



PAPAMOA BRANCH

AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER

FAMILY HISTORY MONTH 2017

FROM THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE!

Celebrating 50 years of Family History 1967-2017

AUGUST PAPAMOA BRANCH MEETING

Tohora Room, Papamoa Community Centre,
Monday 14th AUGUST 2017,
10.00am to 2.00pm

Tea and coffee is provided, but bring your lunch.

Door entry fee is \$3.00.

Doors open at 9.30am.

'Sharing Genealogical Research Successes'

To celebrate Family History Month the meeting will focus on the research findings of four of our branch members. *So sit back, relax, and take a journey through the **French countryside**, the **Thames**, the horrors of **World War I**, and be fascinated by Betty's **Search for her Maternal Grandaunt Sarah Henry**.*

FURTHER EVENTS

Friday 4th August 2017 8.30am to 9.30am Papamoa Library "Popular Genealogy Websites". *Registration required**.

Monday 6th August 2.15pm to 4.15pm DNA Support Group Bay of Plenty*

Friday 11 August to Sunday 13 August 2017 Auckland Family History Expo 2017. aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/2017afhexpo.

Tuesday 15th August 2017 from 11.30am Live streaming NZSG 50th birthday in Auckland at Gallery Waihi Art Centre and Museum. Cost \$10. *Email or phone Betty by 6th August**.

Thursday 17th August 2017 5.25pm to 9.30pm Papamoa Library "A Night in History". *Registration required**.

Monday 21st August 2017 1.30pm to 3.30pm Daphne's Genealogy Friendly Group. *For further information contract Daphne Friis 575 4674 or daphnefriis@kinect.co.nz.*

Friday 25th August 2017 10.00am to 12.00pm Papamoa Branch monthly help session in Papamoa Library. *No bookings required.*

** Further details on page 6.*



Greetings from the Convenor's Desk!

July Meeting Review

In the morning slot our new committee member Rowena Sinclair gave an excellent presentation on her “Beginner’s Journey into Indian and Irish Research” accompanied by an informative power point presentation. In the afternoon slot I gave a live presentation on how I use Facebook for Genealogical purposes.

If you are still feeling nervous about taking a step into the world of Facebook Bev Hodges at the Tauranga Library is available to help you get started. Just phone the library on 577 7177 to make an appointment to meet with Bev. There is a small charge and if you prefer she can meet you at Papamoa Library where she visits twice a month for such appointments.

August Branch Meeting

Thanks to Helen Riddell, Rowena Sinclair and Anne McEwen who will share their research successes at our branch meeting on Monday 14th August. It is always so interesting to hear how others have successfully researched their family history.

When I first started my research journey 20 years ago, a wise old genealogist told me that “People are not interested in all the personal details of your ancestors their eyes will glaze over with boredom as you speak! BUT they love to hear HOW you found out what you know!”

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will see the activities planned for August Family History Month. We are working with Bev Hodges and her team at the Tauranga and Papamoa Libraries to help beginners through to experienced researchers.

Apart from the Family History Month activities at the library we will also have volunteers at the Papamoa Library to help you with your research on **Friday 25th August 2017 between 10.00 am and 12 noon.**

Happy researching everybody!

Betty – NZSG17053



Papamoa Branch of the NZSG - Facebook Closed Group

Following on from Betty’s excellent presentation and handout on using “*Facebook for Genealogy Research*” why not be part of our online community and join the Papamoa Branch of the NZSG Facebook Group.

To join go to the link below and click on “*Join Group*” then Betty or Kate as Admins for this group will check that you are a paid-up member of the Papamoa Branch, and join you to the group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/906448932749791/>

Getting to Know your 2017-2018 Committee (Part 3)



Jacqui Ward writes:

Hello Fellow sleuths,

I am Jacqui Ward, birth name Jacqueline and I am on your Committee for the first time after being a Branch member for over three years. Previously we lived in Patumahoe near Pukekohe in South Auckland and for a number of years I was a member & Committee member of the Pukekohe/Franklin Branch of NZSOG where I assisted with transcription of school

records followed by photographing and transcribing of cemetery headstones at the old Bombay church, St Peters in the Forest.

My journey into genealogy began approximately 25 years ago when I became curious about my mother's family. My mother had died when I was 29 years old; at that stage being a young mum I was busy and not really interested in hearing about all that old stuff. However, as I grew older I became curious. My maternal grandmother had died when my mother was 8 years old so there was little known about her or her family and a number of tragedies had befallen the family after the death of my grandmother including a disastrous fire that destroyed all photographs and everything my grandfather owned at that time. So where did I now begin? I started asking questions of cousins and an aunt then perhaps more importantly writing down everything I was told, including family oral history and traditions (very few), secrets, stories and beliefs, and a few snippets I recalled my mother talking about; all of which has been the mainstay of the start of my journey of discovery.

I am a social worker by profession and as such spent time with families 'doing' their genograms – a significant assistance to anyone working with the complexity of combined families and/or generations of intermarriage between different branches of the same family. This has enabled me to do the same with my research so as to sort out the direction I needed to go. What an interesting and dysfunctional family I have found and am still finding. There is almost nothing this family has not done....Bigamy, illegitimate births, crime, abandonment of children, lies & more lies. Most of my research is in England and Scotland, primarily in the Kent and Clackmannan & Dumfries areas while there are some connections with Australia and my husband's family in India. I have not found any person of significance; no one owned land overseas, no Royalty or Aristocracy, just Ag Labs and more Ag labs with an odd Merchant Mariner thrown in for good measure. Dunedin features prominently in my search for truth within New Zealand.

It took me nine years to locate my Great Grandmother's death and burial. This woman of doubtful morals peaked my interest, she spoke Gaelic and had psychic ability and she has turned out to be an inspiration despite causing me many "Oh jeeze" moments. In the end, I have been able to visit her place of burial and to provide a simple plaque in her memory. Desperate times often called for desperate measures and I believe she was often a victim. I like helping other people get started with their research and helping them over and through their brick walls. What a powerful tool genealogy can be; even more so now with DNA.

Many years ago, when I first started my research a speaker with the NZ Society of Genealogists stated, “if you want to keep something for ever then print it, this includes photographs.” I think that was very good advice that I have tried to abide by and my digital family tree shares its space with my hard copy. I encourage you to do the same as technology changes so much and so quickly.

My husband and I love living in Papamoa with walks on the beach and the happy people we meet. We enjoy travel both within New Zealand and overseas which we hope to be able to continue for some years yet. I am looking forward to working with your committee and getting to know more of you.



Shirley Youens writes:

I have always been interested in my family history, and over the years have collected stories, information, photos, certificates etc., for when I retired, as I knew this 'interest' took a lot of one's time. My mother was a great collector of family stories, which she mainly kept 'in her head'. She died suddenly in her sleep a few years ago, taking a lot of this rich history with her.

I was born in Waipiro Bay on the East Coast, north of Gisborne, lived in Ruatoria, Tolaga Bay and teenage years in Gisborne. My family came from Otaki, Marlborough, and Southland, and further back, all come from Scotland. Mum was always very proud of her McLean heritage. My husband and I lived in Auckland for 30 years, and our sons were born there. It was always our intention to retire out of 'the big city' and Papamoa won over many beautiful places in NZ. I joined NZSG and our Papamoa Group 4 years ago, with all you wonderfully experienced genealogists, I feel very much a beginner, but I have learnt heaps from many of you and the great variety of speakers we have.

I have been very fortunate to have been given family history – 2 lines from a cousin, another from a 2nd cousin, and the last from our lovely Jacqui above. Some of you know how I was running late one day and there was a spare seat by a lady who was new to our Branch. We got talking as you do, and she was researching my 4th line for her Uncle John. He was my Dad's first cousin. This line I knew little about, and this was going to be my first project. She very generously gave me all she had researched, I was able to fill in a few gaps, and had some photographs to add to hers. The biggest treasure was meeting John, he was so welcoming and it was like we had known each other all our lives. Unfortunately, John has recently passed away, but we had some great visits, and we attended his 90th birthday, and met some other relations. I will always appreciate sitting next to Jacqui that day, and not surprisingly, we have become great friends.

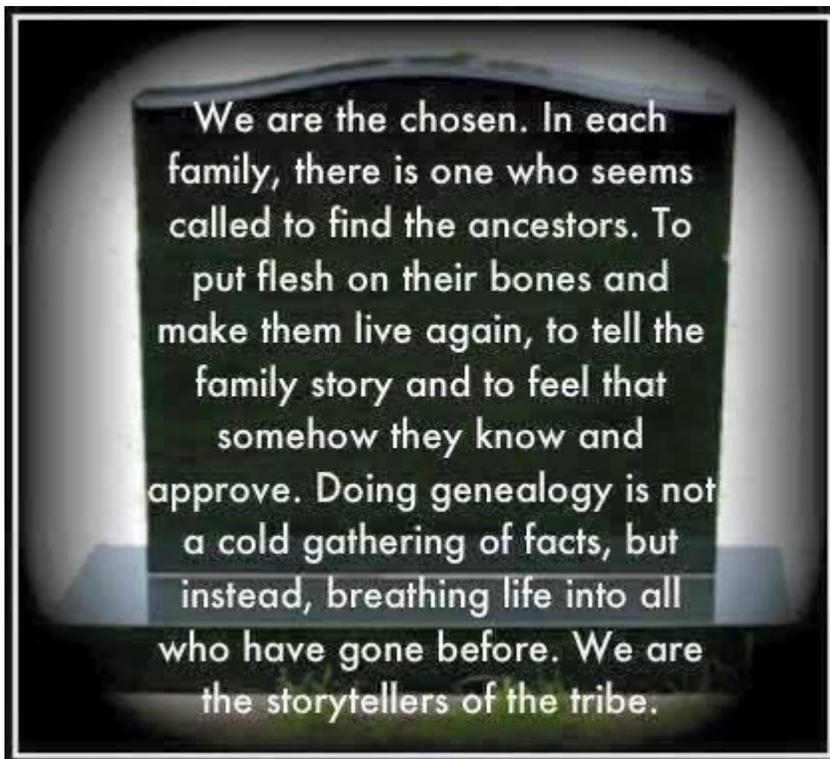
So, my issue at the moment, is not brick walls, but dealing with all this wonderful information, which at times is quite overwhelming. My 2nd cousin gave me a very good tip – saying “altho' I have given you all this information, do not let it stop you doing your own research”. One of our nephews asked me one day . . . and what are you going to do with all this information, as we had shared notes about someone, and I related discoveries after another journey to a cemetery My aim is to make a digital book, of each of our four family lines, Mum's parents, and Dad's parents, when I have my head around all this information, and sorted all the photos into the appropriate families. The beauty of digital books, is you can have one copy printed, or 101. Mum had written on the back of many photos before she passed away, what a blessing Mum. She would have loved this journey.

I am also going to put pictures of ancestors on our closed family Facebook page, to interest our nieces and nephews. 18 in all, and the next generation has 21 and still growing. When I sent an email out to them a couple of years back, asking if anyone would like a copy of Dad's and his father's war records,

I would send them a copy. The 2 that answered 'yes please' surprised [*and delighted*] me. I am sure that among them all, there will be some who are interested enough to carry on the family legacy!!

It was very exciting one day, when browsing my Facebook genealogy sites, I nearly fell off my chair, as someone was asking about my great grandparents, her great great!!!! She was making a surprise digital book for her Grandmother's 90th birthday. It was lovely to be able to send her copies of photos, and other information I had!!! She lives in outback Queensland, we haven't met yet, but certainly will do so, at some stage. It is exciting to meet live rellies, not just the ones in cemeteries, as you all well know.

I enjoy running the Branch Library with Jacqui, and am always looking for ways for you to have better access to all the information. If anyone donates books for the collection, we take them to the Committee meeting, where it is decided whether they are part of our library or go on our popular 'free to a good home' table. Unfortunately, storage space does not allow us to keep them all. It is important that you enter any books etc. you borrow in the red book, as this is our only check where they are. The maps for example have been an expensive, but very worthwhile and well used purchase, and we want to keep the sets complete for everyone to use. If there are any improvements/suggestions, you have, for consideration to improve the library, please let us know. Seeing books, DVDs, maps etc. being borrowed makes our job all very worthwhile.



<https://nz.pinterest.com/pin/2814818492569260/>

FamilySearch Microfilm Distribution Discontinued.

FamilySearch has made significant progress in the digitization of its vast collection of microfilm, making access to records easier than ever. This progress, coupled with changes in the microfilm industry, have made it possible and necessary to discontinue microfilm distribution services. These services discontinue on September 1, 2017. The last day for ordering microfilm will be August 31, 2017. More information <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/microfilm-distribution-discontinued-august-31-2017/>

Celebrating 50 years of Family History 1967-2017

NZSG Nationwide Luncheon

The day the Society celebrates its 50th Anniversary. Branches around the country will be having luncheon in their area from 12 noon. The plan is to live-stream speeches from Auckland so we can all enjoy the celebration together.

Date: Tuesday 15th August 2017

Time: 11.30am

Venue: Gallery Waihi Art Centre and Museum, 54 Kenny Street, Waihi

Cost: \$10.00 to include finger food from local cafe.

Added extra: View Waihi Museum post Heritage Rescue makeover.

Papamoa Branch members wishing to attend the Waihi Branch hosting of the NZSG Live Broadcast Luncheon on Tuesday 15th August (day after our branch meeting) need to advise **Betty by 6th August** by calling **0274 475 448** or emailing **betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz** as Waihi Branch need final catering numbers by 8th August. \$10.00 per head. If anyone decides to attend after the cut-off date they will be welcome but need to bring their own lunch and will still pay \$10.00 at the door. **Transport is being arranged with several Papamoa Branch members willing to take their cars.** So far 15 Branch members will be making their way to Waihi for the celebration.

Family History Month in the Papamoa Library

For the two Library events below supply contact details by registering with the Library on 577 7177 or let Betty know via email betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz and she will advise Bev Hodges.

Date: Friday 4th August 2017

Time: 8.30am - 9.30am

Venue: Papamoa Library

Topic: Useful Internet sites for Research

- Helpers welcome or come and research.
- Followed by an extra session of help until noon (like the last Friday of month).

Date: Thursday 17th August 2017

Time: 5.25pm – 9.30pm

Venue: Papamoa Library

Venue: A Night in History – Papamoa Library Lock-in

- Bring a plate of finger food for a shared supper.
- Be there before 5.25 when the doors to the building automatically lock down.
- Betty and Rowena teaching sessions.
- Other helpers welcome or come and research.

DNA Support Group Bay of Plenty

Are you struggling with interpreting your DNA results? If so you are not alone! Consider joining our proposed monthly DNA Support Group. For further details **please contact Betty** by calling **0274 475 448** or emailing **betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz**

First Meeting: Monday 7th August 2.15-4.15pm, \$3 door charge.

Papamoa Branch 2017-2018 Committee Members

| | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|
| Elinor Rawlings | papgen@gmail.com | Secretary |
| Betty Atkinson | betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz Phone: 0274 475 448 | Convenor |
| Kate McEwan | katemcewan5@gmail.com Phone: 929-7884 | Treasurer |

Please email papgen@gmail.com for Apologies or Newsletter contributions.

Newsletters: Branch and Interest Groups

Papamoa Branch receives several newsletters from NZSG Branches on a periodic basis. These newsletters can be particularly useful if you had family in the area. Currently, the newsletters are printed and made available at the subsequent branch meeting.

These newsletters are frequently unread, wasting paper, and printer ink. Therefore, we are recommending that each interested member **email Elinor at papgen@gmail.com** and request the newsletter be forwarded by email, when and if received. Please be aware that many of the Newsletters are also available from the NZSG website https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Branches--Area-Contacts_55.aspx

Listed below are the most recent newsletters received:

- [South Waikato Genealogy Branch \(formerly Tokoroa\)](#): July 2017
- [New Plymouth Branch](#): July 2017, Number 313
- [Scottish Interest Group – Waikato](#): June 2017
- [Whakatane Branch](#): Kith 'n Kin: June 2017, Issue 143
- [Dunedin Branch](#): May-June 2017, Number 182
- [Waimate Branch](#): April 2017

Membership Subscriptions Due!

We value all branch members and hope you will all stay in the branch. However, time is running out to pay your subscriptions. ***For those who have not yet paid their subscriptions please pay these as soon as possible.*** [If you require a receipt please advise Kate.]

Subscriptions:

- \$15.00 for individual who are current **individual members of the NZSG.**
- \$20.00 for joint members who are current **joint members of the NZSG.**
- \$25.00 for **individuals** who are not individual members of the NZSG. Known as **Associate branch members.**
- \$30.00 for **joint members** who are not members of the NZSG. Known as **Associate branch members.**

Please make payment via:

- **Internet banking:** an internet payment may be made into the Papamoa Branch of the NZSG ASB Bank account number: 12 3407 0000401 00. Please put 'Your name' and 'Subs' in the Reference fields.
- **Cheque:** a cheque can be posted to: Kate McEwan, 129/61 Golden Sands Drive, Papamoa, 3118.

THE FINAL WORD: Uncle George's Story

How good is our oral and written history?

What conclusions would our descendants reach while researching us?

The head of a prominent family was retiring after a long and distinguished career and his family were keen to give him a gift that would stand the test of time. After much discussion, they agreed to present him with a history of the family. He was an avid follower of ancestry.com and belonged to the local genealogy society and it all seemed to just fit. So, the family employed a well-known biography writer to do the research and write the book.

The biographer interviewed members of the family, consulted old records and letters, and started to shape a story. The daughter of the man whose idea it was in the beginning was a bit concerned on one piece of family history. She met the biographer and told him. It is my great Uncle George. He was the black sheep of the family. And no one speaks of him. He died in the electric chair after he had been found guilty of murder. I do not want it covered up but maybe you could minimise the embarrassment.

The biographer assured her that he would take care of great Uncle George and still write an accurate history of the family. When the book was finally printed the daughter was relieved to read this about George.

“Uncle George occupied a chair of applied electronics at a famous governmental institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties and his death came as a real shock”.

Original source and copyright unknown but heard this as an introduction to a sermon at my church recently! It is said that it is based on a true story.

Betty – NZSG17053