

**OTAKI BRANCH
(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)
NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 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
Thursday 26th November 2020**

*End of year gathering
G is for Genealogy, C is for Creative Christmas,
E is for Entertainment (and Eating)!*
*(and please bring a gift beginning with "G"
- just worth about \$5.00)*

Committee news:

- **Let's Talk sessions:** We hope to start these again in February 2021, probably with a follow up to the Introductory DNA session, followed by sessions on maps and writing family history.
- Books you may be interested in :

- **Betty O'Neill The Other Side of Absence (available in KCDC libraries)**

"Betty O'Neill grew up knowing very little about her father, Antoni. She knew that he had fled Poland after World War Two, that he had disappeared overnight when she was just an infant, and that his brief reappearance when she was a young adult had been a harrowing, painful

ordeal.

Fifty-five years after he deserted her family, Betty is determined to find out more. What drove him to abandon them, twice? What was his story? Who *was* Antoni Jagielski?

Her search for truth takes Betty to Poland, where she unexpectedly inherits a family apartment from the half sister she never knew – a time capsule of her father’s life. Sifting through photos and letters she begins to piece together a picture of her father as a Polish resistance fighter, a survivor of Auschwitz and Gusen concentration camps, an exile in post-war England, and a migrant to Australia. But the deeper she searches, the darker the revelations about her father become, as Betty is faced with disturbing truths buried within her family.

Honest, compelling, and meticulously researched, *The Other Side of Absence* is an elegant debut memoir of resilience and strength, and of a daughter reconciling the damage that families inherit from war.” (Goodreads website)

Thanks to Glennis for recommending this book

- **Daniel Lee The SS Officer's Armchair: Uncovering the Hidden Life of a Nazi (available in KCDC libraries)** “Based on documents discovered concealed within a simple chair for seventy years, this gripping investigation into the life of a single S.S. officer during World War Two encapsulates the tragic experience of a generation of Europeans. One night at a dinner party in Florence, historian Daniel Lee was told about a remarkable discovery. An upholsterer in Amsterdam had found a bundle of swastika-covered documents inside the cushion of an armchair he was repairing. *The S.S. Officer's Armchair* is an enthralling detective story and a reconsideration of daily life in the Third Reich. It provides a window into the lives of Hitler's millions of nameless followers and into the mechanisms through which ordinary people enacted history's most extraordinary atrocity.” (Goodreads website)

Research items of interest



- Limerick Genealogy has added 11,000 records to its database at rootsireland.ie/limerick including the following records;
 - Presbyterian marriage records from Limerick 1813-1841 - 42 records
 - Knocklong Roman Catholic marriage records 1830 & 1855-1860 - 137 records
 - Knocklong Roman Catholic baptismal records 1817-1819 & 1854 - 312 records
 - Caherconlish Roman Catholic marriage records 1843-1846 - 117 records
 - Caherconlish Roman Catholic baptismal records 1841-1845 - 528 records
 - 1821, 1841 & 1851 Census abstracts – 639 records
 - Transcribed parish census from Pallasgrean in 1834 – 213 records
 - Titaldoes of Limerick from Pender’s Census, 1659 – 808 records
 - Biographical notices of births, deaths and marriages from the Limerick Chronicle newspaper, 1823-1855 - 7106 records
 - References to residents and subscribers from Limerick in Samuel Lewis' A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837 - 726 records
 - Teachers in Limerick in 1824 listed in the Second Report from Commissioners of Irish Education Inquiry, 1826 - 505 records.

In addition to the above, where available, Limerick Genealogy has extended non-Catholic baptismal records up to 1919, non-Catholic church and civil marriages up to 1919 and death/burial records up to 1919. Updates and corrections to the database have also been made.

- From Ireland's Military Archives (www.militaryarchives.ie), the latest release of Military Service Pension Collection records, with over 2 million pages of content now scanned as part of the project: The files relate to claims lodged by 1,170 individuals, or by their dependants, and contain new information on the War of Independence and the Civil War. This release brings the number of individuals whose files are now available online to over 10,720 entries (representing over 32,000 files).
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- County Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society are delighted to announce the addition of 21,939 records to research and view on our database at <http://sligo.rootsireland.ie/> These records include 6,380 miscellaneous baptisms, births, marriages and deaths, occurring in many of the county's parishes, across various dates and time frames.

Also included in this release are 15,559 Gravestone & Memorial Inscriptions from Graveyards and Cemeteries in the following parishes :

- Aghanagh (RC)
- Ahamlish (RC)
- Drumcliffe (RC)
- Keelagues (RC)
- Skreen & Dromard (RC)
- Templeboy (RC)
- Aghanagh (Civil)
- Sligo Town (Civil)
- Templeboy (Civil)

For an up to date list of sources for County Sligo and to search and view these records, go to <https://www.rootsireland.ie/sligo> and login or subscribe as required.



UNITED KINGDOM

- <https://funeral-notice.co.uk/> **Search Funeral Notices, Deaths, Obituaries & Memoriams.** Free site, not sure of what dates it covers.
- The UK National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) will continue to provide access to their collections and services online, including:

- Their website, including research guides, blogs, podcasts, learning resources and online exhibitions
- Discovery, our online catalogue and digital home of our collections
- Online education sessions and resources
- Naturalisation certificate requests
- Record copying
- Online shop
- Freedom of Information requests

Greater access to online collections

They can confirm that they're now doubling the monthly limit on downloading free digital records from our website, from 50 to 100.

This service, made free in response to the restrictions earlier in the year, has been very popular with online researchers around the world, with more than 84,000 people downloading around 1.1m documents to date.

The original announcement, with links, is available at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/news/coronavirus-update/

- The British Library in London has made freely available into the public domain some 18,000 digital images of historic maps, views and texts from its **Topographical Collection of King George III**. The images have been uploaded to its Flickr account at www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary/albums/72157716220271206/, with individual maps searchable through its catalogue http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do.

The collection includes:

- Some of the earliest European printed maps, such as the so-called 'Lafreri' copperplate maps produced in Rome in the mid-16th century
- The complete range of British county maps dating from 1579 to the early 19th century
- Administrative maps
- Planning maps including maps of proposed railways and canals
- Presentation maps, such as the 'Duke's Plan' of New York, made to celebrate its capture by the English from the Dutch in 1664
- Estate maps and maps of Royal palaces
- The results of large-scale surveys, including a manuscript map of part of Newfoundland by James Cook, and William Roy's military survey of Scotland
- A large archive of maps and plans of Hannover and Northern Germany

Scotland is represented amongst the materials presented - the following is a plan of Edinburgh Castle from 1746, the year of Bonnie Prince Charlie's failed Jacobite Rising:



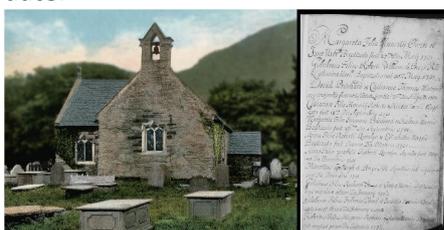
- Over eight million Welsh parish records have now been published on family history websites [Ancestry](#), [TheGenealogist](#) and [MyHeritage](#). The collection includes baptism, banns, marriage and burial records from 14 Welsh counties, dating from the 16th to the 20th century.

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.

[Ancestry](#) and [TheGenealogist](#) have added searchable indexes of the records accompanied by digital images of the original documents. [MyHeritage](#) has added the indexes and will add the images at a later date.



St Michael's Church, Betws-Y-Coed as featured in the records



SCOTLAND

- The following Scottish collections have been added to FindmyPast (www.findmypast.co.uk):

Scotland, Forfarshire (Angus), Dundee Death Index 1990-1993

Listing those who died in the Dundee area in the early '90s. Areas covered include the City of Dundee, Invergowrie, Longforan, Lundie, Liff & Benvie, Birkhill, Muirhead, Auchterhouse, Mains and Strathmartine, Tealing, Kellas, Murroes, Monifieth North, and the Burgh of Monifieth.

Scotland, Ayrshire Census & Population Lists 1801-1831

This appears to contain lists for Galston (1801, 1811, 1821, 1831), Irvine (1821 only) and St. Quivox (1821 only).

- **Family History Records Released for Glasgow, Greenock and Dumfries**

12,713 prison register entries have been added to Scotland's Criminal Database on www.scottishindexes.com.

The entries are from Glasgow, Greenock and Dumfries and it takes the total number of entries in Scotland's Criminal Database to over 178,000!

As with all the indexes, they are free to search and they give the full archive reference. Also, they have a unique URL for each entry making it easy to share with relatives and save the entry to your family tree.



AUSTRALIA

- If your ancestors emigrated to Queensland, Australia, and took up work in the railways, this new collection on Ancestry (www.ancestry.co.uk) may be of interest:

Australia, Queensland, Index to Government Railways Workers, 1878-1946

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/61999/>

Source: Caloundra Family History Research Inc. Queensland Government Railway Index to Staff Records. Caloundra, Queensland, Australia: 2003.

This collection contains an index to staff employed in various stations in the Queensland Government Railway from 1878-1946. While information available for individual records may vary, you may be able to find:

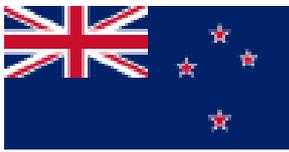
Name

Age and Birth Date

Employment Start Date *When a date is not available, a year range is provided

Employment Start Place

Occupation and Industry

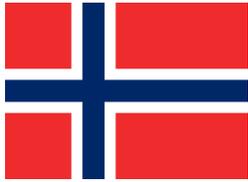


NEW ZEALAND

➤ Local archives

Archives Central <https://archivescentral.org.nz/> is a searchable database of the collection of 9 council archives sourced from participating New Zealand local authorities. Archives Central makes council archives accessible for both the community and council members.

<https://www.kapiticoastmuseum.org.nz/collections/>



NORWAY

➤ ***MyHeritage Releases Major Collection of Historical Norway Church Records [Norway Church Records \(1815–1938\)](#).***

The records in this collection were digitized in collaboration with the National Archives of Norway (Arkivverket), and consist of 42.2 million indexed records and high quality scans of the original documents. The records include births & baptisms, marriages, and deaths & burials. This release is the first time the collection's images are fully indexed and searchable — making it easier than ever to research your Norwegian ancestors. The addition doubles the number of Norwegian historical records on MyHeritage and brings the total number of historical records on MyHeritage to 12.6 billion.

The records in this collection cover a critical period in Norway's history, beginning just one year after its secession from Denmark. This important collection helps overcome the significant gaps in Norwegian censuses taken from 1801 to 1865. Five censuses were collected in Norway during those years, but they did not record names of individuals, making the church records the definitive source for genealogical data during that period.

Due to Norwegian privacy laws, the birth & baptism records released in this collection extend until 1919 (inclusive), the marriage records extend until 1937 (inclusive), and the death & burial records extend until 1938 (inclusive).

In the Norway Church birth and baptism records, a child was often recorded with only his or her given name(s) without an expressly recorded surname, as it was assumed the child would take either a patronymic surname from their father or take a hereditary surname. To overcome the challenge of the missing surname, MyHeritage inferred two possible surname variations for each individual, so users can search for either the patronymic or hereditary surname to find the correct record. MyHeritage indexed the surname variations to make them discoverable, but the actual records were not modified, and the surnames were not inserted into them, to preserve their authenticity.

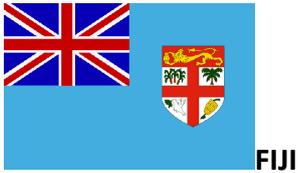
The Norway Church Records (1815–1938) collection is an indispensable resource for anyone who is looking to learn more about their Norwegian roots during this time period. With the release of this collection, MyHeritage now offers 80 million historical records from Norway, 57 million historical records from neighboring Sweden, and 107 million records from Denmark, positioning MyHeritage as the leader in Scandinavian family history research.

*Daniel Horowitz
Genealogy Expert*

These records seem to now be on [Ancestry](#) as well

- Norway Census, 1801 on [Familysearch](#)

This collection contains records from the 1801 Norway Census which was held on 1 February 1801. The census contains names of farms, given and surnames of inhabitants, age, marital status, and occupation. The age recorded was the age on next birthday. People were registered by region, whereas those who were absent, such as sailors, were listed by hometown.



- Fiji, Vital Records, 1900-1989 [Familysearch](#)

Civil birth, marriage, and death records for the years 1900 to 1989 in Fiji

