Poor Lists

Do you have ancestors from Scotland that fell on hard times? Explore this collection of poor relief records to find out. Each record includes a transcript and original record (where available) that will reveal your ancestor's level of poverty, family details, occupation, residence, denomination and the nature of the relief they received.

Scotland, Lanarkshire School Registers and Records

Search this collection of school registers and records to find out where and when your ancestor went to school. These images and transcripts may also reveal the child's birth year and residence as well as the names and occupations of their parent's.

Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Births & Baptisms 1562-1855

Over 186,000 additional records covering all parishes have been added to the collection. Search these parish

birth and baptism records and discover the date and location of your ancestor's baptism, their residence, parent's names and father's occupation.

Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Marriages & Banns 1562-1855

Over 92,000 new records covering all parishes are now available to search. These records may reveal when and where your relative's banns were read, the date and location of their marriage, parent's names, father's occupation and corresponding details for their spouse.

Scotland, Dundee & Forfarshire (Angus) Deaths & Burials 1562-1855

Find out where your Dundee and Forfarshire ancestors were laid to rest with over 74,000 new additions covering all parishes. These transcripts may also reveal the deceased's occupation, condition, residence, father's name and next of kin.

Published in association with [Leisure and Culture Dundee](#), [University of St Andrews Library](#) and [DC Thomson](#), the huge archive of historical documents and original photographs provides researchers worldwide with the opportunity to discover their connections to Dundee for the first time online.

Dundee-based [Findmypast](#) has scanned in full colour from paper originals where possible, and created a full name index. The new release brings together millions of complementary records from multiple institutions. The records give names, dates, residences, occupations and document life events of the people of Dundee and Angus, including photographic records of streets and people - perfect for family history and social history. They contain some of the oldest photographs in existence, taken in the 1840s and showing parts of the city long gone.

[Collection highlights](#)

A particular highlight is a set of 50 images of 'Dundee Old & New' commissioned by the Dundee Police after the Improvement Act of 1871. This photographic album illustrates the changing landscape of a Victorian burgh in the firm grip of the Industrial Revolution through a unique 'then and now' perspective even at that time.

When used alongside tenancy and electoral records of the people who lived in these streets released at the same time and going back to as early as 1823, a detailed picture of the people of Dundee can be seen.

- Paisley Heritage Centre (www.renfrewshireleisure.com/heritage) has announced a significant update to its online Poor Law records indexes:

This important source of information for people researching their family history and Paisley and Renfrewshire's social history is now much easier to search. The Heritage Centre has created an online version of the Paisley Poor Law Indexes to open up the collection to those with ancestors from this area.

We have recently completed indexing Series 14 of the Poor Law statements, which consists of an additional 100 volumes dating from 1930 to 1948. This adds approximately 15000 entries to our existing index.

To consult the index, visit

<https://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk/iguana/uploads/file/Website%20version%202019.pdf>

Chris Paton

Scotland: Poor Law & Poor Lists ([FindMyPast](#))

FindMyPast's poor records index currently covers some parishes in Angus, Ayrshire, Caithness, East Lothian, Inverness-shire, Moray, Renfrewshire, Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland. Much of the information has come from family history societies (including Stuart Farrell's transcripts of Highland poor registers published by the Scottish Genealogy Society) or local archives (in the case of Paisley and East Lothian).

Scotland: [FamilySearch Catalogue](#)

A variety of digitised records of Scottish poor relief can be accessed via the [FamilySearch](#) catalogue. These records are not indexed on the site, but in some cases handwritten name indexes can be found in the front or back of

individual volumes. The best way to locate records is to search the catalogue by a parish name and then look under 'Poorhouses, poor law etc.' Some records may only be accessible at Family History Libraries.

Scotland: Board of Supervision Poor Law Appeals

Old Scottish Genealogy & Family History have created an index to appeals from paupers recorded in the Board of Supervision minute books for 1845-1895. These are particularly valuable in cases where records have not survived locally. The indexes can be accessed through individual parish pages on the *Old Scottish* website and full details can be obtained from them for a small charge.

Thanks to <http://findingyourancestors.scot/>

For more Scottish Poor law records see separate document attached to this newsletter.

- [ScotlandsPeople](#) has made almost 130,000 new images available online.

These records consist of 106,268 Scottish births in 1919, 37,111 marriages in 1944 and 63,821 deaths in 1969. You can now search for, view and save these records on the ScotlandsPeople website.



ENGLAND

- **New RAF Operations Book Records released on TheGenealogist** (www.thegenealogist.co.uk):

This is the first time that these RAF records are fully searchable by name, aircraft, location and many other fields, making it easier to find your aviation ancestors.

In a release of over half a million records, this is the first batch of RAF Operations Records Books (ORBs) to join TheGenealogist's ever-expanding military records collection.

The operations records books are for squadrons primarily after the First World War but there are a few early squadron records from 1911 to 1918.

- **General Register Office** <https://www.gro.gov.uk/>
The General Register Office (GRO) has updated its [online index](#) to cover all deaths registered in England and Wales from 1984 to 2019.

What can the records tell you?

The minimum information required for searching the index is the deceased's surname, gender and year of death within two years. The free indexed entries give their full name, year of birth, registration district and GRO reference number. You can then order a full certificate.

Previously the GRO's death index only covered the years 1837 to 1957. The new addition will still leave a gap of 27 years in the index, although deaths up to 2007 can be searched on other family history websites.

Since October 2017, it has been possible to order cheaper PDFs of birth and death records (up to 1918 for births and 1957 for deaths), however the post-1984 records will only be available as print certificates at a standard cost of £11.

- <http://www.mundus.ac.uk/index.html>

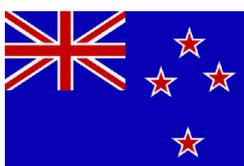
The Mundus Gateway is a web-based guide to more than four hundred collections of overseas missionary materials held in the United Kingdom. These materials, comprising the archives of British missionary societies, collections of personal papers, printed matter, photographs, other visual materials and

artefacts, are held in a large number of libraries, record offices and other institutions in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. The Mundus Gateway makes it easier for researchers to locate these collections and obtain sufficient information about their contents to enable effective planning of research visits.

The web-guide contains a collection-level description of each collection including valuable background information and a summary of contents. There is a facility for freetext searches as well as searches by personal names, organization names, place-names and subjects. Clickable maps are supplied to assist with geographical searches. The Mundus Gateway contains full access and location details of each holding institution.

The Links page contains links to useful web sites in the British Isles, Continental Europe and the wider world while the Gallery provides a snapshot of the extensive range of visual materials to be found in many missionary collections.

Descriptions are still being added and amended so please visit the site regularly.



NEW ZEALAND

- [Archives New Zealand](#) is currently digitising **Series 8102, the Crown Purchase Deeds**. These land-deals between Māori and the Crown are cited by James Belich as being 'a hundred little treaties' and are taonga tuku iho of huge significance, especially for the information they contain – from the names and tohu of tūpuna to the location of wāhi tapu.

The Deeds mostly cover the years 1841-1905 but include some earlier records, as well as Deeds up to 1976. Some cover huge areas – sometimes thousands of square kilometres – while others were for small blocks of just a few hectares. Generally each Deed includes legal and physical descriptions of the land, maps or plans (on or separate to the actual Deed), conditions of the 'sale', the purchase price, names and tohu of tūpuna (sometimes with hapū affiliation noted), and records of payment. Where the original Deed was written in te reo Māori there is often a translation into English. Many Deeds contain related papers, such as Crown Grants or Māori Land Court Orders.

There are a number of ways to find a Deed. One option is to go to the series page on Archway (archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=8102), click on the *Records* tab, and browse the listings. To make it easier to browse, the full list is organised into regions.

You can also search the series with keywords. For example, if you want to see all the Deeds with the word *Wairarapa* in the title, go to the Advanced Search page on Archway (archway.archives.govt.nz/CallItemAdvancedSearch.do), put *8102* in the series field and *Wairarapa* in the keyword field. Your results will only show records using that term, so be aware that more Deeds for Wairarapa may exist that do not have the word Wairarapa in the title (for example, if they are listed by block name only).

Thanks to Feilding branch November newsletter

- **New Zealand, Archives New Zealand, Probate Records, 1843-1998 on [Familysearch](#)**
Images and index for probate records from Archives New Zealand. The records were created by various courts throughout New Zealand. Although the index will contain entries up through 1998 when all images have been captured, the images for probates issued during the past 50 years are unavailable for viewing. The original records are located in the Archives New Zealand offices situated in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.
- Just a link to early New Zealand photographers <https://canterburyphotography.blogspot.com/>

- Latest from [paperspast](#):

Franklin Times (1934-1945)
Manawatu Times (1929-1936)
Nelson Evening Mail (1931-1937)
Northern Advocate (1946-1949)
Timaru Herald (1921-1928)
Waihi Daily Telegraph (1942,1945-1947,1949-1950)
Waikato Times (1929-1935)

- Sarah Hewitt has developed two more videos 'Searching Newspapers' and 'Other People's Trees' which go online this week on the NZSG website. "Getting it right" is available on the front page of the website and is free to everyone.



AUSTRALIA

- Australia's gorgeous Waverley Cemetery is one of the most stunning places in the world. White gravestones and exquisite statues sit high on a cliff against a backdrop of the turquoise ocean and sky. Check out the photos in BillionGraves' blog post, [Australian Gravestone Symbols](#), and learn some super interesting facts as well. Click [HERE](#) to read more.
<https://blog.billiongraves.com/australian-gravestone-symbols>

- <https://www.digitalpanopticon.org/>

Tracing London Convicts in Britain & Australia, 1780-1925

This website allows you to search millions of records from around fifty datasets, relating to the lives of 90,000 convicts from the Old Bailey. Use our site to search individual convict life archives, explore and visualise data, and learn more about crime and criminal justice in the past.

In December 2019 this website was updated with the addition of two datasets on convict tattoos and a new search feature allowing you to search by convict occupations. A substantial number of additional punishment outcomes have been linked to trials. We have made a number of corrections to convict genders and ages, and new visualisations have been added to the visualisation gallery.



INDIA

- [Find My Past](#) have added more records from India - [British In India](#)
We've enhanced this collection with over 7,000 new and exclusive records. Brought online in partnership with the Society of Genealogists, the latest additions include both a transcript with all the vital details about your family members and an image of the original record. These newest updates cover surnames beginning with the letters J and K.
This ever-expanding collection includes entries of births, marriages, divorces and deaths in the British Raj between 1664 and 1961. They'll help you learn more about relatives who lived and worked in the thriving subcontinent generations ago.

OTHER:

- Here is also a link to an article for translation tools - it gives reference to German, but the websites could be used for any language

thanks to Hanna

- UKRAINE: "Genealogy isn't as simple as going online onto Ancestry and MyHeritage and ordering DNA tests for some people. I have started a series on my blog about the stories of people who were born or live in the former USSR and research their ancestors. Here is the first story of a woman from Ukraine and now lives in southern USA." <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com> Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family: Uncovering the secrets of finding family and records in the former USSR
- **Family Search: Searching Digital-Image-Only Collections**
FamilySearch has published billions of images of historical records from archives worldwide and continues to add over 350 million new record images every year—millions per week. About 80 percent of those online genealogical records are not searchable by name—meaning that you might not be able to just type in the names of ancestors to find them. Filling in the missing branches of your family tree often requires sleuthing through digital images of the original records online.

How Does It Work?

Type in a place-name (city, state, county, or country) for an ancestor event (birth, marriage, date, other), and Explore Historical Images searches FamilySearch's digital-only collections and returns relevant record collections that meet your criteria.

A very small percentage of FamilySearch.org users have been taking advantage of the rich content in FamilySearch's billions of record images. For them, Explore Images is going to be a game changer in making ancestor connections. Previously, you would have to become very familiar with navigating the FamilySearch Catalog online to find what was there. Explore Images simplifies that experience.

Try FamilySearch Explore Historical Images now (<https://www.familysearch.org/records/images/>). (Requires a free account).

However, you would need to have an idea of dates and very good eyesight and patience!! I have also found that a parish I'm looking for brings up records from an entirely different county.

