

# From 'Our House' to Yours

Papakura Branch: New Zealand Society of Genealogists



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## FOR YOUR DIARY

# AUGUST 2020 - FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
31					1 House open for research 1 – 4 Ann	2
3	4 10am meeting  Evening Meeting 7pm	5 House open for research 7pm – 9pm  Gloria & Barb	6	7	8 <b>AKL FAMILY</b>  House NOT open for research	9 <b>EXPO</b> See "What's Happening" further on
10	11  House open for research 10-12 Gail & Jan	12  House open for research 7pm – 9pm Fredda	13	14	15  House open for research 1 – 4 Gloria & Barbara	16
17	18 House open for research 10 -12 Gail & Jan	19 House open for research 7pm – 9pm Marilyn & Fredda	20	21	22 House open for research 1 – 4 ?? / Pauline	23
24  Committee meeting	25 House open for research 10 -12 Gail & Jan	26 House open for research 7pm – 9pm Kay	27	28  Papakura Library research assistance 11-1	29 <b>Family History research at Library 10 – 2</b> House open for research 1 – 4	30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IF THE MONTH OF AUGUST IS YOUR BIRTH MONTH



Hello and welcome to my first edition of the newsletter! Gulp what have I got myself in for! Being a fairly new member to the Papakura Branch I appreciate how much information is in the newsletter and welcome any items you may wish to submit. Also note that all Members are welcome to the Branch meetings and a good way to meet one another.

### **What's Happening?**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August: Branch meetings at the House. 10am Speaker Ione Cussen, Curator from Papakura Museum and 7pm speaker Branch Member Iris Taylor will talk about Anzac Nurses.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August: follow the link below to read what is on offer for this weekend of The Family History Expo. It has been suggested by members who have been to previous years to take your lunch. There will be a coffee van with snacks and cafes nearby also. Looks like there will be lots to see and learn about.

<https://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/family-history-expo.aspx>

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August: As part of Family History month we will have a table at the RSA from 3.30pm – 6pm to make our group known in the community and encourage new members. Maybe we'll see you there?

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August: Family History Month Research Day being held at the Papakura Library from 10 – 2.

### **Coming Up to look forward to:**

A possible group visit to the Papakura Museum. Date and time to be confirmed.

September meeting, Chris Bayley asked to speak about the Computer Interest Group and their activities.

September 13th 1pm – DNA meeting

Hoping to have a speaker for our morning October meeting about the NZSG website & getting the most out of the website.

Organise another "Getting to Know our Resources and Familiarisation of Our House" meeting.

A suggestion to have a meeting on using Ancestry – would you be interested?

### **CONVENORS REPORT**

When I offered to take on the role of convener in addition to treasurer at the delayed AGM it was with the knowledge that I had a great team of people behind me to help keep the branch going. I want to thank each and every one of you who have put their hand up to take on something extra. Not least because I am out of action for the next little while following surgery.

We are facing uncertain times, with the council needing to cut costs and our lease up for renewal, who knows where we will be in 12 months' time.

Despite all of this it has been great to see new members and old members re-join. When faced with uncertainty, perhaps we naturally look to our past and our roots for reassurance – however frustrating the hunt.

August is Family History Month and there are a number of activities being planned, as you will see elsewhere in the newsletter. I hope you will be able to take advantage of them, either at the Family History Expo, the Papakura Library or with extra research at the house.

Remember the branch is here to help you and you can send a query, suggestion or tip to [papakura@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:papakura@genealogy.org.nz)

Jane

## **A short article from Branch Member - Iris Taylor.**

### **How My Scottish Kavanagh Relatives Found Me**

In 1998 I joined the KAVANAGH Clan in the hope of finding more relatives. Kavanagh is a very common name in Ireland so it was a bit of a gamble. I sent an article to go into the Clan Magazine.

The article covered my Kavanagh family starting with my great-grandfather, Patrick Kavanagh who was born about 1847 in Coolmine or Blanchard Town, Co Dublin, Ireland. He married Bridget Ball in the Catholic Chapel, Blanchardtown in 1872.

By 1874 they had moved to Scotland where their family was born. I outlined the rest of the family, listing the names of all the children and what I knew about them.

One evening, in 2006 the phone rang and this very excited lady from Glasgow, Scotland was on the other end. Her Grandfather and mine were brothers. Frances had read my article in the magazine at her local library. Both her grandparents had died in 1917. Her grandfather at the Somme and her mother a few weeks later. Their 5 children had then gone to live with various other family members in Scotland and America.

I had a photo of her grandparents and their family. Frances had never known it existed. I sent her a copy. From this photo and the names of her aunts and uncles, she managed to locate some of the American side of the family. Twins abound in the Kavanagh Family. We are both now in touch with several family in America. Frances has had her American first cousins stay with her and her family.

In 2015, my sister and I visited Dublin and the Church where Patrick and Bridget were married. Then onto Glasgow to meet Frances and her sister Cathy. We all spent time visiting where Dad was born in Glasgow in 1914, where he went to school and Celtic Soccer Grounds, where our granddad was a referee. It is now a modern arena where the some of the Commonwealth Games fixtures were held.

During Covid19, Frances rang to check on us and to let us know how her family was doing. A long phone call as we caught up on family news.

Iris Taylor, nee Kavanagh  
NZSG 1900

### **Helpful hint**

To store your memory sticks, get a large, plastic pill bottle, (can buy from the chemist for 40c) IF one does not have access to pill bottles.

The large one holds 3 memory sticks, then just permanent marker the name on the cap with possible contact details, in case you lose the bottle.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Every month the branch receives newsletters from other NZSG branches throughout New Zealand. This month we received copies from South Canterbury, Oamaru, Hutt, New Plymouth, Otaki, Riccarton, Hibiscus Coast, Wairarapa and Kapiti.



Below I have taken some extracts from a few of them and maybe you will see something you didn't know about. If any of these areas are of interest to you there are copies available for you to look through at the House.

### Wairarapa – The Arboretum

A website of NZ historical event which can be useful in providing a social background and understanding to our forebears. An event is recorded for each calendar month. For example, for 24th August the first steam trams were introduced in Wellington in 1878. On 17 August a British submarine torpedoed an Italian transport ship in 1943, carrying NZ Prisoners of War, off the coast of Greece. As my father's war diaries recorded a similar event I reread his diary and found he had experienced the same misfortune 9 months earlier same place, again an Italian ship carrying New Zealand POW (Prisoners of War) being targeted by a British torpedo with many lives lost.

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/browse/timeline/date>

From Oamaru Branch NZSG July 2020 newsletter

## Irish Ancestors

<https://www.johngrenham.com/>



This is a site created by John Grenham, author of **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, 5th edition** and one of the best known Irish genealogists. It would be unusual if a day went by that I didn't use this site (it would probably mean that I wasn't doing any research that day). You will not find a record on your specific ancestor, but it will tell you what records are available for the time and place where your ancestor lived. When you arrive at the **Home** page for the site you're greeted with a beautiful picture of Ireland (which changes regularly) and a flashing cursor that invites you to type in a surname. What? Didn't I just say it's not for finding records on your ancestors? This will take you to a surname distribution of where in Ireland your name is found. If you have a common name, such as Daly, the dots will appear over all of Ireland. However, if you have an unusual name, such as Moughty, you may find the name isolated to a small area. The information used to create these maps is taken from Griffith's Valuation done between 1847 and 1864, but even if your ancestors left earlier, the chances are that some of the family remained behind. Note: I had to modify the spelling of Moughty to Mughty as that was the spelling in Griffith's. There were only 4 families in all of Ireland with that name versus 3,865 Dalys. This page will also provide you in the upper right with all of the spelling variations of the name.

From Sth Canterbury newsletter May/June 2020

Family History Lounge

Have many of you been joining Fiona Brooker and Michelle Patient's Family History Lounge on Friday nights? It has been conducted via Zoom for a couple of months and was a bright and very informative genealogical spot during lockdown. These meetings are to be continued fortnightly under a subscription basis. Their email says: From 3 July 2020 you will need to subscribe to join us for our Talking Family History virtual lounge. Each fortnight we'll share the latest news, chat about some of the websites and records we used this week and give you tips to help with your research. We will be live every other week (ie: fortnightly) and will be recording our sessions in case you are unable to join us live. We hope this helps our USA followers and those of you whose Friday night social life gets in the way.

If you wish to come along you can subscribe for just \$10 a month. Initially we are offering 6 months of Talking Family History (12 sessions, 3 July to 4 December 2020) for \$60 NZD.

Sessions will be recorded and recordings will be available for subscribers to watch for 28 days.

Subscriptions are available at Subscriptions are available at

<https://memoriesintime.co.nz/products/talking-family-history-subscription>

Cyndi's List is an online index for genealogists, pointing to just about any website that might help in their research. According to the website, Cyndi's List has been a trusted genealogy research site for more than 20 years. Cyndi's List is free for everyone to use and it is meant to be your starting point when researching online.

What exactly is Cyndi's List?

A categorized and cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.

A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.

A free jumping-off point for you to use in your online research.

A "card catalogue" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.

Your genealogical research portal onto the Internet.

Even if you're fairly comfortable with seeking out New Zealand sources, how are you with other countries? I find even Australia can be a challenge because I don't very often have to look there. But as I broaden my searches to hunt down DNA matches I'm finding lots of blank moments and empty screens as I look for basic sites. Cyndi has 1651 Australian sites to look through covering just about every topic you could think of - immigration and emigration, convicts and prisons, photographs and memories, queries and surname lists. Whatever you are trying to find, Cyndi should be able to help you find it. I found my way to the Black Sheep

Search website at <https://www.black-sheep-search.co.uk/> which is a fascinating read even if you have no black sheep. I've probably got enough for all of us!

<https://www.cyndislist.com/>



These are from my own trip to Sweden last year.

This is the church where my ancestor's records are shown as belonging to.



## Hutt Genealogy July Newsletter

### Research Project:

The Auckland Medical Research Foundation through the Auckland University School of Nursing is researching the views and experiences of New Zealanders age 70+ regarding Covid-19 and Lock-down. This research will become part of a permanent archive at the Auckland Museum and will be an important historical record for future generations of genealogists (and scientists).

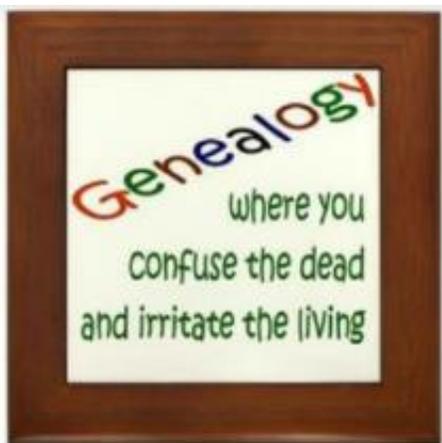
Website: <https://haveoursay.org>

Link sent out by the NZ Association of Gerontology <https://mailchi.mp/5c6cde7e7c04/free-aag-webinar-1297258?e=550fee567d>

Trading Table: Bring along your excess produce, jams, genealogy bits and bobs, no longer needed books etc and support the branch.

Ink Cartridges: Only Canon and HP are accepted.

### **Last Word:**



If there are any errors, omissions or any comments about this newsletter please contact Pauline or Jane via email to [papakura@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:papakura@genealogy.org.nz)  
Please insert newsletter in the subject line

Contributions, articles, topics, event dates etc. for the next edition are always welcome.

Please send to [papakura@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:papakura@genealogy.org.nz) no later than the **24 August 20**

### Papakura Branch Committee Members

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## **Preserving the Past for the Future**

