



PAPAMOA BRANCH

September Newsletter 2017

The Papamoa branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists meets on the second Monday of the month in the Tohora Room at the Papamoa Community Centre 10.00 am – 2.00 pm ~ doors open at 9.30 am. Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Until we have new seats you may like to bring a cushion!

NEXT MEETING: Monday 11 September 2017 – Door charge \$5.00

Our speaker will be Robyn Williams, Chairperson of the Board of the NZSG who will speaking about the advantages of belonging to the NZSG and the revamped website.

**This month we also celebrate our 10th Birthday
Please join us for a special treat!**



In This Issue:

- **September Speaker**
- **Greetings from the Convenor**
- **Getting to know your new committee**
Betty Atkinson & Carole Bridge
- **Introduction: Fiona McAllister, Newsletter Editor**
- **Getting to know your fellow branch members**
- **Book Offer ~ One Family, Six Names**
- **An Irish Export ~ The story of Bryan Veech**
- **Upcoming Speakers**

Hands On Help:

As usual we will have volunteers at the Papamoa Library to help you with your research on **Friday Sept 29, 2017 from 10.00 am - 12 noon.**



Genealogy Classes and Support Learning Centre Tauranga Library:

[Tips, Tools and Techniques](#)

Friday Sept 8: 10.00 – 11.30 am

[Digging the Dirt in Historic Newspapers](#)

Friday Oct 13: 10.00 – 11.30 am

[A Glimpse in Time: Exploring the 1939 Register](#)

Fri Nov 10: 10.00 – 11.30 am

[Individual Genealogy Research Assistance](#)

An experienced volunteer will help you (Booking Essential)

Fridays: 10.00 – 11.00 am & 11.00 am – noon

Greetings from the Convenor



August Meeting Review

What a treat to hear four different members of our Branch share their research successes, highlighting the methods and resources used.

Thanks to Helen Riddell, Anne McEwen (especially for her perseverance while workmen intermittently used noisy drills on the roof above us while she spoke!), Rowena Sinclair and Betty Atkinson (Me!). There was an enthusiastic response to the information shared.

Thanks also to Annette McLachlan who updated us on her research findings after her recent trip overseas. Interesting to hear she had cracked a 35 year old brick wall she had told us about last year when she spoke.

August Family History Month Activities

We were encouraged by the attendance at the events arranged and coordinated for the month at the Papamoa Library by Bev Hodges from Tauranga Library.

On 28th July volunteers from our Branch and a volunteer from Tauranga Library assisted at a session for beginners starting out on their Family History Research journey. Seven were present between 8.30 am and 9.30 am before the library opened and a couple of them stayed on for extra help at our usual last Friday of the month session between 10.00 am – 12.00 noon.

On 4th August our volunteers were again at the library between 8.30 am and 9.30 am to help eight visitors learn about useful websites for research. Each one had access to one of the library computers and were assisted by four helpers from our branch and one volunteer from the Tauranga Library. Two stayed on for extra assistance after 9.30 am.

Thursday 17th August saw people locked in at the Papamoa Library between 5.25 pm and 9.30pm. Several Snap Shot Speakers presented on a variety of subjects, shared a meal together and assisted each other with research. It was a great night!

Happy researching everybody!

Betty Atkinson



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' and Betty or Kate (the administrators) for this group will check you're a paid up member of the Papamoa Branch and enable you to join the group.

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

Getting to Know your 2017-2018 Committee (Part 4)



Convenor - Betty Atkinson:

My interest in Genealogy was brought about by the family photograph albums I used to pore over as a child. I looked at the faces in the photographs and wondered about those people, blood of my blood.

I was fortunate to grow up in a family of storytellers. When our parents gathered with our uncles, aunts, and cousins, with a beer, whisky or gin in hand, we heard many stories founded in our family history. A few musical items on piano, accordion, ukulele, harmonica, xylophone and dancing livened these gatherings and have left many happy memories. As children we would sit quietly and the adults would forget

we were there and many a story was told which perhaps should not have been heard! I now realise that these get-togethers in Scottish tradition are called ceilidhs. Another interesting fact is that my father's parents both spoke Gaelic at home in Auckland and my father often used Gaelic words with us as children. It was only when we used them with school friends that we learned they were not English words. I can remember my embarrassment more than the words which are mostly forgotten now!

In 1997 I joined the NZSG and the Hutt Valley Branch of the NZSG and began my research journey to prove some of my family stories. In 2008, after moving to Papamoa, I joined the Papamoa Branch and have gained much from my membership of the branch and the Society.

My research takes me to Scotland, both Highland and Lowland and also to Ireland. I have found countless records of family births, marriages and deaths in the Scotland's People website and am so thankful for the wonderful detailed records there. My main Scottish challenge is still to prove (or disprove) the family story that my paternal side, MacDonald, is descended from MacDonald (or MacIain) of Glencoe. Lots of tantalising matches on DNA but nothing yet to quite prove the connection.

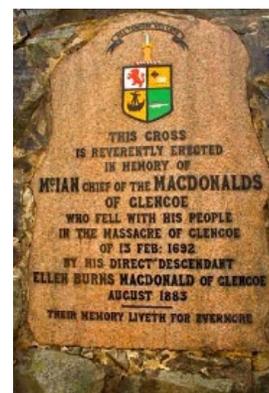


I also research my husband's Anglo Irish and Maori Ancestry. I have managed to prove his Anglo Irish heritage back to an English soldier sent by King James I to Ireland in 1602 as part of the Plantation of Ireland. I only found him and his descendants because he was granted lands and titles for his service to the King and so appeared in Burke's Irish Peerage Records.

I am working on proving the Maori oral history (whakapapa) handed down by my mother-in-law. She kept diaries which a niece has compiled into a brief history of her grandmother.

We also have a tape recording made by my daughter talking with her grandmother about her history many years ago.

I have made many friendships through my involvement in the Papamoa Branch over the past nine years and enjoy our meetings.





Committee Member and Almoner- Carole Bridge:

Back in 1988 when I realised that both my father and his brother knew nothing of their father or of his family, I decided that I would firstly join the NZSG, which I did, then start researching. Through a swimming friend in the LDS in Tuhikaramea, I got my first computer and genealogy program. But it was rather spasmodic due to the high commitment to Waikato Swimming of which I was an executive and official at meets; work, family and for a while the Waikato Welsh Corgi League of which I was either Secretary or President. The latter was put aside as well as dog showing and breeding, and little bits more of genealogy, as accomplished, as I had decided to research not only my forebears but my husband Ken's as well.

Then in 1995 we shifted over here to Greerton (a shift we have never regretted), where I joined the Tauranga Branch, attended meetings regularly and joined the committee for few years. In the meantime Ken's Larsen family asked me to help put a headstone on their grandfather's and great grandfather's grave. This I did which took me two years to get hold of everyone to sort out costs etc. Luckily the undertaker in Te Kuiti used to play golf with Ken, which helped move things along. Anyway the headstone is up, and we had an unveiling, with a granddaughter who was now a Minister, who took the service. We had over 90 people attend and it was great. As I was actually an In-Law, I decided to call myself the "Outlaw", much to everyone's amusement.

During this time I had moved a bit further forward with my other 10 families...It was then in 2006-7 when I joined the then Te Puke Branch as they had daytime meetings. I found them to be a happy, friendly group, and later joined the Papamoa Branch when it was formed. This branch must be the friendliest in NZ, lovely people and oh - so very helpful! I served as secretary for about two or three years, but found the travel just too much. However during this time I had managed to get my Jacobsen research in Denmark back to the late 1600 in some families, though not all. Thus I have pushed on and am now putting together a book on the Jacobsens in Denmark and New Zealand, up to today. I am hoping to have this finished by early November so can finish it all off before Christmas.

I also have my Sorensen family back to 1600 in Denmark and forward, but a cousin has gone on with that. The Larsen family was done up to 2005 when I made a family tree book for them. The Gedge family I have given to a cousin to do. The Harding family was done for me in England and proven by a distant cousin; Kelso I have gone just about as far as I can in Ireland. The Havinden family I have back to early 1700 through Australia etc. The Bridge family back in Ireland to 1760 - and down to present day. Mexted: well I have several 'rellies' working on this and it is large. I found the Tankersley family back to Belize, then South Carolina, USA, to England, down to some of present day (but they are a sidetrack family!!!!) Oh how we wander off into those.

I have also researched about five other families for people and relations. But sadly things have to slow down, and possibly in a few years cease, due to my eyesight taking leave of me... Bugger!!! I have met so many wonderful people during my time in genealogy, and have made many friends for life. Bless you all.



Many thanks to Matthew Edwards who supports our branch with service to the committee and members needing help with computer hardware. Matthew does home visits and remote access calls.

Vision Lab is located at 63 Jellicoe St, Te Puke and Ph 07 573 7783 or 027 339 4679



Introduction – newsletter editor

Hi, my name is Fiona McAllister and I’m your new newsletter editor. This is my first newsletter (ever!) and it’s been a bit of a learning curve but I enjoy writing and words generally. Just ask anyone who’s ever given me a good ‘listening to’ ☺

I’m just grateful the newsletter is my new challenge - not DJ the lamb I’m holding here, who was orphaned in Cornwall Park recently, and is being raised by a friend.

A native Aucklander, the Mount has been my home for the past nine years, thanks to the love of my life, Richard, who was *never* going to live in Auckland! I love being here — what’s not to love? I assist him in his kiwifruit packaging business and work as a proofreader and do some other volunteer work. We share our lives with three cats and six free range chickens—which is sometimes interesting! (Fear not – the chooks *definitely* have the measure of the cats and no, the neighbours never complain...)

An adoptee, my introduction to genealogy was sparked by my birth mother’s sister sharing the family tree and the news we are descended from one Bryan Veech, transported from Ireland to Australia in 1838 for ‘being in possession of forged notes’ (read his story on P.7). On my birth father’s side, my great grandfather Richard Sutcliffe, arrived with his family from England, on the Ajax in 1848. Genealogy is my new, (very addictive hobby*) and I look forward to sharing some of my interesting relatives with you...

*As a mutual friend of Lorrimer’s recently said to me, “There’s a reason it’s called ‘gene-allergy’!”

Happy searching everyone and I welcome your feedback.

Regards, Fiona - NZSG 26889

Email: fiona@betterwords.co.nz - Phone: 021 855 603 - www.betterwords.co.nz

Getting to know your fellow branch members

Over the past few newsletters you have been introduced to your committee in a little more detail.

Many of us don’t know a lot about each other outside of the group so we thought it would be interesting to feature a short profile on a couple of branch members each month, space permitting. If you would like to share a little about yourself and remind us of the family names you are searching, please send your bio and if possible a headshot image to me for future newsletters. Don’t worry about spelling and writing style as I can help with that. We’d love to hear about you! **Please send your submissions by the 20th of the month.**

For Apologies please email papgen@gmail.com

Computer Assistance

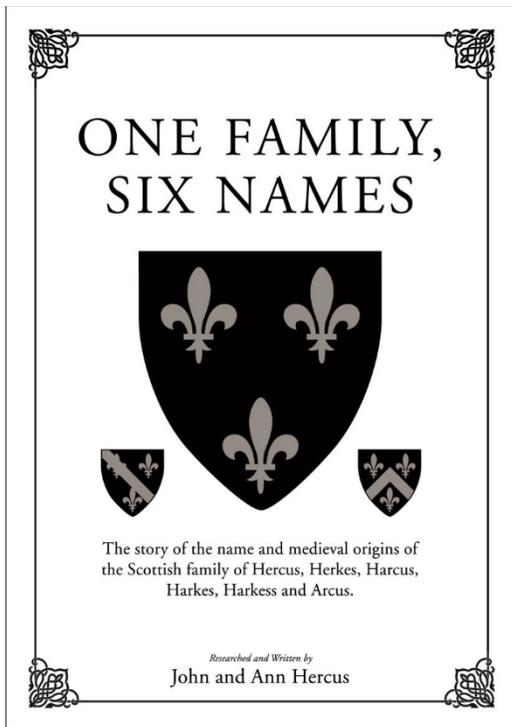
Relaxed, friendly and supportive learning
@ the Library

iPad ◊ Tablet ◊ Phone ◊ Computer

\$10 per 30 min session

To Book Phone: 577 7177





Book Offer

One Family, Six Names: The story of the name and medieval origins of the Scottish family of Hercus, Herkes, Harcus, Harkes, Harkess and Arcus

This book explores many topics including:

- Where do British surnames come from?
- What is 'rare' surname? – A 'single origin' surname?
- Why are there multiple spellings of medieval surnames?
- 'Mapping' where our forebears lived
- Discovering Medieval coats of arms
- What is the meaning of our name?
- How 21st century DNA testing helped answer key questions about our family

Written by John and Ann Hercus this book follows a decade of research and is their third book. John was CEO for 20 years at the Christchurch Polytechnic and Ann, a lawyer, has been Deputy

Chair of the Commerce Commission, a Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister, and New Zealand's Ambassador to the UN. The two share a long-term interest in genealogy and family history.

The book is A4 size, 144 pages, written in easy-to-read print size with lots of illustrations. It is a limited edition; only 1000 copies are available, each hand-numbered and signed by both authors.

NZSG members are being offered a discounted price of \$25 plus postage & packaging of \$3.00 (\$28 total). Pricing for multiple copies is available on enquiry.

To order please email: ajhercus@clear.net.nz together with your contact name and postal address for delivery. On receipt of your order, the book will be dispatched together with our invoice. Our phone number is: **03 355 6515**.

Genealogy Friendly Group

Join Daphne Friis on the third Monday of the month to share and learn from other enthusiastic 'genies'.

The group meets in the Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre from 1.30 – 3.30 pm.

NEXT MEETING: 18 September, 2017

Contact Daphne on 07 575 4674 or email daphnefriis@kinect.co.nz



An Irish Export: My third great-grandfather - Bryan Veech

A shepherd, Bryan Veech was a native of County Meath in Ireland, born about 1797 in the vicinity of the river Boyne. Bryan was married to Bridget Dempsey of County Mayo in 1828 when she was just 17. In Dublin on January 3, 1838, he was convicted of having being in possession two weeks earlier, of forged thirty-shilling and one pound Bank of Ireland notes. Five of the seven thirty-shilling notes had the same number - which rather sealed his fate! Being the father of five sons and two daughters did not deter Judge Johnson from sentencing him to transportation for 14 years. While awaiting transportation the prisoners were detained at Kilmainham Gaol in Dublin; but they were perhaps fortunate to not have been detained on one of the dank, overcrowded rotting hulks in the harbour, which were used to supplement the prison.

On April 27, 1838, the Westmoreland with a cargo of 220 convicts departed Dublin for New South Wales; four of the prisoners did not survive. In May, the Surgeon Superintendent George McClure, noted in his journal that the ship had been sent to sea in a very unfit state, and they were obliged to pump her every ten or fifteen minutes. In June the weather became extremely cold and the majority of the prisoners were barefooted or nearly so. When the men were all on deck they were so compacted together there was no room for exercise. I found no record of Bryan or his son in the ship's medical records. They were lucky, as dysentery and a myriad of other pernicious afflictions, were common on the convict ships.

Bryan was aged 38 but 36 of the convicts were under 16 years old and one was just 10. From 1788 to 1868, over 160,000 men, women and children were deported to Australia; some children were as young as nine. About 20 percent of convicts were aged under 20.

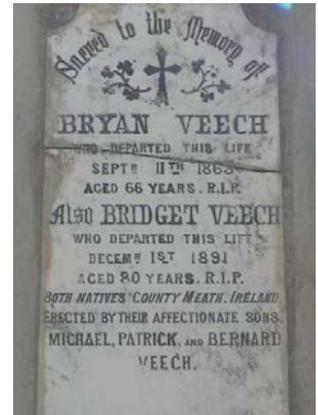
Bryan was described on the manifest as being: 5 foot 8 ¼ inches tall, of ruddy complexion, with brown hair (mixed with grey), grey eyes and with a diagonal scar on the left side of his upper lip, a scar over his right eyebrow and a scar on the ball of his left thumb. These details no doubt would be useful to help identify him, should he try and abscond in future. Additionally the passenger manifest noted that he was Roman Catholic, able to read and write, and strangely that his six year old son was also on board. That was his son Patrick, my 2nd great grandfather. Patrick was murdered in 1905, aged 74 - but that's another story... While some children accompanied their convict mothers to Australia it was less common for them to be sent with their fathers. It was likely done to ease the financial burden on the parent who remained behind or to keep them out of over-crowded orphanages.

The sorry ship of convicts arrived at Port Jackson on the night of 22 August, 1838. I do not know where he and Patrick were sent initially but he was granted his ticket of leave in Bathurst on August 8, 1844. This was cancelled nine months later when he went AWOL from the district. A second ticket of leave was issued a month later. Records show that on the recommendation of the Wellington Bench (NSW), he was allowed to remain in the service of John Gardiner of Macquarie River for 12 months.

The first land Bryan owned was at Micketymulga between Wellington and Dubbo on the Macquarie River. Bryan had sheep and a man called Jardine suggested that they send their wool in together to be sold. The wool firm took the lot and Veech got nothing. The cottage, he erected at Mountain View in the early 1840s, (and still standing in 1966), was a solid building made of locally produced bricks of a rich red hue, and

probably at a later date, cement-rendered. Hard-pressed clay, watered occasionally to keep the dust down, served as a floor, while wooden shutters, which admitted neither light nor air, were fitted to openings in the walls.

Bridget his wife, and three of their children arrived aboard the convict ship Waverley in 1847 to join him. No one seems to know what happened to the other three offspring, although there are family stories some may have gone to Canada where the Veech name pops up on geographical features. Bryan is listed as a voter in the United Pastoral Districts of Wellington and Blight in September 1856. He and his son Patrick were charged with sheep stealing in January 1863 and he died at Orange, Wellington on September 11 that year. One family record states they were sentenced to two years jail but I have no proof of this. In any event he wasn't buried for two weeks! His wife Bridget lived another 28 years and they are both buried in the cemetery of Holy Family RC church at Curra Creek, Wellington, NSW. I am just one of hundreds of Bryan's descendants - most of whom live in Australia.



Fiona McAllister

Upcoming Speakers:

11 October 2017: Bruce Ralston & Julie McDonald

Formerly a genealogical record agent, library manager and archivist, **Bruce Ralston** now works from Waihi on a range of editing and archival projects, and is Editor of The New Zealand Genealogist. He is a former NZSG President (a quarter century ago!) and is chair of the Ted Gilbert Literary Trust, established to assist writing and publishing family history. More recently he has become active in upskilling genealogists to find ways to convert their research and knowledge into narrative or other recorded formats.

This will be a 'hands on' day with Bruce conducting a workshop about 'How to write a family story'. This will consist of a half hour introduction, followed by a one hour practical session and another half hour round off. The focus of this workshop is to show that writing for family history can be achievable and enjoyable.

Julie MacDonald has served on NZSG Councils on at least three occasions over the past years. She is currently a Board member. Julie is passionate about members finding ways to share their research. She is working with Bruce to develop a website that will help genealogists and family historians find achievable, interesting and enjoyable ways to write. www.familyhistorywriters.info

13 November 2017: Jan Brooker

Are you researching or wasting time and money?

DNA Support Group Bay of Plenty

Are you struggling with interpreting your DNA results? If so you're not alone! Consider joining our monthly DNA Support Group. First Monday of the month (except January).

For further details **please contact Betty** on **0274 475 448** or email betty.ra.atkinson@xtra.co.nz

Next Meeting: Monday 4 September from 2.15 - 4.15 pm, \$3.00 door charge.