

Papamoa Branch



Newsletter



Family History Month

The Papamoa Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists meets on the 2nd Monday of the month in the Tohora Room at the Papamoa Community Centre 10am–2pm. The Doors open at 9.30. Charge \$5.00.

The next meeting will be on Monday, 10th August 2015

August – AM & PM – Speaker Topic: The Gallipoli Campaign, Chunuk Bair and the Western Front. In August it will be the 100th anniversary of Chunuk Bair. Dr Cliff Simons works at the New Zealand Defence College, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and teaches about New Zealand's colonial wars. Cliff travelled to the 2015 Gallipoli Centennial Commemorations as a Military Historian and afterwards visited the Western Front.

This talk is the final in our programme of 2015 where we have focussed on WWI commemorations.

Cliff Simons

Lieutenant Colonel, PhD, MA(hons), Dip Tchg, Dip TEFL

Director

New Zealand Wars Study Centre

New Zealand Defence College



Welcome to Family History Month, & a special welcome to our visitors & new members. It is very pleasing to see our branch growing. I particularly enjoy getting to know you all while we enjoy our sandwiches & a cuppa at morning tea & lunch. Please remember to wear your name-tags. Do ask questions & don't be afraid to, as we all have to start somewhere. Let us know what you need help with. Happy Hunting, from the Editor, Lorrimer McAlister. Ph. 544 3083 Email. drawbridge@kinect.co.nz

Subs are now overdue!!

Please contact the Treasurer Kate McEwan Phone: 929 7884

Almoner: Remember to notify Carole Bridge of sick or bereaved members.
Phone: 578 1144 Email: kenrole@xtra.co.nz

Genealogy Friendly: meets on the 4th Monday of the month. 1pm-3pm, in the Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre. **The next meeting will be on Monday 24th August, 2015.**
Contact: Daphne Friis Ph.575 4674 daphnef@clear.net.nz

The Convener's Comment

Betty Atkinson
betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz



Greetings to All

July Meeting Review:

Members and visitors enjoyed Harriet Taylor's presentation on the journey of the "Bombay" to New Zealand. Those who survived this journey were made of tough stuff indeed, as were many of our own ancestors who travelled by sailing ship to start a new life here.

In the afternoon I talked about the NZSG Members List and encouraged those not yet on the list to join. It is a wonderful way to get help and share information with other genealogists throughout New Zealand. (Refer to October 2014 issue of NZ Genealogist magazine for a great article written by Wendy Howard on this topic) I also enjoyed showing members how I use my Facebook page for Genealogical purposes. Handouts on both topics are available for those who weren't there. (Refer also to April 2015 issue of NZ Genealogist magazine for another article by Wendy Howard on this topic.)

Because of the interest in the Facebook presentation I have started a closed group on Facebook for our branch members. It is not something everyone will want to do but if you are interested please send me an email and I will send you an invitation to join.

It's another way of helping each other between meetings. If you are a bit nervous about venturing further afield on Facebook this would be a good place to practice, with friends! The group has been set up with a few of my Papamoa Branch friends who have not objected to being my guinea pigs!

I do not profess to be an expert, this is something we can all learn together.

August Family History Month

Ngareta Payn the Team Leader at The Papamoa Library has been delighted to accept our offer of volunteers to be available in the Library between 10.00am and 12.00 noon every Friday in August to celebrate Family History Month. Ngareta is advertising our presence with a poster provided to her and has made the offer of the use of one of the library computers which have the library editions of Ancestry.com and Find My Past. If you would like to help please let me know.

Workshops for Branch Members Only

Thanks to Coral Shearer for putting together a wonderful programme of workshops to help our members with various topics of research.

Yours in family history.

Betty Atkinson NZSG No. 17053

In early August, we commemorate Chunuk Bair. The Battle for Chunuk Bair was New Zealand's most significant action in the Gallipoli Campaign. The battle, which took place from 6-10 August, was part of the August Offensive, in which the Allies attempted to seize the Sari Bair heights from Turkish forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The Wellington Battalion captured Chunuk Bair early on the 8th August, but they, and other New Zealand units, suffered grievous losses defending it. Chunuk Bair was eventually lost to the Ottoman forces after a series of overwhelming counterattacks, led by Ataturk.

For a good summary of the Gallipoli campaign with a focus on Chunuk Bair,

Visit <http://www.gallipoli2015.govt.nz/the-gallipoli-campaign>

Thank you to Daphne Friis

Are you travelling overseas to research & tread the same streets as your ancestors?

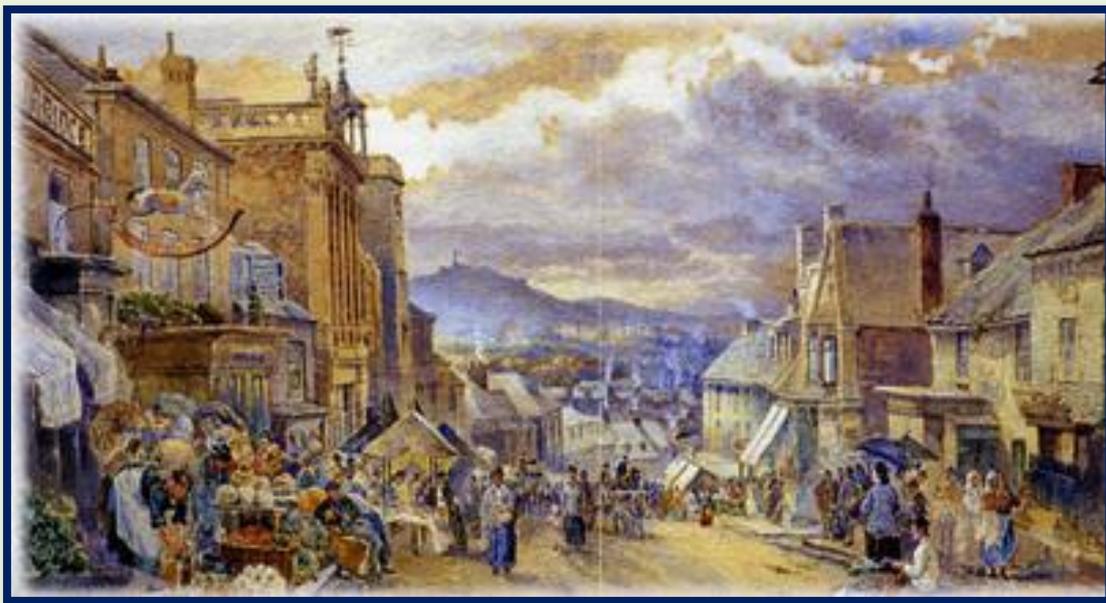
Here are my 7 best tips to make your trip stress free.

- ✓ 1 **Write your Passport number on a card and put it in your glasses case.** You will bless this every time you have to fill in an arrival/departure card on the plane.
- ✓ 2 **Make sure that you buy a suitcase with 4 wheels not 2.** You will know why every time you are running for a platform at the huge train stations in Europe. (When changing trains you do not know the number of the platform that your next train leaves from, until you read it up on the board.)
- ✓ 3 **Take a small back-pack each.** Not only is this your cabin luggage on the plane but it is necessary when you have to climb **steep** stairs to the 4th or 5th floor with no lift available. (We struck this more than once in Great Britain.) Leave the suitcases in the boot of the car or the hotel lock-up on floor one. Pack your toothbrush & paste, nightie, a change of undies and socks for the next day, and you are good to go up.
- ✓ 4 **Speaking of toothpaste,** to avoid cleaning this out of the inside of your toilet bag, buy screw-top tubes.
- ✓ 5 **In your small back-pack cabin luggage,** pack a change of clothes each time before you fly, in case your luggage goes missing.
- ✓ 6 **Do not allow anyone to help you with your suitcases.** That may be the last time you see them (and their 4 wheels,) or conversely there may be additional extras that you didn't count on
- ✓ & that customs' **dogs will find.**
- ✓ 7 **Most important of all.** Always be early for every appointment, & train, boat or plane.

Bon Voyage! & stay stress free.

Send me **your** best travel tips to include in the next edition.

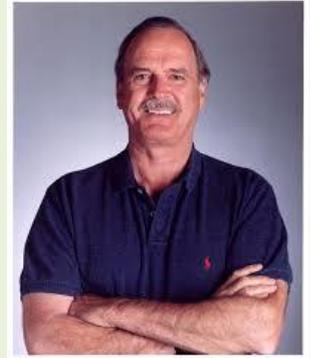
The Editor



How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Advantages of being a commissioned officer!

Extracted from the autobiography of John Cleese book 'So Anyway' pages 26 & 27



Dad lived at home with his parents until he was twenty-two. With the outbreak of the First World War in the late summer of 1914, he tried to sign up, but failed the medical because he couldn't read the fourth line down on the optician's chart. Later in the war the army became less picky, but before that happened he volunteered again. This time he asked the man in front of him in the queue to memorise the line he couldn't read, and to tell him what it was on the way out. The subterfuge allowed him to join the carnage in France, albeit under an assumed name; he was fed up with being teased that he was a fermented curd so he changed the 'h' to an 'l'. I never understood what he was hoping to achieve; I was always called 'Cheese' from the moment I arrived at a school. Perhaps his regiment, the Gloucesters, lacked the imagination to make the connection.

After he finished his training, he was made a second lieutenant, the lowest commissioned rank in the army hierarchy. He never knew why he was chosen to be an officer, but assumed it was because he spoke grammatical English. Arriving in France in 1915, he was, within weeks, wounded in the back and shoulders by shrapnel (the scars were still visible thirty-odd years later). So he wrote a letter of resignation to his commanding officer (the army was a very gentlemanly affair in those days), returned to England and convalesced. Once the wounds had healed, he enlisted again, this time as a private. A shouting match ensued when the army discovered that he had previously served as an officer, but they eventually calmed down and agreed to let him return to France as a mere lance-corporal. I always thought this was a loveably eccentric act on Dad's part, typical of his lack of interest in career advancement, until I discovered years later that the life expectancy of a junior officer on the Western Front at that time was . . . six weeks. Because when an officer led his men over the top, the Germans looked for the man with a revolver and a whistle, and shot him first.

John Cleese.

Thank you to Mark McKinney

New Series of Who Do You Think You Are?

In a series that crosses four continents and covers a period of history stretching back nearly a thousand years, the 12th series allows us to witness the ten stars as they delve back into their family history. Moving from the Tower of London to the Highlands of Scotland, from Tunisia to Tasmania, from the Punjab in India to the Wild West of America, this year's collection of famous personalities set out to dig deep into their family history and share their discoveries with us. On the way they will be uncovering a host of hidden pasts and shocking revelations that should entertain viewers.

[Click here to read more...](#)

Thank you to Christine Clement

GENEALOGY

**Genealogy begins as an interest,
Becomes a hobby;
Continues as an avocation,
Takes over as an obsession,
And in its last stages,
Is an incurable disease.**

--Author Unknown



At our July meeting Harriet Taylor from Waihi spoke about “Crossing the Seas – Journey of the “Bombay” Most of the early settlers in this district came out from England by the Bombay on her first voyage to Auckland in 1863.

Bombay & Slippery Creek

My friend Ann visited us about 10 years ago. She brought her 100 year old mother Mrs Wells with her and she sat on the front veranda with Mac, while I showed Ann around the garden. The following were recollections and stories by Mrs Wells from her past as told to Ian.

The Editor...

The first story was about the settlement **Bombay**.

It is not generally known how the Bombay settlement and hills were named. Indeed the name ‘**Bombay**’ was the name of the ship that the settlers arrived on the take up 10 acre parcels of land that the hills were divided into.

The second and a most intriguing story was how **Slippery Creek** was named. **Slippery Creek** is approximately 10 ks north of Bombay and is sign-posted on the left hand side of the Motor-way, which it crosses under. In the days when supplies were brought from Auckland or the nearest flour-mill by pack-horse, wagon or dray powered by draft-horses, the delivery point was the bank of the creek on the Auckland side. The residents of Bombay and surroundings had to cross the creek to collect their supplies, and also re-cross to get home.

A husband’s weekly task was to collect the sack of flour; the staple for the family’s bread-making, and baking. Husband negotiates the creek and collects the sack of flour, hoists it on to his shoulder and proceeds to cross back across the creek. **Yes!!!** You guessed it. Husband slipped over losing the sack of flour into the creek, thus -- “**SLIPPERY CREEK.**”

Husband arrives home with the tragic news of the lost flour.

What happened next??? **No!** You couldn’t guess. Wife sets off at great speed (probably on horse-back) to make the best of a bad situation. Of course she knew that there would only be a coating of soggy dough and that the inside flour would be retrievable. So the family did not go without that week, (maybe they had to have smaller portions.)

We can only imagine this clever lady also using the dough coating and cooking it.

Perhaps it may have been called “**Damper**”

Thank you to the “Sub-Editor” Ian McAlister.

Can you add to these stories? Or verify any part of them. Mrs Wells passed away at the venerable age of 101. Another example of how important it is to relate these stories before it is too late.

CANNON BALLS!!!

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

I CERTAINLY DIDN'T!!!



It was necessary to keep a good supply of cannon balls near the cannon on old war ships. But how to prevent them from rolling about the deck was a major problem.

The best storage method devised was to stack them as a square based pyramid, with one ball on top, resting on four, resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon.

There was only one problem – how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding/rolling from under the others.

Answer

The solution was a metal plate with 16 round dimples, called, for reasons unknown, a Monkey. But if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls quickly rusted to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make the plates of brass - hence, Brass Monkeys. Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts more, and more rapidly than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannon balls would come right off the monkey.

Thus, it was quite literally, cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey. And all this time, you thought that it was just a vulgar expression, didn't you? You must send this fabulous bit of historical knowledge to at least a few uneducated friends.

Thank you to Helen Riddell



Letters to the Editor

Hello! Lorrimer,

Thought this would be of interest - it was sitting waiting for me in my other section of the emails. I remember indicating my interest in this project when I read about it in the Family Tree magazine; however, my brain obviously did not record that fact when I was speaking about this to you the other day.



An interesting article in the Family Tree that I am currently reading:

RETOURS The Great Unknown Resource for Scottish Genealogy. The Retours of Services to Heirs are a fabulous source of Scottish Genealogical, Land and Inheritance Information. but little used because of their limited availability. The article is by a Dr Bruce Durie, who shows how to use them etc. I did not realise that Scotland was still Feudal until 2004! and all land was held in a Hierarchy of heritable possession. **Wonder who my Grandfather left his land to???** Would be worth getting his will and reading who was listed.?

Call up this article on Family Tree and have a read. - Dec. 2014. They mention that there could soon be a Retours database online.

Other article of interest is the DNA test. You can now click on www.isogg.org/wiki to compare the DNA tests available. (isogg -International Society of Genetic Genealogy)

The results go into a database and you are given a list of all your genetic cousins, and the suggested relationship range. It is then up to you to make contact and work out how you are connected. It is extremely accurate for predicting close relationships up to the 2nd cousin level, but the predictions become much more difficult for more distant relationships.

However, I am considering taking the test, as it has got a bit cheaper than it was, and am keen to see who else I am related to.

Good hunting! Joan Gooch



A Treasure Chest for future generations.

Have you thought about making a small box of memorabilia for each of your grandchildren or nieces & Nephews?

Start with a copy of their family tree & photographs that they might find interesting. What else would you put in?

Maybe you could get them to help compile this in the school holidays. They might like to design their version of a family chart. Take them with you to interview senior family members.

Could this spark an interest in our fascinating hobby? How would you decorate or personalize this box?

Bring along your ideas to display at the next meeting.

Editor

Who's your Daddy Mary Ann?

Come to think of it we don't know for sure who your Mummy is.

I am very proud of my Great Grand-mother. She had 7 children of her own and also brought up Harriet's 7 children. She was born on the 25 August 1863, and by the age of 33 she was mothering 14 children, in early pioneering days in New Zealand. In the photographs that I have of her, she always looked very anxious. My Mother's Mother's Mother was Mary Ann Swabey, **but was she?** My Mum always told me that Thomas Sexton's first wife Harriet Swabey had seven children two girls and five boys. When Harriet died Mary Ann also had seven children, two boys, and five girls. Thus, Thomas had fathered fourteen children, seven boys and seven girls. Mum always understood that Mary Ann was Harriet's younger sister, **but was she?**

Questions may be asked: Harriet was 18 years older than Mary Ann. **Was she her Mother?**

Their Mother Margaret (nee O'Brien) Swabey was 47, when Mary Ann was born. **Was she really her Mother?** Harriet and Thomas brought Mary Ann to New Zealand when she was aged 10. Mother Margaret was still living in London. The name Margaret does not appear in any of the children's names. I asked my Great Aunt Mais (Mary) what her grand-mother's maiden name was. She said she was a 'Conner.' **Was she trying to divert me from the truth?** Aunt Mais was very interested in family. In fact she produced a very comprehensive descendants' list during her lifetime which a lot of people have a copy of. She never came up with Margaret O'Brien. So I do wonder about this. However the census returns seem to verify Margaret.

They emigrated on the ship "*Ocean Mail*" one of the ships involved in the settlement of the Manchester Block at Feilding. Now, on one of the shipping passenger lists Mary Ann's maiden name was given as Dillon. Dillon was the maiden name of Thomas Sexton's mother, Mary Dillon. (Did one of the Dillon boys get Harriet pregnant?) Wash my mouth out! These 14 children have many descendants all over New Zealand, and overseas. When Harriet and Thomas married 4th June, 1865, Mary Ann was 1 year 10 months old.



Mary Ann Sexton (nee Swabey)

b.25th August,1863 - d. 27th April 1935 Mary Ann Swabey arrived in New Zealand on the ship, the 'Ocean Mail' in 1874. She was aged 10 years, and came with her older sister Harriet & her husband Thomas Sexton along with their 4 eldest children, Thomas, Edward, Emily & baby Harriet. The address on the marriage certificate for Harriet was Lambeth Walk, London, Surrey.

Harriet & Thomas went on to have 3 more children in New Zealand, James, John, & Harry. Harriet died 27th August 1881, and Mary Ann took over being mother. She also had 7 Children to Thomas Sexton, Jane(Doll), Helena(Nell), Kate, Daniel, Charlotte (Carlie, my Grand-mother) William, & Mary(Mais). There were 14 children, 7 boys, & 7 girls.

Harriet's Death Certificate states that on the 20th August 1881 Harriet had an accident, & suffered a premature confinement, & then paralysis, & then death.

The date 23rd August, 1881. **Did the baby survive & was she Jane Swabey Sexton, (Doll) who was said by some to be born in 1881?** I have recently found the answer on our trip to the Family History Centre in Auckland.

It was NO.

Aunt Doll had an Olive skin, & to me looked different from her other sisters, so if she was Mary Ann's daughter, did she have a different father? I now believe that she did, because with the help of Geraldene O'Reilly we found a mention of her birth and she had a different second name which may be the name of her birth father, and her Mother was Mary Ann. I met and stayed with most of my gran's siblings, & Aunt Doll was a special favourite. She used to send me wonderful crochet dressing table sets in Winning Post chocolate boxes.

I didn't get to meet my Great Gran (Mary Ann) as she died 5 years before I was born.

The more questions I ask, the more there seem to be. (Maternal Great Grand-daughter of Mary Ann via Charlotte (néé Sexton) Palmer & Marjorie (néé Palmer Chiles)

Lorrimer McAlister

Coral's Workshops

Educational Classes

All classes are free – attendees must be financial members of the Papamoa Branch – printouts to be paid for to Coral.

Writing your life story

Last Thursday of each month – 1 – 3pm in the Tamure Room
30th July, 27th August, 24th September, 29th October, 26th November

How to use / research the NZSG Website

Thursday 13th August 1 – 3pm Tamure Room

Family Tree Maker Program

Wednesdays at 1 – 3pm in Aihe Room
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September. & 7th October.

You can still join the classes if you contact Coral at corals@xtra.co.nz
or phone 572 3712 **Thank you Coral**



Coral Shearer

Phone: 572 3712

Email:

corals@xtra.co.nz



Q: Why was the ancient Egyptian confused?

A: Because his daddy was also his mummy.

Tauranga Branch Meeting is on Thursday 6th August at 7.30pm.

at the St James Church Hall, 72 Poole Road, Greerton

Speaker - Betty Atkinson - "Scrapbooking and Digital Book Making for Genealogy."

Betty is the Convenor of the Papamoa Branch and began researching her family history in 1997 as she wanted to record the history of the people in the old photos held by her family. In order to preserve them she became involved in Scrapbooking using acid free, lignin free photograph albums and adhesives. Later she began to make digital books for the same purpose from scanned old photos and more recent ones. The albums preserve the originals and the digital books can be printed many times for distribution to interested family members.

Stories & information in the Newsletter are sourced from various publications & the Internet.

While every care has been taken, their accuracy cannot always be guaranteed.

The Editor: Lorrimer McAlister (my 34th issue)

