

**OTAKI BRANCH**  
**(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**OCTOBER 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

David Smith will speak to us about  
"Researching Te Horo's Moonshine Timber Mill".

The topic is the Te Horo Moonshine timber mill and Norman Campbell,  
who owned the mill and who was an important influence on the development  
and appearance of the Kapiti Coast today.  
It will demonstrate how David has used a variety of genealogical and historical  
records to gather information and build a picture of the past.

**Committee news:**

- **Let's Talk sessions:**  
"Using Maps" presented by Len Nicholls will be on 17<sup>th</sup> November.
- Have you been unable to access AncestryLibrary from your home computer this week? - others have had a problem using Chrome and Edge browsers.

We're working with KCDC to identify the problem, but in the meantime it works using Firefox or Internet Explorer (you'll still find Internet Explorer in Windows10, under Windows Accessories. When starting, don't accept advice to use Edge instead). Using one of these browsers, follow the usual process on the library site.

- Our last branch meeting covered some of the records to use when searching for marriages – one of the sites people mentioned was [dustydocs.com](http://dustydocs.com) This covers links to parish registers and websites in England, Wales, Australia, New Zealand. It's very well set out and makes it easy to consult many websites from one place. I am also attaching some information about Scottish records and what you can find on censuses, certificates and parish registers (thanks to Frances).
- On November 12, about 17 of our group (and some friends) will be going to the opening night of "The Pink Hammer" at Otaki Civic Theatre. The theatre kindly offered us a deal whereby 10% of the ticket price will be donated to our genealogy group. The opening night is now booked out.
- We have a new book in our library, kindly donated by our member Annie Blythell. It is Erskines from County Down compiled by Florence Dennison, Mary Ryan and Cecil Erskine. It was published by the Erskine Family Reunion Committee, 1984.

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The raffle will be held on November Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>,  
Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>  
(when it will be drawn at the community market)

We will need donations of grocery items (nothing that may melt!)  
to fill up the basket.

Please bring items to the October branch meeting  
and you can also leave them off at Otaki Travel (Arthur Marychurch)  
on Main St opposite the Memorial Hall.

The roster will be started at the October branch meeting so please check  
when you might be available to sell tickets.

Thank you!

### Library Duty

Sue Carroll	4 November	Carol Moore	18 November
Anne Williams	11 November	Frances Milne	25 November

And: Anne McLellan Saturday 14 November

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



IRELAND

- More death register images have been uploaded to [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://IrishGenealogy.ie)'s free civil registration collection. Pre- this upload, the images for deaths from 1864 to 1877 were not online. While the entire batch of missing images are not, right now, online, those for 1871 to 1877 are, and appear to be complete.

Images for 1864 to 1870 inclusive are still on the 'missing' list, though they can be ordered.

In total, this upload gives us an additional 671,599 death register images to play with.

- Birth register records – 1864 to 1919
- Marriage register records – 1845 to 1944
- Death register records – 1871 to 1969



### A Little Piece of Ireland

[Fiona Fitzsimons and Brian Donovan](#)

If you missed the Livestream event during Family History Month (NZSG), we have good news for you. You can now watch it on the NZSG website under the link below:

[https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Video-and-Audio-Presentations\\_1732.aspx](https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Video-and-Audio-Presentations_1732.aspx)

You do not need to log in for this plus other webinars are available to non NZSG members also. ENJOY.

- Just launched on [Ancestry](http://Ancestry) is the Newspapers.com Marriage Index, 1800s–1990. As its name suggests, it's an index to marriage announcements published during the date range given, as held in Ancestry's sister database [Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com). The Index extracts not only the usual bride and groom data plus date and place of ceremony, it pulls out numerous facts from the announcements, including names of parents, occupations, residences, name of employers, names of children and siblings who attended the event, and other details. If you're lucky, the marriage report announcements for your ancestors were fulsome, saving you hours of research time. And because the index presents these details, you don't necessarily need to view the full published announcement on Newspapers.com. If you don't have a Newspapers.com subscription, this new Index collection of more than 11 million records on Ancestry will be an important friend to all Irish family historians with ancestors who emigrated to the USA.

- <http://www.tippstudiesdigital.ie/>

New digital archive for County Tipperary launched.

Tipperary Libraries Local Studies department has pressed the live switch on a brand new online home for its digital archive where anyone with family connections to the county can search and view 29 collections of local history interest. It brings researchers ready access to National School Registers and Roll Books; to the Poor Law Union Burial Rate Books for Nenagh; to 90 record sets of transcribed gravestone inscriptions; to the Thurles Workhouse Registers; and to records from the Landed Estate Court containing maps and details of tenancies in several swathes of land across the county. And that's before you start digging into the photo collections and sport ephemera! The archive is free to access and you can download files in pdf format direct to your device.



## AMERICA

- USA newspaper images :  
You can now explore 1.5+ million historical newspaper images 1789-1963 online and free, with Library of Congress Labs, **Newspaper Navigator**. <https://labs.loc.gov/work/experiments/newspaper-navigator/>

Your keyword returns a selection of photos; then you can discover images that were previously undetectable by searching.

Their computer-sorted through 16 million America newspaper pages in search of **photographs, illustrations, maps, cartoons, comics, headlines and advertisements.**

*HFHG newsletter September 2020*



## AUSTRALIA

- [Ancestry](#) has a new database: Victoria, Australia, Divorce records, 1860 – 1940. Lots of interesting detail.
- **Australia, Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists, 1852-1924**, [Familysearch](#)  
*Description*  
Coastal passenger lists from Victoria, Australia. The original lists are located in the Public Records Office of Victoria, North Melbourne, Australia.



## NEW ZEALAND

- The Salvation Army in NZ are closing The Salvation Army Family Tracing Service. In place of that service, they will continue to assist adoptees who were born at Salvation Army Bethany Hospitals and their birth parents to find and reconnect with each other. This service will be available by contacting:

Email: [bethanyrecords@salvationarmy.org.nz](mailto:bethanyrecords@salvationarmy.org.nz)

Phone: 04 382 0710.

The Salvation Army formerly operated 6 maternity homes/hospitals between 1897 - 2011. The names changed over time and eventually all came to be known as Bethany. The locations were:

- Auckland Bethany
- Napier Bethany
- Gisborne 'Bethany' - Edward Murphy Memorial Maternity Home
- Wellington Bethany
- Christchurch Bethany
- Dunedin 'Bethany' - Redroofs Hospital

The Salvation Army hold the 'surviving' records for each hospital and are pleased to assist relatives with records requests. They can also assist adoptees and birth parents to reconnect with each other. Unfortunately some of the records are very sparse.

*(NZSG e-kit October 2020)*



## RUSSIA

- <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com> There is an amazing amount of genealogy information on the Russian State Public Historical Library's website. There is an explanation of how to use the website and download free scans WITHOUT knowing Russian. The post has a link to a ZOOM video that shows how to use the website. The post includes information from the Ukraine, Poland, Belarus and Moldova. This is a great resource to watch as more resources are posted weekly. Happy searching!

