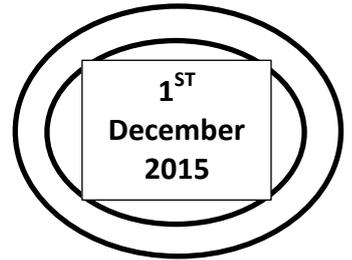




NEWSLETTER

# Papamoa Branch



*Wishing you A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year*

The Papamoa Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month in the Tohora Room at the Papamoa Community Centre. The Doors open at 9.30.

**The next meeting is on Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**There is no charge for our Christmas meeting.** Our final meeting for the year will be a Morning Tea. **Please bring a small plate of food to share & dress in the spirit of Christmas.** 10am – 12.30???. There will be a brief business meeting, then members, who wish can give a 5 minute presentation on a family Christmas tradition. Alternatively you can speak about your Favourite Ancestor. Annette McLachlan will be conducting a quiz for us. We will complete our programme with the Raffle prize draws.



**The Librarian:** All library books and maps etc. must be returned by this meeting as we plan to do a review of the holdings in preparation for 2016.  
Shirley Youens Phone: 542 1391  
Email: [syouens@gmail.com](mailto:syouens@gmail.com)

**Genealogy Friendly:** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, 1pm-3pm, in the Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre.  
**Please note there will be no meeting in December.**

The next meeting will be on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016.  
Daphne Friis Phone: 575 4674  
Email: [daphnef@clear.net.nz](mailto:daphnef@clear.net.nz)

**Almoner:** Please notify Carole Bridge of sick or bereaved members.  
Phone: 578 1144  
Email: [kenrole@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kenrole@xtra.co.nz)

**A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year from the Committee  
(The Petticoat Pioneers)**



**Convener**



**Betty  
Atkinson**



**Treasurer**



**Kate  
McEwan**



**Secretary**



**Gloria  
Davies**



**Librarian**



**Shirley  
Youens**



**Editor**



**Lorrimer  
McAlister**



**Committee**



**Heather  
Culling -  
Smith**



**Committee**



**Daphne  
Friis**



**Almoner**



**Carole  
Bridge**



# The Convener's Comment



Betty Atkinson [betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz)

## Greetings Everyone,

### November Meeting Review

This meeting was well attended, and we had one visitor this month. We all enjoyed Geraldene O'Reilly's presentation on Irish Research. For those with Irish ancestors it was a real treat to see not only the internet sites we can search but also some wonderful books brought along by Geraldene to aid us in our research. I'm sure even those who have no Irish ancestry learned some research tricks from Geraldene. Remember, it's not all on the internet!

### Waikato/Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting

Some branch and committee members attended the Regional meeting in Whakatane on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November. We were privileged to be welcomed on to the Mataatua Marae. After the welcome we were shown a slideshow on the history of the meeting house which has travelled the world. The carvings of ancestors in the meeting house were explained to us followed by a wonderful sound & lightshow emphasising the whakapapa (Genealogy) of the local people. After morning tea the Regional meeting was held, mostly focussing on going through the draft of the NZSG Rules. Several council members were present including our President Gay Williams and they willingly explained the changes in the document. It is hoped that with the acceptance of these updated rules the Society will move on to an exciting future. The meeting concluded with a delicious lunch and happy chat.

### Papamoa Library

Daphne, Elaine, Blue and I happily assisted two enquirers at our monthly Friday morning in November in the Library. One fellow went away delighted with being assisted to find five records from Scotland's People. Remember, if you want some help with your research, be at the library between 10.00 am and noon on the last Friday of every month (not December!). Our next day in the library will be Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

Don't forget, you can use the library editions of Ancestry or Find My Past at any time the library is open. The charge is \$4.00 per hour plus printing costs and you just need to get a librarian to log you into either of these sites on one of public computers. Please make the most of our local library facilities.

### Final meeting for 2015

I am looking forward to our last meeting of the year and enjoying some Christmas food and friendship. There are some great raffle prizes so don't forget to get your tickets as you arrive as the raffles will be drawn that day.

**Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.** And maybe a spot of extra research while staying out of the sun between 11.00 and 4.00 each day!

**Betty Atkinson NZSG 17053**

***THANK YOU all very much for your generous contributions to the Christmas raffles  
You can still buy tickets at our DECEMBER meeting  
and there will be lots of draws.***

Thanks, Shirley

# Serendipity:

*n.* the faculty of happening upon or making fortunate discoveries when not in search of them. [Coined by Horace Walpole (1754) in *The Three Princes of Serendip (Ceylon)*, the heroes of which make such discoveries.]

A Genealogist once said -

**“When your Ancestors wish to be found, they will tap you on the shoulder.”**

Here is my story about a discovery, which could be termed **Serendipity**.

About 40 years ago I started researching my family name.

As it was quite rare, I wrote to everyone by that name in England, (enclosing a stamped self- addressed envelope.) I did get several replies, but not anything that seemed to tie up to my CHILES family in Essex.

A few years later my bachelor Uncle, Len Chiles, was travelling through Heathrow Airport, when he approached one of the Barclay Bank girls to change some money.

(Apparently he could have chosen any one of about 14 tellers.)

The girl serving him remarked -

“There’s not many spell their name our way.” So he put on his glasses and read her name. Dorothy Chiles. Astonished, he then replied,-

“I wonder if you’re one of ours? My Great Grandfather was the blacksmith in Great Dunmow, Essex.”

Her reply was,-

“So was mine!!”

Since then there have been many visits from England by our 4<sup>th</sup> cousin and her sister Pat Weatherley, and of course the hospitality is also returned when any of the family visit England. There has also been a lot of reciprocal research, and so we now know a lot more about our CHILES family, in England, Australia and New Zealand.

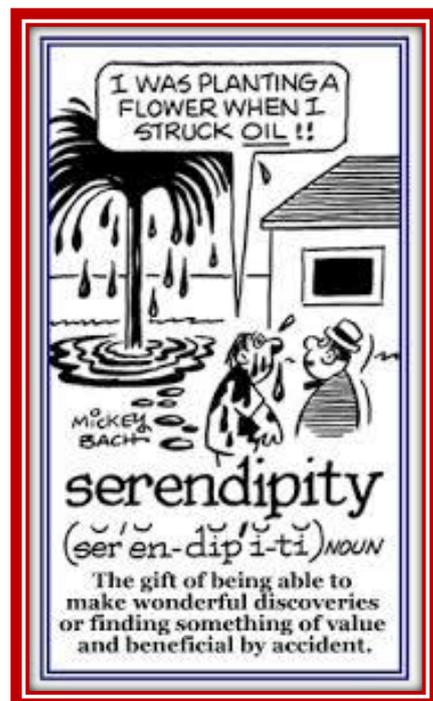
**When did you last trip over your family history, or did it trip over you?**

**Have you got a story in your quest for family history, which illustrates a ‘Serendipitous’ Discovery? (Sorry there is no such word, but I like it!)**

Please send your example to--

The Editor: Lorrimer McAlister, NZSG 1091

[drawbridge@kinect.co.nz](mailto:drawbridge@kinect.co.nz)



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:



*Dear Lorrimer,*

re **SERENDIPITY**

Further to strange ‘happenings’ or serendipity there occurred an eye-opening event for me while attending the Regional Meeting in Whakatane last Saturday. It was a great experience being called onto the Marae, being welcomed, singing our waiata and hearing the sad history of a people deprived of their meeting house for many years 1878 to 1996.

Now I digress:- for many years the family have known through oral history that my husband’s great grandfather owned or was a partner in two trading vessels the ‘Stella’ and ‘Staffa’ which plied the coastline of the North Island of New Zealand and also traded and transported goods and people up the Whitford estuary as well as other rivers. Despite much searching and enquiries little information has been found about these two vessels.

To my great surprise while sitting hearing the history of this wonderful meeting house suddenly there appeared a picture of the ‘Staffa’ transporting the components of the building en-route to Melbourne for the Great Exhibition. I could not believe it and nearly fell off my chair. Whoa, that was awesome and I couldn’t wait to share ‘my find’. One never knows when something will pop out of the woodwork and this was my **something**.

*From Jacqui Ward.*

~~~~~  
*Dear Lorrimer,*

These are useful facebook sites, that people can sign up to. **The 2nd one is my best tip.** But they all offer plenty of help. You can ask things you need to find out, and learn from others.

## **1. Papamoa Branch of the NZSG**

Our local branch site, where you can share info and ask questions

**2. Genealogy New Zealand and Beyond** NZ site. People ask questions of people they are looking for, dates etc. There are people on this site who go to amazing lengths to help people.

**3. Finding & Identifying NZ Genealogy Memorabilia** NZ site. You can put photos you are trying to identify the people, people looking for particular books of areas of search Medals, sometimes people see medals and other memorabilia on Trade Me, and let people know, in case it belongs in their families

**4. Family History Writing and Photos** English site.

**5. familyhistory4beginners** Think this is English too.

**6. Find out where your ancestors worked** An English site - people ask about buildings and places where their ancestors worked.

*From Shirley Youens*

*continued from Nov.*

# Anzac Timeline



## Events of the Gallipoli Campaign December 1915

### 12 December 1915

From this day on most of the remaining troops on Anzac became aware that a full withdrawal was in progress. Charles Bean wrote:

The cemeteries of Anzac were never without men, in twos and threes or singly, 'tidying' up the grave of some dear friend, and repairing or renewing little packing-wood crosses and rough inscriptions.

### 14 December 1915

Sergeant Lawrence's diary:

This afternoon a large parcel of mail arrived. Xmas mail. It's a jolly shame they did not keep it, because half the boys have gone. Puddings, cakes, sweets, tobacco, chocolate, toffee, butterscotch, pipes, handkerchiefs, sox in dozens. Such a food supply has never been seen here before.

### 18 December 1915

Over two nights –18—19 and 19—20 December--- all of the remaining 20,000 Australians and New Zealanders were withdrawn from the Anzac area of Gallipoli. The last man to leave at 4.10am on 20 December from North Beach was Colonel J Paton who was in charge of the 'rear-guard'. There were virtually no casualties— to the end the Turks were unaware that a major evacuation was taking place.

### 19 December 1915

On the night of 19—20 December, the last Anzac and British troops were evacuated from Suvla and Anzac. The evacuation of these positions over the preceding two weeks had taken place virtually without casualties.

### 23 December 1915

Gunner James Twamley, 22, died of wounds at Helles. On his grave in Lancashire Landing Cemetery his family placed this inscription:

**Only a boy but a British boy  
The son of a thousand years.**

**25 December 1915**



On Lemnos after the evacuation Australian troops celebrated Christmas away from home. Major Ernest Harris, of Jeffcott, Victoria, wrote to his wife:

**Each man was given a ‘Christmas Billy’ --- and I can assure you they opened them as eagerly as children at home do open their Christmas stockings ... Just one thing hurt very much --- it was the picture on the outside of the billy, showing a Kangaroo on the map of Gallipoli, with his tail knocking a Turk into the sea and underneath the words  
‘THIS BIT OF THE WORLD BELONGS TO ME’.**

**27 December 1915** The British Government ordered the evacuation of Helles.

*The Editor*

~~~~~  
**The following is sort of like following your genealogical trail through paths unknown**

This explanation came out from Ferranti sixty years ago when they produced the Bloodhound missile

“...The missile knows where it is at all times. It knows this because it knows where it isn’t. By subtracting where it is from where it isn’t (or where it isn’t from where it is, depending which is the greater) it obtains a difference or deviation. The inertial guidance system uses deviations to generate corrective commands to drive the missile from a position where it is to a position where it isn’t. The missile arrives at the position where it wasn’t, consequently the position where it was is now the position where it isn’t. In the event that the position where it is now is not the same as the same as the position where it originally wasn’t, the system will now acquire a variation (variations are caused by external factors, and the discussion of these factors is not considered to be within the scope of this report) the variation being the difference between where the missile is and where the missile wasn’t. If the variation is considered to be a significant factor, it too may be corrected by the inertial guidance system. Moreover, the missile must now know where it was also. The “thought process” of the missile is as follows: Because a variation has modified some of the information which the missile had obtained, it is not sure where it is. However it is sure where it isn’t and it knows where it was. It now subtracts where it should be from where it wasn’t (or vice versa) and by differentiating this from the algebraic difference between where it shouldn’t be and where it was, it is able to obtain the difference between its deviation and its variation, this difference being called error..... This company also produces an extremely accurate command-guidance system, but this type of guidance does not lend itself so easily to simplification of theory.



Overall - just simple logic!

*Thank you to Mark McKinney*

*(did you get your head around that?)*

Have found a site called time lines <http://timelines.ws/> *From Mark*

**This man Owned & Drove the Same Car for 82 YEARS.  
Can you imagine having the same car for 82 years!  
"How Long Have You Owned a Car?" Mr. Allen Swift  
(Springfield, MA.) received this 1928 Rolls-Royce Piccadilly-P1  
Roadster from his father, brand new - as a graduation gift in 1928.**

**He drove it up until his death last year....at the age of 102!!!  
He was the oldest living owner of a car that was purchased  
new. Just thought you'd like to see it.**



**It was donated to a Springfield museum after his death.  
It has 1,070,000 miles on it, still runs like a Swiss watch, dead silent  
at any speed and is in perfect cosmetic condition. (82 years). That's  
approximately 13,048 miles per year (1087 per month)...**

**1,070,000 that's miles not kilometres!!  
That's British engineering of a bye gone era. I don't think they  
make them like that anymore.**

*The Editor*

## A REDNECK LOVE POEM

SUSIE LEE DONE FELL IN LOVE,  
SHE PLANNED TO MARRY JOE,  
SHE WAS SO HAPPY 'BOUT IT ALL,  
SHE TOLD HER PAPPY SO.

PAPPY TOLD HER, SUSIE GAL,  
YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER,  
I'D JUST AS SOON YO' MA DON'T  
KNOW,

BUT JOE IS YO' HALF BROTHER,

SO SUSIE PUT ASIDE HER JOE,  
AND PLANNED TO MARRY WILL,  
BUT AFTER TELLING PAPPY THIS,  
HE SAID, 'THERE'S TROUBLE STILL.'

YOU CAN'T MARRY WILL, MY GAL,  
AND PLEASE DON'T TELL YOUR MOTHER,  
BUT WILL AND JOE, AND SEVERAL MO'  
I KNOW IS YO' HALF BROTHER.

BUT MAMA KNEW AND SAID, MY CHILD,  
JUST DO WHAT MAKES YO' HAPPY,  
MARRY WILL OR MARRY JOE;  
YOU AIN'T NO KIN TO PAPPY.

(kinda brings a tear to yer eye, don't it?)

*Thank you to Dawn Groves*



**Please note that our next meeting will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016, owing to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday being a holiday.**

**We will be holding a research day, so start organising your next steps to bring along all necessary information.**

**Music for the Christmas season  
Top Christmas Songs of all time.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCPgE3jRmQo>

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**

NZSG 1091 (My 38<sup>th</sup> issue)

