



## Coming up at Porirua Branch

Our COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Status has moved to Level 1. It is nice to return to "normal".

### Level 1 means we still need to follow some protocols:

- Please use the QR code to log in on your phone at the entrance, and
- Please use the hand sanitiser as you enter.

### Wednesday, 10 February 2021

#### Jonathan Newport, ArchivesNZ

New Zealand Land Records

Archives New Zealand holds a huge collection of historic land records. Finding specific records can sometimes be daunting due to the variety of records types and systems held.

In tonight's talk we'll outline some of the primary record types and the systems to give an overview of the type of records held by Archives NZ and give some tips and support for finding information.

## Convenor's Comments



Hello and welcome to a better year we hope!

I spent a bit of time over the summer break investigating some of my DNA connections. My test was with Family Tree DNA and my brother was tested with Ancestry. So far we've connected with a relation in Virginia USA and two in the UK.

In fact I had an hour long FaceTime conversation with one of them, we arranged to do it again but so far no word from her, which leads me to wonder what is the point of making a connection with someone you share DNA with but nothing else. It can help with pushing the family line back a generation or two but on the whole I'm just more interested in the ethnicity make up.

We've got a varied and interesting programme lined up for this year, thanks to Richard and our committee for their input. We've got our fingers and toes crossed that the dreaded C word does not raise its unwelcome head and we can continue to meet monthly in the Helen Smith Community Room.

On that note I should tell you that the powers that be at PCC have started to bill us for our use of the Community Room so the committee will be pursuing some avenues for grant applications to cover the shortfall. It may mean a small increase in subs to be discussed at the AGM and it may also mean a small increase in the door charge for visitors.

Meantime see you all on February 10<sup>th</sup> when Jonathan Newport from Archives NZ will be our guest speaker.

Pat Liddell

Convenor

**Wednesday, 10 March**

**Barbara Mulligan** (Karori Cemetery) and **Priscilla Williams** (Bolton St Cemetery) together.

Our presenters Barbara Mullins and Priscilla Williams will share their knowledge of how genealogists can access and use the records from the Karori and Bolton St cemeteries.

Also the right way to clean and preserve headstones and burial monuments - and what to avoid doing.

**Wednesday, 14 April**

**Jock Philips: Is my history our history? The wider significance of family history**

Well known historian, author and encyclopaedist was scheduled to give this presentation to the 2020 AGM of NZSG. The limitations imposed by Covid 19 prevented that from happening and the Porirua Branch is honoured and delighted to have Dr Phillips make that presentation to our April branch meeting.

**Introducing our Committee 2020-21**

**So you know the faces to put to the names**



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## Other Branches

### NZSG Kapiti

**Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community Centre, 15a Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu 5032**

**Fourth Tuesday of each month, January to November, 7pm to 9pm**

Free to members,

Visitors are welcome, \$3 door charge.

Tuesday, 23 February 2021

Speaker: Irena Lowe

Topic: Polish Immigration to New Zealand.

Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Speaker: Lorna Henderson

Topic: Online Family Trees

Tuesday, 27 April 2021

Speaker: Peter Cooke, Defence of NZ Study Group

Author of "Roll of New Zealand's Second World War Dead" - a listing and analysis of those who died during NZ's war effort 1939-48.

**Baptist Church Cafe - 286 Te Moana Road, Waikanae 5036**

**Monthly daytime meeting** of Kapiti Genealogy, (usually) 4th Wed of each month, January to November, 1.30pm for 2pm start.

Free to members, non-members \$3 door charge.

### Technology



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## GET THE DNA KNOW-HOW YOU NEED FOR YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

**Join DNA Detective Michelle Leonard on this online course and get the knowledge and skills you need to make the most of your DNA results**

**To find out more and to enrol**

<http://email.family-tree.co.uk/>

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## 23rd Psalm for Genealogists

Genealogy is my Past time  
 I shall not stray  
 It maketh me to lie down  
 And examine half-buried tombstones  
 It leadeth me into still courthouses  
 It restoreth my Ancestral Knowledge  
 It leadeth me into the Paths of Census Records  
 And ships Passenger lists for my names sake  
 Yes, though I wade through the Shadows of Research Libraries  
 and Microfilm Readers  
 I shall fear no Discouragement  
 For a Strong urge is with me  
 The curiosity and Motivation  
 They comfort me  
 It demandeth preparation of Storage Space  
 For the Acquisition of Countless Documents  
 It annointeth my Head with burning Midnight Oil  
 My family Group sheet runneth over  
 Surely birth, marriage and death dates  
 Shall follow me all the Days of my Life  
 And I shall dwell in the House of a  
 Family History Seeker Forever.

Twisted Twigs  
of genealogy

**NZSG Kilbirnie**

**Matairangi Room, ASB Sports Centre, 72 Kemp Street, Kilbirnie**

First Thursday of each month,  
Research from 9am,

Meeting 10am to 11:30am

Visitors are welcome.

4 February 2021

Speaker: Joan McCracken,  
National Library

Topic: Resources from the  
Alexander Turnbull Library

**NZSG Wellington**

**Loaves and Fishes Hall, 2 Hill Street, Thorndon, Wellington**

Fourth Wednesday of each month,  
7:30pm

24 February 2021

Speaker: Kaye Batchelor

Topic: "William John Frost: His felon father, his rich brother and the legacy..."

24 March 2021

Speakers: Barbara Mulligan and  
Priscilla Williams

Topic: Using Karori and Bolton  
Street Cemeteries as a records  
source for genealogists.

**NZSG Hutt Valley Petone  
Public Library meeting  
room, 7-11 Britannia Street,  
Petone**

**Second Thursday of each month,  
7:30pm**

Visitors are welcome.

Non-members \$4 door charge.

*Further programme information  
unavailable at time of writing.*

## **PRONI uploads digitised NI tithe books and school grant aid records**

*with thanks to Jenny Martin, LNI Irish Interest Group*

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland ([www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)) has initiated a major evolution with its online catalogue, with the release of two important digitised record collections for the six northern counties now constituted as Northern Ireland (Antrim, Down, Armagh, Fermanagh, Tyrone, Londonderry). The collections are the **Northern Ireland Tithe Applotment Books 1823-1837** (FIN/5/A), and the **National Education Commissioners Grant Aid Applications** (ED/1).

### **Tithe Applotment Books**

The Tithe Applotment books can now be downloaded for each parish.

i) From the home page at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>, click on **eCatalogue**.

ii) Click on **Search PRONI's eCatalogue**

iii) Scroll down and click on the green **Search the eCatalogue** button.

iv) On the top right of the catalogue search screen, click **Browse**.

v) Type in **FIN/5/A** and click on **Search**.

vi) On the results page, which states the following, go to the second option

vii) If you click on the word **More** in the Title/Description column, you will get a short summary describing what the tithe records are.

viii) If you instead click on the blue PRONI reference **FIN/5/A** link in the first column, you will now be taken to a more detailed listing for each parish in alphabetical order. ix) The **View** link at the end column allows you to download a hefty PDF file for the relevant parish. When you click on it you will first be asked to agree to a copyright statement: Then you will be asked if you wish to save the relevant PDF file or to open it.

COMMENT: Some of the files are quite large, but the quality of the digitisation is superb. Note that the records **cannot be keyword searched** - you'll have to go into them the good old fashioned way

**Tithe records for the Republic of Ireland** are already freely available at <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie>.

The Tithe Applotment Books are a vital source for genealogical research for the pre-Famine period, given the loss of the 1821-51 Census records. They were compiled between 1823 and 1837 in order to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland (the main Protestant church and the church established by the State until its dis-establishment in 1871).

**NZSG Wairarapa**

**Research Centre, 79 Queen Street, Masterton**

Meetings on Third Sunday of each month, 1.30pm.

Open for research on

Tuesday and Thursday 1pm - 4pm, and Saturday 10am - 4pm.

*Further programme information unavailable at time of writing.*

**NZSG Scottish Interest Group – Greater Wellington**

Tawa Union Church Hall (Redwood Club), 83 Redwood Avenue, Tawa, 1:30pm

13 February 2021

Speaker: John McLean

Topic: The voyages of the pioneers to NZ from Scotland, other parts of Britain, and Nova Scotia

There is a manuscript book for almost every civil (Church of Ireland) parish in the country giving the names of occupiers of each townland, the amount of land held and the sums to be paid in tithes. Because the tithes were levied on agricultural land, urban areas are not included. Unfortunately, the books provide only the names of heads of family, not other family members.

The books have been digitally imaged, and a database giving surname, forename, county, parish and townland created. All of these fields can be searched, and there is also a browse facility, which allows users to survey entire parishes and townlands.

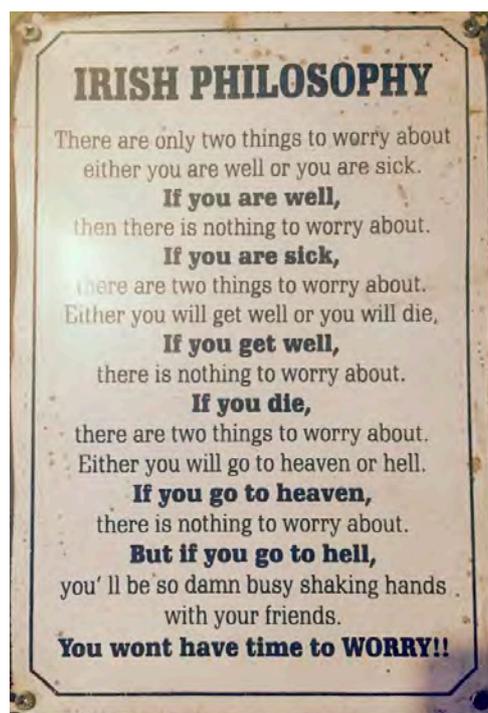
The population of Ireland was recorded in 1841 as 8.2 million. It would have been somewhat less than this during the 1820s and 1830s, when the Tithe Applotment Books were compiled.

**National Education Commissioners Grant Aid Applications**

The search technique for these is similar to the above, with the results portrayed in county order over a series of files covering different periods from 1832-1899. For example, County Antrim is presented across ED/1/1 to ED/1/10, each of which subdivides further to individual schools - the ED/1/1 link, for example, leads to individual PDFs for 163 separate school applications (ED/1/1/1A to ED/1/1/164). Note that the applications are for **named schools**, so don't be going in looking for parish names in these.

Again, the presentation is superb, and the files with these are considerably smaller, so will open much quicker.

*[with thanks to Chris Paton and to The National Archives of Ireland]*



## Coming Up Elsewhere

**National Library, Corner Molesworth and Aitken Streets, Wellington**

Location: **Taiwhanga Kauhau – Auditorium**, National Library Wellington. Entrance on Aitken Street.

“Miharo Wonder: 100 Years of the Alexander Turnbull Library”

Friday, 26 February 2021,

12:10pm to 1pm

A talk with pictures by Ian Wedde – imagine a national library in a time of plague. Will it incorporate a global vision? How will it moderate ‘relevance’? How will it incorporate the archival and non-moderated domains of social media? What kinds of censorship may emerge? Could global crisis stimulate an expanded concept of relevance both contemporary and historical?

## Personal Names and the Development of English

### A short history of English personal names

It is one of many linguistic consequences of the Norman Conquest that only a few of the original, native English personal names are familiar to us nowadays. In late Anglo-Saxon England, names of Germanic origin like Old English *Godwine*, *Wulfsige*, *Dodda* (all male), *Cwēnhild* and *Godgifu* (both female) were commonplace. In eastern and northern England, where Vikings had settled from the late-ninth century onwards, the name stock also included Old Scandinavian names such as *IOorgeirr*, *Tyki* (both male), and *Gunnhildr* (female). By about 1250 almost all of this extensive name-stock had been abandoned by the English in favour of continental names used by their Norman rulers. In most cases, our modern contact with the old native names is solely through hereditary surnames coined no later than the mid-thirteenth century, thus *Goodwin*, *Wolsey*, *Dodd*, *Quennell*, *Goodeve*, *Thurgar*, *Tookey*, and *Gunnell*. After 1250 only a handful of such names remained in general use, in particular *Ēadweard*, *Ēadmund*, *Cūðbeorht* (which was popular in northern England), and *Ēadgýð*, which we know in their Middle English forms *Edward*, *Edmund*, *Cuthbert*, and *Edith*.

The Norman name-stock largely consisted of continental Germanic names with a French pronunciation (such as *William*, *Robert*, *Richard*, *Hugh*, *Maud*, and *Alice*) and names from the Bible or from saints’ legends (like *Adam*, *John*, *Thomas*, *Beatrice*, *Cecily*, and *Margaret*). From the mid-thirteenth to the mid-eighteenth centuries, *John*, *Thomas*, *Robert*, *Richard*, and *William* named between them over 70 per cent of the male population. Clearly, people were christened from a much smaller and more stable name-stock than we are familiar with today. In late fourteenth-century England there were probably fewer than a thousand names in use. The top male name *John* was borne by about 35 per cent of men, and the top female name *Alice* by about 17 per cent of women. By contrast in 2009, according to the Office of National Statistics, 60,900 different names were registered as names of babies in England and Wales, and the top boy’s name *Oliver* and the top girl’s name *Olivia* together accounted for less than two per cent of the 706,248 babies born in that year. The one major disturbance to the stock of English personal names during the period 1250-1750 arose from the sixteenth-century reformation of the Church, whose Puritan activists preferred to choose names from the Old Testament (for example, *Abraham*, *Isaac*, *Samuel*, *Abigail*), or to coin new names, especially for girls, based on Christian virtues (*Charity*, *Grace*, *Prudence*, *Temperance*).

The relative stability of this name-stock and the extreme

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popularity of a few names over such a long period of time were underpinned by the role of baptismal names in expressing family relationships. Most boys were named after their father, grandfather, uncle, or godfather, and many girls were similarly named after their (grand)mother, aunt, or godmother. From the late-eighteenth century through to the twentieth, this tradition has steadily weakened, as a combination of Enlightenment values, industrialisation, and Romantic individualism has encouraged parents to draw on names from outside the immediate family.

Anglo-Saxon names such as *Alfred*, *Edgar*, and *Audrey* (in their Middle English forms), and Norman names like *Raymond*, *Reginald*, *Walter*, and *Maud* have been revived, while others have been borrowed from abroad or from the Celtic name-stocks of the United Kingdom, usually in anglicised forms. We have *Albert* from Germany, in admiration of Queen Victoria's consort; *Derek* from the Low Countries; *Valerie* from France; *Gwen* and *Owen* from Wales; *Donald*, *Fiona*, *Ian*, *Kenneth*, and *Malcolm* from Scotland; *Kevin*, *Maureen*, and *Sheila* from Ireland. Many new names have been coined for girls from words connoting perceived feminine attributes, e.g. plant names like *Daisy*, *Heather*, *Lily*, and *Violet*, and names from precious stones like *Beryl*, *Jade*, and *Ruby*.

In the nineteenth century the desire to name a child after a member of the family or a godparent was increasingly satisfied by using a middle name, which could be a personal name or a surname (of the mother's father, perhaps, or the godfather). Surnames consequently appear as first names, too, some of which have entered the general name-stock: *Bruce*, *Douglas*, *Graham*, *Keith*, *Leslie*, and *Stuart* are Scottish in origin, *Trevor* is Welsh, and *Rodney*, *Stanley*, and *Shirley* (popularised by Charlotte Brontë's use of it in her novel of 1849) are English. In the twentieth century, British personal names have been more and more influenced by American taste, such as the liking for girls' names derived from place-names (*Beverley*, *Chelsea*, *Iona*) or from compounds and blends (*Joleen*, *Leighanne*, *Marilyn*), which may be spelled in a variety of idiosyncratic ways.

The current English name-stock is larger and more varied than at any time in its history, and it is changing with an ever greater speed, with even the most popular names moving in and out of fashion within less than a decade. New names are freely created, though few of them become commonly used unless coined or adopted by influential celebrities. It is also harder than it used to be to identify what is meant by 'English'. The devolved and multi-cultural Britain of the twenty-first century has many name-stocks rather than a single English one.

[From <https://public.oed.com/blog/personal-names-and-the-development-of-english/#>]