

**OTAKI BRANCH**  
**(NZ SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS)**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2021**



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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 25<sup>TH</sup> March 2021**

**Gerald Twiss**  
*will speak about*  
**Seacliff Asylum research, and alternative  
approaches when results are limited.**

**Committee news:**

- **Branch meetings:**  
April meeting: The use of maps in your genealogy presented by Len Nicholls  
May meeting: AGM and speaker
- **Let's Talk sessions:**  
April 20<sup>th</sup>: Writing About Your Family History

- **Ancestry from home:** the Library version of [Ancestry](#) is now available to log into from home until the end of June. Remember to log in to your KCDC Library account using Firefox as it doesn't seem to work anymore with Chrome.
- **Do any of our members have accounting experience** and would be willing to review our yearly accounts in May? Not a lot involved! If you're interested, please contact Gail Hall on [mountain.view74@gmail.com](mailto:mountain.view74@gmail.com)
- **Genealogy magazines:** Those of you who receive the two English genealogy magazines in our round robin ( wonderfully organised by Glennis!), will have noticed there have been no issues of Who Do You Think You Are? magazine since December 2020. It seems other groups in New Zealand are behind also. I have contacted them and been given no reason, but they will resend the March issue and credit us two issues on our subscription. They have run out of January and February copies! Sounds to me that their overseas subscriptions are not being looked after and they're only printing enough for their local subscribers, who have probably increased with Covid lockdown over there.

So, hoping for more issues arriving in a while!

### Library Duty

Sue Carroll	31 March	Len Nicholls	14 April
Glennis Balloch	7 April	Lois Coles	21 April

*(the dates shown now cover the period between newsletters)*

And: Anne McLellan Saturday 10 April

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



- Ancestry ([www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)) has released the following seven Irish collections as sourced from the National Archives of Ireland ([www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)) in Dublin:

#### **Ireland, Exchequer Court of Equity Bill Books, 1674-1850**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62071](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62071)

This collection includes records from the Bill Books of Exchequer in Ireland relating to individuals involved in court proceedings between the years 1674-1850. The Exchequer Court of Equity was at the very centre of Ireland's legal system and from the mid-17th century held jurisdiction over financial disputes such as titles of land, debts and wills. Surviving records consist mainly of bill books which detail case participants and proceedings.

### **Ireland, Court of Chancery Records, 1633-1851**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62070](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62070)

This collection includes records from the Court of Chancery in Ireland relating to individuals involved in court proceedings between the years 1633-1851. As one of the four older 'Superior' courts in Ireland, the Courts of Chancery were at the very centre of Ireland's legal system. Surviving records consist mainly of bill books with some other records including an Index to Pleadings and records of Pleadings themselves.

### **Ireland, Church of Ireland Search Forms for Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1731-1870**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62061](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62061)

The Church of Ireland was decreed the State Church in Ireland in 1536 by an Act of the Irish Parliament. After that date, the parishes of the Church of Ireland became an administration focal point for matters of probate and matrimonial jurisdiction.

Historically, each parish in Ireland kept its own records and, since the Church of Ireland was the established church, these parish records were considered state records. In 1876 a law was passed requiring that Church of Ireland parish registers be sent to the Public Record Office (now the National Archives) in Dublin for safekeeping. This law was amended in 1878 to allow parishes with good storage to retain their records, so not all parish records were sent to Dublin. In addition, some ministers made copies of their records before sending the originals away. Therefore, many Church of Ireland records remain, even though the registers sent to Dublin were lost in 1922 in the fire at the Public Record Office. However, prior to this date, there are surviving records of requests for searches carried out within the records and these are included in this collection.

Church of Ireland parish registers list christenings, marriages, and burials. The amount of information recorded varies from parish to parish and from minister to minister.

### **Ireland, Catholic Qualification and Convert Rolls, 1701-1845**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62057](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62057)

This collection is made up of both qualification and convert rolls. Convert rolls, as the name suggests, details the names of individuals who renounced the Catholic church in favour of the official state church, the Church of Ireland. Converting in this period was the only way to fully escape the sentences and penalties handed out to Catholics and other non-conformists. The Qualification rolls include names of those who took an oath of allegiance to the King. Taking this oath 'qualified' the person to recover some (but not all) rights denied to non-members of the established church. However, those taking the Oath were not required to convert.

### **Ireland, Poor Law and Board of Guardian Records, 1839-1920**

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62013](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62013)

The Irish Poor Law Act of 1838 followed very closely the English Poor Law Act of 1834 and divided the country up into Poor Law Unions, centred on a workhouse, which became the main vehicle of assistance to the poor. Each Union elected a Board of Guardians, which was then responsible for care of the poor across all of the individual parishes.

Many people who had fallen on hard times or were born into poverty received help through these Poor Laws, including the elderly, orphaned, abandoned, unemployed, and sick. Aid came as more than just money; the poor could also be provided food, clothing, and work. Children from poor families might be placed in apprenticeships or sent to schools and other institutions. Conditions in workhouses were often extremely hard meaning sickness and, sadly death, was common amongst those who were admitted. This collection includes workhouse records relating to the North Dublin Union, South Dublin Union, and Rathdown Union (part of counties Dublin and Wicklow). It also includes records relating to Balrothery Union (part of county Dublin), Bawnboy Union (part of county Cavan), and Dromore West Union.

## Ireland, Census Search Forms, 1841-1851

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62026](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62026)

This collection includes records of census search forms for Ireland for the years 1841 and 1851. In 1908, the Old Age Pensions Act was introduced in Ireland for those aged 70 and over. Proof of age was essential in receiving the pension and, since civil registration was not introduced in Ireland until 1864, applicants did not have their own documentation to use as proof. As a result, they sent off forms to the Public Record Office which held the 1841 and 1851 census records with names and dates for them to confirm so that they could be entitled to the pension. These surviving census search forms are even more valuable given the 1922 fire at the Public Record Office and destruction of the majority of those census records.

## Ireland, Valuation Records, 1824-1856

[www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62024](http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/62024)

This collection comprises records from books relating to the Griffith's Valuation of property in Ireland which took place between 1848 and 1864. These books, including General Notes, Field Books, House Books, Tenure Books and Quarto books contain the information underpinning the conclusions drawn up by Griffith's Valuation or the Primary Valuation. They are an extremely important resource, with comprehensive detailed and descriptive notes on land and property across Ireland in the mid-19th century.

- Great resource finally available for FREE.  
To mark St Patrick's Day the Royal Irish Academy is making its 'Dictionary of Irish Biography' freely available for the first time. The new DIB website will be launched today by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin. You can browse the Dictionary's full digital corpus at [www.dib.ie](http://www.dib.ie). The Dictionary is the authority for the biographies of prominent Irish persons and contains some 11,000 entries.



SCOTLAND

- ScotlandsPeople ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk)) has added the kirk session records for the Church of Scotland and dissenting Presbyterian church branches to its platform.

Each parish in Scotland had its own kirk session, the lowest of the church courts which was comprised of the minister, elders and heritors, who not only officiated on cases of kirk discipline, but also maintained the daily affairs of the parish. Also available are some records for the higher church courts of the presbytery and the synod. Records are a gold mine for ancestry, often listing members who were disciplined for breaches of the kirk's rules, such as blasphemy, antenuptial fornication, and working on the Sabbath, as well as listing people in receipt of poor relief.



The images have been made freely available to view in a new section of the site named Virtual Volumes, but to download any page will cost 50p, or 2 credits. A full guide on how to use the records is available at <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/using-virtual-volumes>.



## GREAT BRITAIN

- Do you have criminals in your tree? Four record sets added to [Ancestry](#) in January could help you hunt them down:

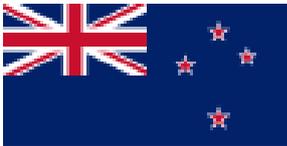
[UK, Calendar of Prisoners, 1868-1929](#)

[UK, Registers of Habitual Criminals and Police Gazettes, 1834-1934](#)

[UK, After-Trial Calendar of Prisoners, 1855-1931](#)

[UK, Prison Commission Records, 1770-1951](#)

- London Fire Brigade Reports 1915-1918, [Findmypast](#)  
A fascinating and thought-provoking collection of reports by the London Fire Brigade covering air raids on London between 1915 and 1918. Thankfully, some bombs missed their targets: "Some shrubs damaged by fire in yard at the rear of the premises" whilst others had a devastating impact: "H. T. Good, aged 49 years, and Carolina Good, aged 47 years, burned to death". These are transcriptions painstakingly copied from the original reports.



## NEW ZEALAND

- <https://wilsoncollection.co.nz/>  
New Zealand Family history records

This free collection coordinated by Diane Wilson over the past 40 years with volunteers from the NZSG includes records from many and varied sources to assist with your research.

This collection is an index only and includes many of the records available on the Kiwi Index available to NZSG members only.

It gives you a series of clues to help with your research. There are no active links – Google is your friend! Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of these records, but transcribing is not an exact science, and some of the informants were not literate. Where possible original sources should be followed up.

1881 Electoral Rolls  
1893 Electoral Rolls  
1896 Electoral Rolls  
1911 Electoral Rolls  
1925 Electoral Rolls  
Burial Locator  
Burials, Purewa  
Cremations, Purewa  
Burials, Catholics  
RSA  
Burials, St Pauls, TC Index

Passenger Lists, TC Index  
Baptisms, Catholics  
Marriages 1830-1960  
Marriages Pre-1846, TC Index  
Maori Marriages  
Early Settlers  
Wairau Petition  
Schools, PN Index  
WW1 Service Personnel  
Sheep Owners  
Births Pre-1846, TC Index  
Hokianga, PN Index  
Nth Luminary, PN Index  
HOR Journals, PN Index

Cemeteries, PN Index  
Hillsborough  
Deaths Pre-1846, TC Index  
Passenger Lists, TC Index



GERMANY

- [Familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) Germany, Bavaria, Catholic Church Records, 1650-1875

*Description:*

Catholic records from Bavaria, Germany. Baptism, marriage and burial records included.



FRANCE

- [Familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) France, Mayenne, Parish and Civil Registration, 1427-1897

*Description:*

Parish and civil registration records from Mayenne, including, baptism, birth, marriage, and death records.

## OTHER

- From TheGenealogist ([www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)):

### **New Military Book Records added to TheGenealogist with ancestors' names, places and details**

TheGenealogist has released over 150,000 individuals to its ever expanding Military Record Collection. Containing names, places and dates, these publications can aid the family history researcher find their ancestors and build a fascinating story of their lives. With records from Britain, Canada and a number of Indian registers and directories, these searchable records contain lists of men and women who served their country in various capacities connected to the military, and not just on the front line.

Included in this release are:

- A List of the Royal Military College at Sandhurst 1833
- Bombay Artillery List of Officers 1749-1902
- Canada, Defence Forces List August 1938
- Canada Defence Forces List November 1939
- Colonial Office List for 1914
- East-India Register and Directory 28th August 1821
- Gradation List of Officers of the British Army July 1924
- Graduation List of Officers of the British Army Oct 1915
- India List Civil and Military July 1881
- Northern Command Official Directory No. 45 Nov 1938
- Records of Clan Campbell in the Military Service of the Honourable East India Company 1600-1858
- Rules And List Of Members Imperial Service Club, Salisbury Plain Military Directory April 1914
- War Office List 1939
- War Office List 1920

- [MyHeritage](https://www.myheritage.com) adds **Lithuanian-Jewish Historical Records**

The Lithuanian-Jewish Records from LitvakSIG, 1795-1940 collection consists of several million historical records and covers the era from the Russian Empire (1795 to World War I) to the period of independent

Lithuania (1919–1940). The majority of records are from places in present-day Lithuania. However, due to various geopolitical changes during the time period covered, the records are not limited to the modern boundaries of Lithuania; they also cover areas located in present-day Poland, Belarus, or other neighboring countries. The records in this compilation include vital records, census records, tax and voter lists, conscription lists, household registers, directories, emigration lists, and more