



PAPAMOA BRANCH

APRIL 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 - bring your own lunch

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Convenor's Comment	2
A Word from the Editor	3
Who was Great Grandma?	4-5
Useful Research Tips	5
Results using a Researcher	6-7
Computer Assistance	7
DNA Group Information	
Branch Meeting Info	8
Friendly Group Info	
Almoner	
NZSG Elections	
Research tips continued	

NEXT MEETING:

- **MONDAY 9 APRIL 2018**
DOOR CHARGE \$3.00
Anzac Commemoration
Women in War (details on page 8)
Our Guest Speaker is
JOY EDMONDS, THE 1939 REGISTER

- **MONDAY 14 MAY 2018**
Branch AGM
GERALDENE O'REILLY
IRISH RESEARCH

- **MONDAY 11 JUNE 2018**
MICHELLE PATIENT
THE GUILD OF ONE NAME STUDIES

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **THURSDAY 26 APRIL 2018**
40th Anniversary of the
Te Puke Branch

Contact: Graham Black

Email: grabet81@gmail.com

- **FRI JUNE 1- MON JUNE 4**
NZSG AGM & Conference
Christchurch

Theme: Echoes of our Past

[www.genealogy.org.nz/
conference-20182](http://www.genealogy.org.nz/conference-20182)

Featuring speakers from the UK, Australia and NZ covering topics from the 17th to the 21st century

HANDS ON HELP

Volunteers are at the Papamoa library to help with your research

Friday April 27:
10.00am -12.00 noon

(Remember Betty would love to hear from you if you can help)

Annual General Meeting of the Papamoa Branch of the NZ Society of Genealogists

As per the rules of the Society there will be an AGM of the Papamoa Branch at the Papamoa Community Centre in the Tohora Rooms on Monday 14 May 2018 at 10.00am.

This is the official notice of this meeting.

The relevant reports for this meeting will be distributed prior to the meeting to members.

Convenor's Comment

Greetings from the Convenor's Desk!

March Meeting Review

I can't really review this meeting at which I was speaker! However, I hope you all learned more about methods of proving oral history and the various sources I used. I did enjoy sharing my experience of researching the Maori ancestry in my family! *(Betty you did a great job and I'm sure everyone learned something from your tips and advice! Editor)*



Other News

The review of our Library contents continues with work now being done on producing a list of all the CDs which are available for loan. It is still a work in progress so watch out for more about this later.

Your committee 2018-2019

AGM is coming in May. Nomination forms for electing a new Convenor and committee were made available at the March meeting and some nominations have already been received, thank you. Forms will be made available again at the April meeting.

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

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.

Research assistance

Our next research day at the Papamoa Library falls on Friday 27th April between 10.00 am and 12 noon.

If you would like to offer your expertise (many of us find we learn as we help others) please contact me. I would love to add you to the list of helpers.

As well as these library sessions we now aim to set aside time at our monthly meetings (when it fits in with the Speaker of the day) to have research help available after lunch.

April Meeting

I am really looking forward to Joy Edmonds visiting our Branch in April. Joy will speak on the use of the 1939 Register which can be found on the Findmypast website.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Betty Atkinson
NZSG 17053

ADDRESS	SCHEDULE		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES	Q. No.	M. or F.	BIRTH		S. No. or D.
	No.	Sub No.				Day	Year	
181	2		Lancaster Catherine	5	F	20	08 89	19
-do-	182	1	Huxley Harold	4	M	15	08 89	19
-do-	182	2	Huxley Cecily S.	4	F	23	Nov 09	19
-do-	182	3	Huxley Leonard S.	4	M	10	26 39	19
8 -do-	183	1	Hall Edward	4	M	15	June 91	19
-do-	310	2	Hall May Jane	4	F	20	Apr 92	19

Image taken from Findmypast.com.au

A Word From The Editor



Although autumn is quietly making herself felt we have had some gorgeous warm days. Despite this I seem to be spending more time indoors and have been multi-tasking on several projects. I have just done a Publisher software course so thought it was time I got a little more adventurous with the newsletter. It's early days, so I haven't changed too much at this stage, but as always your feedback is welcome.

Many of you know that I am adopted and while my biological father is alive and well and living in Switzerland, (where I will visit him later this year), my 'dad' died almost 20 years ago, aged just 72. It was only a few years ago that I sorted through a stack of his papers and was delighted to find a collection of typed up stories he had written on different aspects of his life. During retirement, he had begun the discipline of trying to write something every day. I wish he was still here so he could write more and I could ask him questions! I also wish I had asked him more about his life while he was alive!

I may share some of his stories in future but I am please to be able to include two pieces this month from branch members. Remember this is YOUR NEWSLETTER so it's wonderful to have your stories as everyone comes from a different angle when they write. Something that may seem quite ordinary is still of interest to later generations. Consider what it is that you really want your family to know about you and your life and about other family members; the 'good' *and the more colourful*. Often young people are not that interested in stories about 'the olden days' - until they grow up and realise how interconnected we are and it is the past that shapes the future. By the time younger family members are old enough to appreciate this, sadly you may be long gone or unable to remember all the details - but if you write down the family stories, and in particular *your* stories, you leave an invaluable legacy.

Writing about your own experiences, observations or opinions is interesting for others to read, especially down the track, and I guess this ties in nicely with the new writing group, "Writing for future generations" which began on March 28, with a small but enthusiastic group. If you would like to join us please phone Anne Briggs for more details: 07 975 1888 or 021 0243 2073.

"Something that may seem quite ordinary is still of interest to later generations."

Thank you Jenny Joyce for your story about your Great Grandmother and Elinor Rawlings for discussing the benefits she gained from using researchers to help her flesh out her family's stories. The helpful tips to foster your own research come courtesy of Daphne Friis and Helen Riddell.

Remember if you have any great travel tips, or just general genealogy tips that others may benefit from, please share them. My personal travel tip is to scan or photograph the inside page of my passport, cash cards (including cash passport) and email them to myself **and someone else staying home**. This is very easy now with a smart phone. I also email my e-tickets, itinerary and travel insurance documents so there is a handy digital record if the worst should happen. I have also found keeping a packing list for different trips on an excel spread sheet handy as a prompt when packing.

Fiona McAllister: NZSG 26889

Email: fiona@betterwords.co.nz Ph: 021 855 603

Who Was Great Grandma?

Who is this grumpy faced woman on a photograph from 1894? Does this photograph really illustrate the woman who I was to learn was my great grandmother, Margaret Rorison? It was this photograph, and a name, that inspired me to learn more about my Rorison family.

Although unable to find the exact date of Margaret's birth it is believed to be c.1855 in the overcrowded area of Anderston, Glasgow, the second child of Thomas Leishman Rorison and Margaret McKillop. Margaret's life has been well documented starting with her immigration to New Zealand with her mother and younger brother Gilbert in 1874 on board the *Varuna*. The family story says that the rest of the family were to follow the following year but it is not known why her father and other brothers never came to New Zealand.



Hall Family—Matura, 1894

Margaret married Alexander Hall who was also on board the *Varuna* and it was here the family tradition of altering names or ages to suit the occasion began, with both Margaret and Alexander giving incorrect ages on their marriage certificate. Margaret's mother and brother lived with the newlyweds, as Alexander's building work took him south, to the Gore area. Margaret's first child, of what would be nine, was born in October 1875.

In 1893 Margaret and her mother were both a small part of history. Margaret signed the Women's Suffrage Petition as M. Hall, Matura and both Margaret and her mother enrolled to vote in the 1893 election. Throughout the rest of her life Margaret was always enrolled to vote and the family's moves from Matura to Wellington, Taranaki, Levin and back to Wellington can be traced.

Many of Margaret's grandchildren recall Alexander as having a very loud bark but it was really Margaret who was in charge and perhaps she needed to be. The family story said that while they were living in Matura, Gilbert was given the money to pay the mortgage, but instead spent the money on drink. He then moved north to the King Country and it is said that Margaret never talked about or of him again. In 1896, Margaret kept a fruit and confectionery shop in Matura, when a large fire destroyed several shops including Margaret's premises. Shortly after the fire the family moved to Wellington. In 1902 Alexander signed over all the property to Margaret and soon after was made bankrupt. The house at Seatoun Heights remained the family home but Margaret also owned a small farm at Omata, Taranaki and fifteen acres at Beach Road, Weraroa.

The grandchildren all said that their grandparents were very proper, with manners, good speech and learning all very important. They were also very religious and the female members of the family belonged to the Church of Christ. When their daughter Catherine died of consumption in 1904, the Church wrote an obituary for her in which she was reported to have said, if her dying would only bring her brothers to Christ she would not complain. It was probably what Margaret wished as well but there is no evidence to show that her brothers heeded her wish. On one of my many visits to her granddaughter Jean Willyams, it was casually mentioned that Margaret helped to build a church when they lived in Levin and by the way, there was a booklet about the church. I tracked the booklet to the

Society library and yes, the family played a big part in the building of the church in 1919. Margaret and Mr Hay offered interest free loans to pay for the 600 pound construction cost. Alexander and his sons helped with the building work and the ladies, probably including Margaret and her daughters, helped with the laying of the floor.

Jean also gave me a box of family photos, and I soon discovered Margaret was the subject of many of them, often surrounded by her grandchildren. Many of the grandchildren recalled spending time at the Seatoun house which was often bulging at the seams with children. A softer side of Margaret emerged with her close-knit family being very important. Amongst the photos there was a receipt from the Ford Motor Company and, despite not being able to drive, Margaret brought a car in the 1920s and was driven around by her younger daughter Alexandra.

We do not hear about the woman of our past. However, I've found a progressive woman whose actions, along with those of many others, helped enable all women to now vote. She was a business woman before women were supposed to be business owners. I only wish I also had the photograph of her in the 1920s brand-new car.!

Margaret died in Wellington in 1942.

Jenny Joyce

NZSG No. 8343

Useful Research Tips

- ◆ www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk - great site to search and purchase documentation. Good value for money as you don't have to subscribe - just pay as you go
- ◆ <https://www.familysearch.org/> - NZ probate/wills - if not available to view online at Archways NZ they should be here
 - Also 1888-1938 Coroners' reports
 - You must Register and 'log in' each time now but it is FREE
- ◆ To get details of more recent BMDs for NZ go to our fiche in Papamoa Library. Ring the Dept. of Internal Affairs NZ to order your printouts - quote the folio number from the fiche but make sure you tell them you got them from the fiche.
- ◆ "Genealogy New Zealand And Beyond" & "Genealogy New Zealand Super Sleuths" - Search these two in Facebook for great help to problem solving.
- ◆ When 'Googling' for something with specific times, put two dots in between, eg 1920..1930
- ◆ Findmypast - has NZ BMDs on it and can be searched with wild cards as you can't on the NZ Historical BMD site. FMP is a pay per view site.
- ◆ <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/> FREE site - not complete. To order certificates for UK go to GRO (Government Register Office)
- ◆ Blackett's Pharmacy, Te Puke does great photo restoration and is reasonably priced
- ◆ Archways NZ - for WW2 records. If not there, everyone is allowed one free request for records per year from the Department of Defence, Trentham

Results from using a Researcher

Sometimes using a paid researcher can be very helpful in furthering your family's story. When I started researching my family history it was a steep learning curve. I had little knowledge of what made 'good' research and how to carry out 'good' research; time is a good teacher. I have used a researcher on three separate occasions.

The first time was to find out about Catherine, who was my mother's great aunt by marriage. No one would talk of her or that branch of the family. Why was she a "*we do not discuss this*"? I engaged a researcher, providing her with the information I had, and asked her to help me with this tiny part of my mother's family.

In a short space of time she sent me back a report with the newspaper reports and court records but was very apologetic to be unable to provide me with the record of her imprisonment. The event took place when a new prison was completed, and men and women were provided with their own prison. The prison records had been destroyed for the time frame due to the move.

Wow! My mother and her brother had both passed on but I was able to provide their sister with the true story of what had happened to Catherine Gibson. My aunt's comment was, "Is that all the fuss was about?"

From there it was easy to piece together the family going to the USA and understanding why. Had I known the 'how to', I may have managed to get this information but my aunt wouldn't know the true story.

The second time I used a researcher was to find out about my great grandmother's divorce. My grandmother told me the last time she saw her father was on a railway platform, where her mother had one hand on her and the other on one of her hair plaits. Her father held her other hand and plait and they were shouting at one another, "She's coming with me!" (*Elinor promises to tell us the rest of this intriguing story another time!*) Editor

I emailed the National Library in Edinburgh and asked if one of the researchers could look for any newspaper items, again giving all the information I had. Scotland's newspapers are not as well digitised as those of New Zealand. The researchers are all volunteers and unfortunately the gentleman who tried to help me was unable to find anything. When my husband and I were in Edinburgh we went to the library, to try and find what we had on good authority had been reported in the newspaper. Alas, our time and knowledge was not sufficient to find what we were looking for.

Thinking that was that, imagine our glee when the original researcher made contact and sent me the newspaper clippings that told of my great grandmother's divorce. It gave a very clear picture of Barbara Jane Johnstone, and combined with all the other bits of information I had, it was clear that she was quite a lady!

The third and last time was a recent occurrence. I knew my paternal grandfather had been to Gallipoli, as had two of his mates from the same village; they all returned. My uncle told me that not only had he been to Gallipoli, he also went to Egypt and then to France. I tried to find out about him through Forces



War Records, via my daughter and her military connections in the UK, all to no avail. I knew the regiment, Royal Scots Fusiliers – but what to do next? I wrote to the Forces War Records web site and asked if someone would be able to research for me, as both he and his story were proving elusive. There were a huge number of men named William Kerr in WW1. That's the trouble when your ancestor's name isn't unusual! I sent a photo

but that was no help. I had been told the man in uniform in the picture, was my grandfather, but he was wearing the cap of the KOSB. Wrong regiment. I had another photograph, this time with his two friends. Bingo, the researcher found him by using various angles. His records don't exist as they are amongst those that have been destroyed. So now I have a picture of where he was, what he was doing, and a bit of background on his two pals. The Royal Scots Fusiliers became the Machine Gun Corps. To help paint the picture, the researcher sent me all the war diaries for the regiment from 1914 - 1918

As so often happens out of one answer comes a question? Who is the man in the first photo? If it is my grandfather—why he is pictured wearing the KOSB glengarry? I doubt I'll ever find out. My grandfather died at age 39, so I never had the pleasure of meeting him. His wife never remarried and lived till she was 101 years old.

Elinor Rawlings

NZGS 9320

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Computer Assistance

Relaxed, friendly and supportive learning
@ the Library

iPad ◊ Tablet ◊ Phone ◊ Computer

\$10 per 30 min session

To Book Phone: 577 7177

DNA Support Group Bay of Plenty

Are you struggling with interpreting your DNA results? If so, you are not alone. Consider joining our support group that meets on the first Monday of the month.

Next Meeting: 7 May 2018 from 2.15 – 4.15pm, \$3.00 door charge

Please note there is no April meeting as April 2 falls on Easter Monday

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

April 9 2018: Branch meeting

ANZAC COMMEMORATION

WOMEN IN WAR

Members are welcome to share a brief story about their women during wartime



OUR APRIL 9 SPEAKER:

JOY EDMONDS, THE 1939 REGISTER:

A snapshot of Britain
on the eve of war
(or the modern day Domesday book)

Joy says, "It was the love of stories told to me by my grandparents which started me looking into my family tree many years ago. For the last eleven years I have been involved in either helping with or taking the genealogy classes at the Tauranga Library and all of their lock-ins which are great fun."



ALMONER:

Please notify Carole Bridge of any bereaved or unwell members

Phone: 07 578 1144

Email:

kenrole@gmail.com



GENEALOGY FRIENDLY GROUP

Meet in Mako Room at the Papamoa Community Centre on the third Monday of the month 1.30 - 3.30pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday April 16

Contact: Daphne Friis

Phone: 07 575 4674



TIME TO VOTE

Have you cast your vote in the NZSG 2018 Election of Board of Directors? Voting papers and info are in your copy of The New Zealand Genealogist.

Voting papers due in by 4 April 2018

(Continued from page 5)

Genealogy Tips

- ◆ Write to areas you are researching in overseas and subscribe to get their local magazines/help/information
- ◆ <https://diggingforancestors.wordpress.com/2014/06/16/free-genealogy-forms-charts/>
Useful genealogy charts online
- ◆ <https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/understanding-dna-results/>
An interesting article for DNA beginners focusing on ethnicity