



PAPAMOA BRANCH

March Newsletter 2018

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 from 10.00 am – 2.00 pm.

The doors open at 9.30 am. Tea and coffee provided - please bring your own lunch.

For Branch meeting apologies please email papgen@gmail.com

Next Meeting: 12 March 2018 – Door Charge \$3.00

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Almoner:

Please notify **Carole Bridge** of unwell or bereaved members



Phone: 578-1144

Email kenrole@gmail.com

Hands-on Help:

Genealogy Friendly Group – Meet Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre on the third Mon of Month from 1.30 to 3.30 pm.
NEXT MEETING: **Monday March 19, 2018**
Contact: Daphne Friis on 07 575 4674

Genealogy Classes and Support:

Learning Centre Tauranga and
Greerton Libraries

Second Friday each month from 10.00 -11.30am.
Ph: 07 577-7177 to book

N.B. **No Branch volunteers** at Library Fri Mar 30 because of Easter – help will resume 27 April

Reminder: 40th Anniversary of the Te Puke Genealogy Branch - 26 April 2018

Contact:

Graham Black at: grabet81@gmail.com

NZSG AGM & Conference (Christchurch)

“Echoes of our past”

Friday 1 June to Monday 4 June 2018

(Queen's Birthday Weekend)



Greetings from the Convenor

February Meeting Review

A BIG thank you to Rowena Sinclair for organising the Research Day we enjoyed at our February meeting. It was a great success so we will plan for more of these to occur during 2018, perhaps as part of our afternoon programme. Thank you to all of you who participated and shared your ideas and research experiences.

Thanks to those committee members who assisted Shirley Youens in taking inventory of our Library holdings. It is amazing to see what a wonderful resource we have in our Books, Maps and CDs etc. Thanks to Shirley and Jacqui Ward who take care of these assets.

Your committee 2018-2019

At the March and April Branch meetings, nomination forms will be available for electing the new committee at the May AGM. Some of the present committee are willing to stay on while others are still making a decision.

A quick perusal of the Branch Membership list reveals that one quarter of the members of our branch (which now numbers just over 100), have served on the committee in the last 10 years, some for several years, others for just one or two years.

Time for some new blood? Serving on committee is a great way to deepen friendships within the Branch.

This is your Branch and its success depends on those who are prepared to support it in any way possible. Please think about offering yourself or approaching someone you would like to see on the incoming committee after the AGM in May. Due to some major new commitments in 2018, I am not available to stand for Convenor or Committee at this election. More detailed information will be sent separately to this newsletter in due course.

Research assistance

There will be no research day at the library in March, as the last Friday falls on Good Friday, 30th March. The next one will be held Friday 27th April.

Neither will there be a DNA Testers Support Group meeting on the first Monday of April as it falls on Easter Monday. The next DNA meeting will be held on Monday 7th May.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Betty Atkinson NZSG 17053

A word from the Editor

Following the death of my beloved mother, I have spent quite a bit of time over the past month sorting her belongings, notifying the necessary entities and essentially dismantling her life, which is as sad as it sounds.

It's reinforced to me how much 'stuff' we accumulate in our lives and while moving house, for most of us generally results in a cull, most of us still have a lot of possessions when we depart this life. Often they have little financial value but a great deal of sentimental value and perhaps it is worth trying to document in some way why certain things have meaning to you and why you have chosen to keep what may seem like unnecessary items to someone else who is unfamiliar with their 'story'.

At the NZSG Conference last year one of the speakers suggested photographing certain items that may be important to your family history but which you may not have the space or inclination to physically store. I am starting to think this is a good idea and you can write a short explanation or story about what the item is, how it is part of your family history and why it is important.

One of the highlights of mum's life was being chosen for a Commonwealth teaching exchange to mark Queen Elizabeth's Coronation in 1953. She exchanged places with a teacher in Dumfries, Scotland for one year, and on arrival in England using foreign exchange, purchased a brand new Zephyr car for her father. She had to drive it for a year so it could be brought back to New Zealand duty free. She and three friends drove it around Europe for a month during their summer holidays (such a hardship!) and she has several albums full of little old black and white images and assorted memorabilia of their happy travels. While in this case I absolutely understand their value to mum, unfortunately, the albums are now rather tatty and I'm considering whether I should try and digitise them and make a photo book to ensure their longevity for future generations.

Speaking about travel, I am excitedly planning a trip to Europe later this year to visit my (biological) Swiss family and explore genealogical connections in Ireland, Scotland and England. I'd like to include a few of your best travel tips in future newsletters. For example, Jacqui Ward advised me that she got a much better deal renting a car in England through Hertz NZ than by dealing with Hertz in England.

Previously I have mentioned my pleasure in listening to podcasts while driving, and on my recent trips to Auckland, I have been enjoying an excellent series of podcasts by Historian Fin Dwyer, on the events surrounding the Irish Famine. For anyone interested in history, particularly Irish history, I can really recommend this series: <http://irishhistorypodcast.ie/podcast-directory/famine/>



Thanks to Kate McEwan, Helen Riddell and Julie MacDonald for their contributions this month. Send your submissions by the 20th of the month. Items will be included depending on available space and at the editor's discretion to ensure a balance of material.

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

Fiona McAllister NZSG 26889

Tips for writing family history

Here are a few ideas from Julie MacDonald who visited us last November

Now the festive season is behind us and the children and grandchildren are back at school we can spend some time each week writing a paragraph or two about one of our favourite ancestors. During the workshop Bruce and I ran, we suggested taking five words and writing a paragraph about a family member for each of those five words. There are an infinite number of words you could use to do this. For example, it could be chronological:



1. **Infancy**
2. **School years**
3. **Workforce**
4. **Marriage**
5. **Old age**

Another example could be five occupations they had or five different places they lived.

You could also go to newspapers like Papers Past, Trove or Gale and look up the newspaper that was printed on the day they were born, died or married and look for an item that grabs your attention.

Something quite significant could have happened on that day, which impacted on the event in your family. This could be a hook to hang your story, for example, 'on the day my grandmother was born, it was a full moon and a king tide washed out the coastal road between her parents' home and the local midwife...' Unless you had read the paper, you would have had no idea this had happened.



It isn't necessary to have 'completed' your research to begin writing up your family history. Research and writing go together - often you will find it is not until you start writing, that you find where the gaps are. Your readers will also want to know how you achieved the results you did; the journey you have been on. If you think about it, you will have some wonderful stories to tell, of the people you have met and the discoveries you have made and the places you have been.

As genealogists, we strive to collect every name date and event we can, but when we write a family history, often less is more. If you are writing a story it is better to keep the dates to a minimum and instead have genealogical charts attached separately.

Julie MacDonald

Family History Writers Network

The Scots Language

While assisting with the Scottish group at our recent branch meeting, I was asked a couple of times how to pronounce certain Scottish words.

On many occasions, I have been asked if the Scots do actually have a language of their own or is it just English and Gaelic that is spoken in Scotland.

While searching through my bookcase recently, I found a newspaper clipping from The Sunday Post: June 26, 2011 and I thought that this might be of interest to those of you who have Scottish Ancestors. The newspaper headline was, "Sensational Scots is still going strong".

After last Monday's meeting and the fact that I had found this newspaper, I was spurred to write this article.

What is Scots?

Scots is the official name of the West Germanic language spoken in modern Scotland. It is recognised as a language in its own right by the Scottish and UK Governments and the European Union. The Scots language is now part of the new Curriculum for Excellence in schools. (Direct quote from the newspaper article by Matthew Fitt, who is a Scots language expert).

Where did it originate?

When Celtic Britain was invaded by Angles and Saxons in the Dark Ages, the seeds of two new languages were imported to the island. Ultimately, the Saxon's Germanic tongue developed into modern English, while Scots descends from the Germanic speech of the Angles.

Scots was the official state language of Scotland for around 400 years during the Middle Ages, but it lost its importance due to major political events in the 17th Century. (Direct quote from the newspaper article by Matthew Fitt who is a Scots language expert)

In this article Matthew is asked about his early experiences with the Scots Language, I am not going to quote these but will tell you about mine.

When I was at school, the Scots language was not allowed to be used in school, and if you were heard using any of the "Mither tongue") you would get the "belt" or "be skelped"

As Matthew says in his article, lots of folk in Scotland were punished for speaking the words that came naturally to them and were the words that were heard in every home, but when you went off to school things changed, because you had to speak the King's English, which was not really your native tongue.

There are many dialects in Scotland, and most Scots folk will tell you that they can tell where a person comes from just by hearing them speak. By this, I mean that folk from Glasgow can even tell the different areas of Glasgow, due to the fact that they all have a wee bit of a different sound to them.

Some people comment on my accent, even those who come from Glasgow and state that I do not sound like a Glaswegian and it is not just because I have been in New Zealand so long.

In our family, my mother came from Glasgow, my father came from Arbroath on the East Coast, and we were not allowed to speak "Glesca" slang and that was even more so when we went to visit our Paternal Grandparents. East Coast Folk have a definite lilt in their voices, they might use Scots words but quite often, there would be an inflection at the end of the word, and example of this would be "pond" in the East Coast it would be "pondie" pronounced more like "pondee".

The Scots language has had a long and sometimes difficult history, but from what I hear from my family, there is a resurgence of all things ‘Scottish’ happening in Scotland and I for one am happy to hear this.

Here is a list of some commonly used words which I use and all of my ‘gran weans’ know exactly the meaning of them.

wean (rhymes with pain)	a wean is a child particularly a young one	this word used mainly in West Central Scotland is a contraction of wee ane
eejit	idiot or fool	this is also used in Ireland
doon	down	
oot	out	
oxter	arm pit	
crabbit	cranky, bad tempered	
glaikit (pronounced glay-kit)	silly, foolish or thoughtless	
dreich (pronounced dreeCH)	dreary or tedious	
bonnie	pretty	
hoose	house	
hame	home	
greetin	crying	
aye	yes or ok	
drookit (pronounced drook-it)	drenched or soaked	
bothy (rhymes with frothy)	a building for unmarried farm workers, like a dormitory	New Zealanders in the South Island use this term for a hut or cabin.
the belt also known as the tawse	used to punish children by striking them on the hand.	
besom (pronounced biz-zum)	a derogatory term for a woman or girl	

I could as you may appreciate, go on and on, with many more words, but if you need more information on this subject, Collins put out a Scots Dictionary that can be purchased from the link below.

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Collins-Gem-Scots-Dictionary-Collins-Dictionaries/9780007538454>

Here is a link to the Glasgow University’s site that may be of interest.

<http://swap.nesc.gla.ac.uk/database/?view=table&search=>

Kate McEwan NZSG 26490



50 Free Genealogy Sites – Part Two

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/>

Thanks Helen Riddell for this very useful web link of free family history resources including Birth, Death and Marriage records, obituaries, cemetery listings, newspaper articles, biographies, research tips and more. It's handy to share with friends and families who are beginners! Most free genealogy sites are available due to the hard work and dedication of volunteers. Remember to thank them!

26. **British Library, India Office:** records on British and European people in India pre 1950
27. **Guild of One-Name Studies:** extensive surname research site
28. **Geneabloggers:** massive directory of genealogy related blogs with a huge amount of free info
29. **NativeWeb Genealogy:** list of Native American genealogy resources and searchable databases
30. **Viximus:** member submitted biographical information
31. **WieWasWie:** for researching ancestors from the Netherlands (in Dutch)
32. **UK National Archives:** official National Archives of the UK
33. **The National Archives of Ireland:** official National Archives of Ireland
34. **GENUKI:** reference library of genealogical resources for the UK and Ireland
35. **German Genealogy Server:** German ancestry research (many sections in German)
36. **Preserve the Pensions:** War of 1812 pension records access
37. **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System:** Civil War records from the National Park Service
38. **LitvakSIG:** Lithuanian-Jewish genealogy databases and resources
39. **Italian Genealogical Group:** Italian American genealogy resources and databases
40. **Internet Archive:** a large amount of information useful to genealogists, but some digging required
41. **Billion Graves:** headstone records
42. **Open Library:** good place to find family history books, search for surnames or locations
43. **GenDisasters:** researching disasters and other events your ancestors might have been involved in
44. **RomanyGenes:** Romanichal ancestry research
45. **Patriot and Grave Index:** revolutionary war graves registry and patriot index from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
46. **Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection:** vast number of archived US newspapers
47. **Seventh-day Adventist Obituary Database:** hundreds of thousands of obituary entries
48. **Släktdata:** genealogy records for Sweden (in Swedish)
49. **Hispanic Genealogy:** wonderful list of resources for researching Hispanic ancestry
50. **Free Genealogy Search Engine:** search hundreds of free genealogy resources at one time on Family History Daily

Upcoming meetings

- **Monday 12 March 2018:**

Betty Atkinson: Morning - Proving Maori Oral History. Please don't be deterred by thinking this topic is not relevant to your research; Betty will demonstrate the methods that can be used to prove any story in family and general research.

From 12.45-1.45 we will continue with World Research groups. **Please bring your own Device** (ie a laptop, I-Pad, tablet, etc) so you can actively participate. A free Wi-Fi login will be made available.

- **Monday 9 April 2018:**

ANZAC Commemoration

Joy Edmonds to speak on the **1939 Register** and **Women in War**. Members are invited to briefly share their women's war stories.

- **Monday 14 May 2018:**

Branch AGM (To nominate and second nominees you must be a paid up NZSG member)

Geraldene O'Reilly – Irish Research

Missing Library Books

The following books are **missing items after our 2018 stocktake**. If you are chatting to someone, it's easy to forget to write the details of a book you wish to borrow **IN THE RED BOOK**. If you think you have borrowed one of these books, please have a good look for it, and return to Shirley Youens at the next meeting, so it can be marked off. This is a timely reminder to PLEASE record details of anything you borrow. Thanks very much for your co-operation and keep using and enjoying books etc from our library. (Only branch members may borrow Library items.)

DNA for Genealogists by Kerry Farmer

Tracing Your English Ancestors by Graham Jaunay

Country Houses of NZ – North Island by A. Reid

Pack of Thieves by Port Arthur Historic Site

It Just Goes to Show [Nursing] by Marie Farquhar Cleland

Early Wellington by Louis E. Ward

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Institute of Technology

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The New Zealand Certificate in Computing (User Fundamentals) (L2) is a free 12 week course that will suit people who are:

- life-long learners looking for a new challenge;
- self-employed and looking for better ways to run their business;
- wanting an introduction to modern ways of computing with a focus on cloud computing;
- considering higher education.

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Tips from the "Genealogy in Time Magazine" newsletter:

Sweden– the Swedish National Archives has announced that their digital archives are now available to be searched for free. Great news for anyone with Swedish ancestors.

There are more than 100 million records currently online at the *Riksarkivet* (the Swedish name of the National archive) with more records being added all the time. The link provides a description of why the change was made and what it means to genealogists, who apparently are the largest user of the archive. [[Swedish National Archive](#)]

Note: If you are just looking for Swedish ancestral records, you no longer have to pay a subscription website to search since Riksarkivet has by far the most complete collection.

Ireland– the Irish Genealogical Research Society has released a series of free instructional videos covering various aspects of researching Irish ancestors. The online videos cover the censuses of Ireland, Church of Ireland Parish records and Roman Catholic Parish records. [[Irish Instructional Genealogy Videos](#)]