



Palmerston North Branch NZSG
PO BOX 4058, Manawatu Mail Centre,
Palmerston North, 4442



Newsletter 437
September 2020

Meetings are on the **fourth Wednesday of the month**, February to November.

Branch News

ANNA WILLIAMS AND HER DNA

Anna, brought up in an orphanage in England, recently took a DNA test and discovered 13 half siblings!

Anna has had some exciting discoveries since receiving those DNA results and her research is ongoing.

Recently Anna met up with her best friend from the orphanage. They had not seen each other for 50 years and neither of them knew what had become of the other. Discover their connection with the popular TV show 'Antiques Roadshow'!

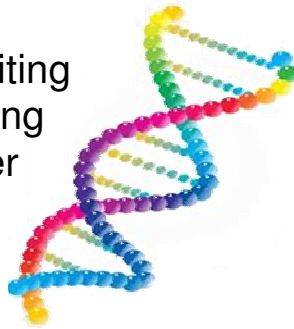
Anna Williams will speak about finding her family using her DNA results. Remember to keep this date.

Anna is a celebrated expert in quilting, with her work exhibited all over the world.

**All the Level 2 rules still apply
if we remain in Level 2.**

**You may wear a mask if you wish
Sanitise hands on arrival.**

**Chairs will be spaced 1 metre apart.
All visitors and members are required to
sign in the visitors' book - for tracing.**



Next Meeting

**Wednesday
23rd September**

Doors open at 6.30 pm

Meeting at 7.30 pm

**Kilwinning Lodge
Church Street
opp. Ashley Street**

Speaker

**ANNA WILLIAMS
and her DNA**

**Don't miss this
meeting**



Library Update

Please return all books and magazines which you borrowed in August. And please borrow more. There are really interesting books in our library.

October 28th. We will focus on Papers Past, Trove (Australia) and the British Newspaper Archive. Get busy and share your “finds” from these archives, Please contact Linda - email: leazep@xtra.co.nz, or ph. 353 0899. Linda will advise Linley of anyone who wishes to use the Power Point.

Introduction to Papers Past (by Mary Skipworth)

Type Papers Past into the search box on Google (or whatever web browser you prefer)

Select <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> from the choices that come up [it could be slow to open]

The main menu bar on the home page looks like this, click the first tab (newspapers) if not already activated.

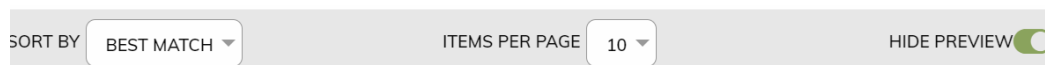


This is the sidebar menu on the newspapers page. FOR THESE WORDS Type your choice of word or phrase in the box, it could be a place, a surname, or a full name. Make a choice of “all these words” or “this exact phrase” etc. Experiment to see what would suit you best.

BETWEEN DATES. If you are getting too many results you can narrow down the period searched, using the second filter. Or you can ignore this box if you prefer.

TITLE You can also narrow the search to a region or a newspaper if you get too many. TIP Before selecting a region or paper un-check the “select all” box by clicking it.

CONTENT TYPES. It’s often best to ignore this, but you can use it to exclude advertisements if they are too annoying. When these 4 decisions are in place click “Search”



Another menu bar appears above your results. You will probably find it best to have them sorted by date, so you can work through them more efficiently. Also consider displaying 100 items per page.

This may encourage everybody to have a go, and let Linda know about your “finds”.

Papers Past.

This small booklet explains “how to use the Papers Past website” and how to search for best results. And it is available in our Branch Library. There is a good chance that you will find something in Papers Past about your family.

You may find news of an accident, a lost dog, a bereavement notice, a new business opening or a new invention which may include your family’s name. Check it out on your computer or at the Library with help from the volunteers.



Adopt A Shelf

A Project For All At The Library

First I would like to thank all the members who spent time sorting books on our meeting night. We appreciated your help. There are still a few vacant shelves left, if anyone else would like to look after a shelf. Once the shelves are in order it only takes a few minutes to check at each meeting. Thank you.

There are two new copies of “Who Do You Think You Are?” for you to check out. The Summer edition has interesting articles including a piece about a family who came to Palmerston North. A Priscilla Symons married a John Rashleigh in Cornwall, and they settled in Palmerston North. It is a really interesting story.

Are there any members who can recall this family?
Read this story.

The July issue has a helpful article on Parish Records.

Pat Rowe, Ph. 324 8791.

Email: lprowe151@gmail.com



Heritage Trust 2020 Calendar

The Palmerston North Heritage Trust’s 2021 calendar is now available from the public library – if you wish to purchase, best to do so soon, as there were disappointed people last year! It sells for only \$12.00.

The 2021 calendar has the theme 'The City Celebrates', and has images relating to Palmerston North's centennial celebrations in 1971 - we thought this appropriate as the city moves into its sesquicentennial year. There are images of the centennial parade (which included the 'Bunnythorpe Bunnies'), the historical re-enactment and the cover of the NZ Listener which featured 'Under the Sun', the multimedia centennial production.

Sales Table

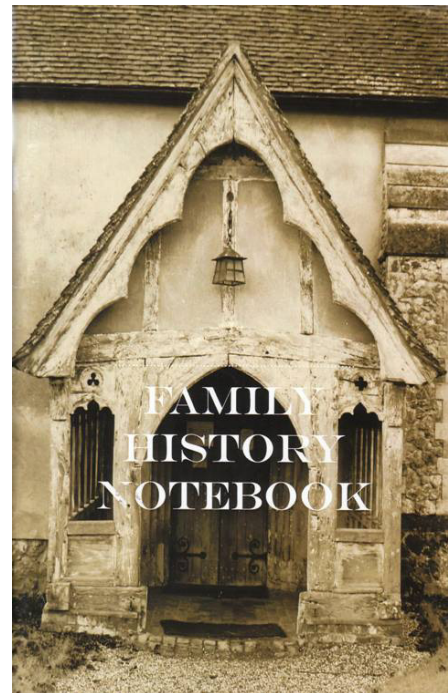


We have had another successful evening with sales of jams etc. selling like “hot cakes”. Janet also has a few small notebooks at only \$2.50 each. We would love to receive pots of Jams, Jellies, Pickles, Chutneys and preserved Fruit for the Sales Table. Thank you for your continued support.

The Family History Notebook, shown here, is full of charts. Before you visit your relatives, fill in the charts with information that you already know. There are pages for notes and information which you might learn from family. They are only \$8.00 each. There are Family History magazines also.

Remember to buy **Raffle** tickets at the Sign-in Table. The money from the Sales Table and the Raffles goes towards Branch expenses and Library costs.

We are lucky to have Kathleen Portch in charge of catering. But we still need another person to help her on our meeting nights. It's very easy and friendly and a good way to meet people. Contact Rose Rohde: ph. 359 9152.



Garry O'Neill QSM, died Monday 7th September. He was 87 years. Garry, was a member of our branch for many years before retiring. A former teacher, he wrote the books “Terrace End”, “Hokowhitu”, and “West End”, about the history and settlement of Palmerston North. He was awarded the QSM in 2018 for his historical research.

June Hatfield, (nee Dunstall), died Sunday 6th September in her 97th year. She was a sister-in-law of Terry Hatfield who is a member of our Branch and active as a volunteer at the Palmerston North City Library Genealogy Group.

Grahame Simpson died Thursday 10th September after a long illness. We remember him as an active member always willing to help at the meetings and giving interesting talks to our group.

Robin Morgan. Sadly Robyn's husband passed away Tuesday 15th September.

These people will be remembered for their enthusiasm for genealogy and research. We send our condolences to the families of these members.

Joan Barnes Legacy

The latest collection of Palmerston North Branch newsletters containing five years – 2015 – 2019, have been bound in a dark red binding with gold title on the spine. A memorial label will be placed in the front of the book in memory of Joan Barnes. The book will be on the Library shelf with others – at 929 BNB.

It is for reference use only in the Branch Library, and not to be borrowed

Branch Meeting August.

With the unexpected unavailability of the speaker Suzie Tsaclis, members at the meeting stepped up and gave information or asked questions.

Members shared their recent research experiences. Some asked for assistance with research issues, and some talked about their DNA.

Some of the subjects were:

- A DNA success story.
- Y-DNA testing to trace a surname on the Isle of Man
- Y-DNA testing, marker levels and genetic distance in working out possible relationships
- The difficulty of recognizing a name in the School Registers. Using Papers Past and Kiwi Index for answers.
- How to find the family connected with a set of photographs found with other items purchased.
- One person found letters from her Grandmother to her Father, in 1943.
- Another person found a letter from a lady to her own Father in 1943.
- Availability of photos at Alexander Turnbull Library.
- The story of the Baby in the Postbox and how DNA was used to identify the family



The Online Genealogical Index – OGH – A simple and efficient way of finding genealogical data online <https://www.ogindex.org/>

It is a search engine for genealogical data sets found online for England and Wales. It is indexed by place, so helps you find websites that contain records for a particular place. You enter a country, county, town and appropriate year (although year is optional). You don't have to search multiple websites to see if they have records for your place of interest, this one website will lead you to all those websites having records for your place of interest.

The Australian National Archives holds detailed passenger records for arrivals and departures at all Australian ports from 1924, and some ports before 1924.

<https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/immigration-and-citizenship/passenger-arrival-records>

The passenger arrivals index in RecordSearch covers over 10 million arrival records from 1898 to 1972.

This includes arrivals:

by ship from 1898 to 1966 (Fremantle or other Western Australian ports)

by aircraft from 1944 to 1966 (Perth airport)

by aircraft from 1949 to 1964 (all airports)

by ship and aircraft from 1965 to 1972 (all ports/airports)

Before 1948, every passenger ship or aircraft captain provided a list of passengers on their vessel when they arrived. From 1948, air travel passengers filled in their own cards. Passenger lists on ships continued until 1965, when cards completely replaced lists for both air and sea travel. There is the possibility of finding yourself, or other living people, not to mention previous generations.

Archway

Recently, when I entered a woman's name in Archway

(<https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/>

the Archives New Zealand search website), the following record came up;

Christchurch – Female Refuge / Essex Home (Hospital) Register of Weekly Returns 7 Apr 1891-7 Jan 1895.

These original records have been digitised and give details of women giving birth and who the child went to with lots of other details.

If you have a woman who gave birth in Christchurch 1891-1895, take a look. While there are many unmarried women, there are some married women as well.

From: Linley Robinson, NZSG #3277

P.N. City Library Genealogy Volunteers

The Volunteers are back again!

They are members of the Palmerston North Branch NZSG, who are very willing to help you search for your ancestors on Ancestry, Papers Past and many more.

Wednesdays & Fridays 10.30 am-1.30 pm
Saturdays, 1.00-4.00 pm. On Floor 2, P. N. Central Library, The Square.



WHAT DATE WAS THAT?

It's hard to be grateful for a clipping like this. How do we find what the date "Thursday last" actually means?

NEW ZEALANDER, VOLUME I, ISSUE 50, 16 MAY 1846

On Thursday last, by the Rev. WALTER LAWRY, Mr. THOMAS SOMERVILLE, to Miss KITCHEN, both of Auckland

Go to Google and type **day of week 16 May 1846** in the search box. The answer will appear, as if by magic. So if the paper was published on Saturday, Thursday last must have been.

Saturday

16 May 1846

Why couldn't they have just said it straight out instead of making me count fingers!!! And what was Miss Kitchen's name anyway??

From: Mary Skipworth NZSG # 1495.

Posting Your Children

In January 1913, one Ohio couple took advantage of the U.S. Postal Service's new parcel service to make a very special delivery: their infant son. The Beagues paid 15 cents for his stamps and an unknown amount to insure him for \$50, then handed him over to the mailman, who dropped the boy off at his grandmother's house about a mile away.

Regulations about what you could and couldn't send through the mail were vague when post offices began accepting parcels over four pounds on January 1, 1913. People immediately started testing its limits by mailing eggs, bricks, snakes and other unusual "packages." So were people allowed to mail their children? Technically, there was no postal regulation against it.



"The first few years of parcel post service—it was a bit of a mess," says Nancy Pope, head curator of history at the National Postal Museum. "You had different towns getting away with different things, depending on how their postmaster read the regulations."

Pope has found about seven instances of people mailing children between 1913 and 1915, beginning with the baby in Ohio. It wasn't common to mail your children, yet for long distances, it would've been cheaper to buy the stamps to send a kid by Railway Mail than to buy her a ticket on a passenger train.

In addition, people who mailed their children weren't handing them over to a stranger. In rural areas, many families knew their mailman quite well. However, those two viral photos you might have seen online of postal workers carrying babies in their mailbag were staged photos, taken as a joke.

A mailman might have carried a swaddled child who couldn't walk, but he wouldn't have let a diaper-wearing baby sit in a pile of people's mail.

In the case of May Pierstorff, (pictured here) whose parents sent her to her grandparent's house 73 miles away in February 1914, the postal worker who took her by Railway Mail train was a relative. The Idaho family paid 53 cents for the stamps that they put on their nearly six-year-old daughter's coat. Yet after Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson heard about this incident—as well as another inquiry someone had made that month about mailing children—he officially banned postal workers from accepting humans as mail.

Still, the new regulation didn't immediately stop people from sending their children by post. A year later, a woman mailed her six-year-old daughter from her home in Florida to her father's home in Virginia. At 720 miles, it was longest



postal trip of any of the children Pope has identified, and cost 15 cents in stamps.

In August 1915, three-year-old Maud Smith made what appears to be the last journey of a child by U.S. post, when her grandparents mailed her 40 miles through Kentucky to visit her sick mother. After the story made the news, Superintendent John Clark of the Cincinnati division of the Railway Mail Service investigated, questioning why the postmaster in Caney, Kentucky, had allowed a child on a mail train when that was explicitly against regulations.

“I don’t know if he lost his job, but he sure had some explaining to do,” Pope says.

Though Maud seems to be the last successfully mailed child, others would later still tried to mail their children. In June 1920, First Assistant Postmaster General John

C. Koons rejected two applications to mail children, noting that they couldn’t be classified as “harmless live animals,” according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

Provided by: Jo Slovak, P. N. Branch member.

Committee Members

Convenor	Rose Rohde	☎06 359 1952	randd.rohde@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Leach	☎06 353 0899	leazep@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Shirley Mintey	☎027 507 3293	mintey1@xtra.co.nz
c	Linda Leach	☎06 353 0899	leazep@xtra.co.nz
Sales Table	Janet Berg	☎021 224 1400	littlemissmuffet@hotmail.co.nz
Design/Advertising	Linley Robinson	☎06 353 6245	nick.linley@xtra.co.nz
Librarian	Pat Rowe	☎06 324 8791	lprowe151@gmail.com
Membership & Newsletters	Anne Carian	☎06 358 5293	anne.karian.nz@gmail.com
Microfiche & CDs	Rose Rohde	☎06 359 1952	randd.rohde@gmail.com
Operations Manual	Linda Leach	☎06 353 0899	leazep@xtra.co.nz
Projects	Mary Skipworth	☎06 354 3567	mskip@xtra.co.nz
Raffles & Speakers Gifts	Jean martin	☎06 359 9150	colinandjeanm@xtra.co.nz
	Nikki Galloway	☎027 380 9868	nikkigalloway@msn.com
Research	Margaret Gillingham	☎06 356 8812	rmgillingham@xtra.co.nz
Non-committee Helpers			
Schools Admission Registers	Lesley Barrow	☎06 357 5566	lesley.barrow@outlook.co.nz
Library Assistant	Barbara Norris	☎06 357 6864	bob.barbara@inspire.net.nz
Catering	Kathleen Portch	☎06 357 6699	brinkburn@xtra.co.nz

Branch Email: palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Palmerston North Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.