

**OTAKI BRANCH**  
**(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2020**



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**Meetings** are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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**  
**Thursday 26<sup>TH</sup> March 2020**  
**HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

**Committee news:**

As previously notified, these upcoming events have been postponed or cancelled

1. The branch meeting next Thursday, 26 March has been cancelled. Our speaker, Jonathan Newport, will be rebooked later in the year when things settle down.
2. The trip to Wellington City Archives on Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> will be postponed to later in the year.
3. The Easter raffle has been cancelled and we will aim to have it at the end of the year.
4. It has also been decided to cancel the library duties on Wednesdays for the next four weeks in the meantime.

The committee is looking into ways to keep us all in touch and also to encourage those who are stuck at home more to carry on with their genealogical research.

I am aware that some of the research items of interest are on the pay to view sites that we access at our Otaki library computers. There is a possibility that our beloved library may be closed temporarily in the near future so we won't have access to these.

So, to help with that issue, Anne McLellan has prepared information on free websites to use in your research. This is attached as a Word document as well as a PDF, so that you can just click on the links to go straight there. If you have an older version of Word, and the document opens up strangely, just go to the Toolbar at the top of your screen, click on "View" and click "Print Layout" and it will look alright.

I am also attaching an article on "Bringing Ancestors and Family to Life" from the Legacy FamilyTree website and kindly provided by Hanna Wagner-Nicholls. Plenty of stuff to think about!

### [Research items of interest](#)

For our new members, [Findmypast.com](#), [Ancestry.com](#), and [The Genealogist](#) 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.



#### ➤ [FindmyPast adds Galways and Waterford records](#)

##### **Waterford Poor Law Union Board Of Guardians Minute Books**

Over 163,000 records from the Dungarvan and Lismore Unions have been added to this exclusive collection. If your family came from County Waterford, use the records to discover how local workhouses or poor relief efforts played a part in their lives.

With records from the Waterford Union already online, these latest additions from Dungarvan and Lismore Unions bring the collection to almost 400,000 entries. You can also explore exclusive resources from Dublin, Clare, Donegal and Sligo.

##### **Galway Poor Law Union Records**

In partnership with Galway County Council, we've published a range of fascinating records from the Irish county online for the first time, only at Findmypast. Included are board of guardian minute books and poor rate collection lists dating from 1849 to 1921.

The records cover seven of Galway's ten poor law unions;

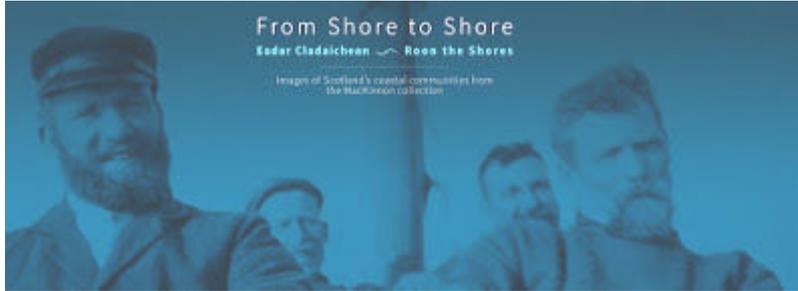
##### **Galway County Burials**

Burial plot books and registers of internments make up this useful resource for tracing family members from Galway. Specifically, the records cover burials in the area of Tuam between 1882 and 1920. They include transcripts with the most vital genealogy details and copies of the original documents that provide even more insight.



#### ➤ To celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters, the National Library of Scotland has launched **From Shore to**

**Shore**, a new website at <https://digital.nls.uk/learning/from-shore-to-shore/> featuring late 19th century coastal photographs from all over Scotland.



The collection comprises over 14,000 photographs from the 1840s to the mid-20th century, which can be viewed on a geo-referenced historical map of the country. Samples of related archive films can also be viewed on the site's 'Resources' page. The images have been sourced from the library's MacKinnon Collection.

The page lists three separate areas, images from the **West** (featuring Ballantrae, Girvan, Dunure, Ayr, Saltcoats, Ardrossan, Portencross, Glasgow, Tarbert, Ardrishaig, Oban, Sound of Mull, Staffa, Kyle of Lochalsh, South Uist, St Kilda, Stornoway), images from the **East** (featuring Aberdeen, Carnoustie, Dundee, St Andrews, Fife, Firth of Forth, Cockenzie, North Berwick), and images from the North (featuring Shetland, Orkney, Pentland Firth, Wick). NB: Scotland's southern shore is called England!

- The National Library of Scotland, working in partnership with the Internet Archive, has digitised some 1042 Post Office Directories (aka 'PODs') and presented them online on two separate platforms. The NLS has its own dedicated website available at <https://digital.nls.uk/directories/> which hosts some seven hundred of the directories from 1773 up to 1911, the latter year having been chosen to respect an unofficial closure period mirroring that of the 1911 census. However, the Internet Archive has placed all of the volumes onto its website in a special 'Scottish Directories' sub-collection within its NLS category, at <https://archive.org/details/scottishdirectories>. For some cities in Scotland you will find annual directories available up to the 1940s.

*Chris Paton*



**ENGLAND**

- [FindmyPast adds WW1 women's service records and English/Welsh probate indexes](#)

### **British Army, Women's Army Auxiliary Corps 1917-1920**

Uncover details of the remarkable women who served during the First World War with these detailed military records. They've been published online for the first time ever, only at Findmypast. Taken from The National Archives' WO 162 and WO 368 series, the records include:

- WO 162/54 women emigrating after the war
- WO 162/58 WAAC administrators in France
- WO 162/62 lists of female motor drivers
- WO 162/65 recommendations for honours and mentions in Peace Gazette

You'll find detailed transcripts and original document images for all of the records.

### **British Armed Forces, First World War Disability & Retirement Payments For Officers & Nurses**

Another online first from The National Archives, these records are packed with information on Great War officers and nurses. In particular, you'll uncover details on the pay and gratuities that were given to invalided officers from the three branches of the Armed Forces, as well as nurses' disability payments.

➤ **Findmypast: England & Wales Government Probate Death Index 1858-2019**

They've added a massive 9.3 million additional records to this useful resource which now dates as far back as 1858. This latest update brings the mammoth collection to just over 24 million records.

An official government index for England and Wales, the records include transcripts and images that provide facts on your relatives' deaths and what they left behind. You could find death and probate dates, next of kin details, the value of their effects and much more. Images of the indexes are only featured for entries up until 1996.

➤ **TheGenealogist** has released a collection of searchable Early Trade and Residential Directories that cover the years 1816-1839 to help find ancestors in the period before the usable census records begin.

Prior to 1841 all of the U.K. censuses were generally statistical: that is, mainly headcounts, with virtually no personal information such as names recorded and so family history researchers need to turn to a substitute to find out the address where their ancestors had lived. Trade and Residential Directories list names of tradespeople, prominent citizens and in some cases other residents of a town as well.

Many of these directories will also give a good description of the town or area which can give family historians an interesting insight into the social history of their ancestors' locality at the time. This information usually includes the main industry, topographical details, communication links with the surrounding towns by stage coach or railway, and details of local administration offices, post offices, the clergy, charities hospitals and schools.

These directory records have been digitised by TheGenealogist and made searchable by name, so they can help researchers to find their ancestors in the Georgian and very early Victorian period.

The early Trade and Residential Directories being released in this batch include volumes that cover the areas of Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornwall, Derby, Devonshire, Dorsetshire, Durham, Essex, Glasgow, Hampshire, London, Liverpool, Middlesex, Northumberland, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Suffolk.

*Chris Paton*



**NEW ZEALAND**

➤ Southland Boys High School have digitised their school magazines [SBHSOLDBOYS.NZ](http://SBHSOLDBOYS.NZ)



**USA**

➤ Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)) has released three new collections which may be of interest if pursuing your emigrant relatives to New York in the USA:

**New York, New York, Index to Birth Certificates, 1866-1909**

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61779/>

Source: New York City Department of Records & Information Services. New York City Birth Certificates.

Birth records are available for the following boroughs:

Bronx, 1898 – 1909, Brooklyn, 1866 – 1909, Manhattan, 1866 -1904, Queens, 1898 – 1909, Richmond, 1898 - 1909

In addition to the name of the individual who was born, in these records you may be able to find:

The Birth Date, Address, Ward and Borough of the individual who was born

The Name, Age, Race, Birthplace, Occupation, and Current Address of the Mother and Father

The Number of Other Children Born and Living to the Mother

