

Riccarton  
Branch

New Zealand Society of Genealogists

# NEWSLETTER



August 2019  
Vol. 34 No. 7

## NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Wednesday 14 August 2019

This month we are following up on last month's topic of

### DNA

3 committee members (Kathy Hill, Judith Pay & Alan Tunnicliffe) will speak in more detail about their experiences with several different DNA websites

The September meeting will be members night. The topic is Heirlooms.

### MEMBERS SURNAME INTERESTS

Welcome to new member Rebecca Warren of Greenpark. Rebecca's surname interests are:

ASHBY	Derbyshire
RHODES	Derbyshire
BONNER	Poplar, London
THOMAS	Poplar, London

To register your surname interests please contact Peter Hentschel at [peter.hentschel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peter.hentschel@xtra.co.nz)

**Meetings:** 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of each month (Feb to Nov) at the Upper Riccarton Library, 71 Main South Road. Visitors are welcome.

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## **FROM THE CONVENOR'S DESK**

Did you know that August is Family History month in New Zealand and Australia?

There are a variety of events around the two countries to promote and celebrate our fascinating pastime. Depending on where you are during the month, do take the time to learn something new or hear interesting stories of our ancestors. I found an excellent reference guide on the National Library of New Zealand's website regarding some great resources that would be of interest.

Visit <https://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/guides/family-history>

Our meeting this month will be a follow up to Bruce's presentation on DNA from July - I hope you all enjoyed it. With the cold snap approaching as I type this please, keep you and your whanau safe and warm. Spring is only a month away and that means only four meetings between now and Christmas left for this year.

**With that in mind, please start thinking of a Family Heirloom that you would be able to speak to at our members night meeting on 11 September and start sending them through to me now at: [lancerkenyon@gmail.com](mailto:lancerkenyon@gmail.com)**

Good hunting on your genealogical search and I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

Lance

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## **REPORT OF JULY MEETING**

There was a large attendance to hear Bruce Holm give a Powerpoint presentation about DNA, using his own test with Family Tree DNA of USA. A good proportion of those present had already had a DNA test. Bruce recommended uploading your raw data to other website, such as Gedmatch. Most companies only test for autosomal DNA (which includes both your paternal and maternal ancestors). Family Tree DNA also offers Y DNA tests.

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## **WILLS & PROBATES**

Excellent news has just come through that for the next 12 months from 22 July the cost of obtaining copies of probate document files (including wills) for England & Wales has been reduced by a whopping 85% from £10 to only £1.50.

Probate calendars for much of the period from 1858 can be found on Ancestry but the most up-to-date index is only at the site where copies are ordered from: [probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills](http://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills)

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## **MACDONALD DICTIONARY OF CANTERBURY BIOGRAPHY**

Members with families in Canterbury will probably be aware of the more than 12,000 index cards that were compiled by the late George Ranald Macdonald (1891-1967) and given to Canterbury Museum in 1964. This work took him 12 years from 1952 to complete. These were kept in drawers in the museum's library where I remember consulting them 50 years ago. With the closure of the museum's library and archives for nearly 10 years, following the Canterbury earthquakes, these cards have been scanned and are available to view at: <https://collection.canterburymuseum.com/highlights/17/objects?limit=25>

However, only the heads of each household (nearly always men) appear on the index. This situation is going to be remedied by the indexing of the other names (e.g. family members or business associates) that appear on the cards. In order to complete this project Canterbury Museum is asking for volunteers to tag and transcribe all of these other names. This project is being carried out via the crowdsourcing platform Zooniverse: [www.zooniverse.org/projects/christopherthomson/macdoanld-dictionary](http://www.zooniverse.org/projects/christopherthomson/macdoanld-dictionary) Anyone can volunteer by just signing up to a free account at Zooniverse.

## LIBRARY NEWS

Books currently out on loan

### **February 2018:**

The Press: first with the news

### **March 2019:**

UK4 Basic Sources for Family History

### **Issued in July**

NZ124 Rushing for Gold

NZ47 Riccarton the Founding Borough

RES24 Guide to Genetic Testing

NZ127 Skippers

It is rewarding to see books recycling promptly through the membership: Three books that were returned in July were re-issued immediately.

Please make the most of our resources – there are some very useful books in the cupboard that will offer you some very good reading and background knowledge.

The CDs we were missing have all been found, and are all available for borrowing.

I checked the NZSG website for the “Inwards List of Passengers from Victoria to NZ”. It does not exist, so you will have to find those elusive arrivals some other way.

We have had a request for “Too Beautiful for Thieves and Pickpockets” by Cal McCarthy and Barra O’Donnabhain, published in 2016 by the Cork Library, which seems to be available only from the Cork Library. So ..... if anyone is venturing to Ireland in the near future, and could spare the time and the \$24 approx to buy a copy or us, we would be very grateful.

I have seen school history booklets for sale on TradeMe and was wondering if we should buy some – especially if they feature local schools. Please let me know what you think.

Cheers

Kathy Hill

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## FINDMYPAST UPDATE

Recent additions to this website include:

- Essex Baptisms 1538-1920 (transcripts only)
- Essex Burials 1530-1994 (transcripts only)
- Essex Marriages & Banns 1537-1935 (transcripts only)

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## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? ON TV

The latest TV season of this popular long-running series has just begun on British television. Two of the people whose family-trees are being researched this year are famous film stars: Kate Winslet (star of *Titanic*) and Daniel Radcliffe (star of *Harry Potter*).

A former subject in this series who is in the world news at present is the new Prime Minister of UK, Boris Johnson. During his episode some years ago we learnt that his father’s ancestry is Turkish (so Johnson is not his *real* name) and that on his mother’s side he is descended from several European minor royal families. By the way, Boris is an ancient Tartar name popular in Russia and now also used in UK and Germany, etc.

## WORLD WAR TWO ANNIVERSARY: PART 6

by Alan Tunncliffe

I am urgently in need of WWII stories from members. I am sure that most of you will have one or more family members who took part in this war.

My paternal grandmother's nephew Leslie Vivian JONES, who was born in Invercargill one hundred years ago, on 7 June 1919, was the 6th of 10 children in the family of Albert William Jones and Jane Mary Ann CREAMER. At the time of enlisting for service in the NZ Army on 21 August 1940, aged 21, he was a single man living with his parents at 94 Mary Street, Invercargill. He was unemployed at that time but had been working as a labourer. Prior to enlisting he had a medical examination at Kew Hospital on 27 June which revealed he was not tall (5 ft 3½ in) and weighed 8 st 12lb. His hair was light brown and his eyes were blue and he was a Presbyterian. He stated that he had pains in the stomach in 1937 and his doctor was Dr Jennings.

He entered camp at Papakura on 3 October 1940 as Gunner No.29183 in the NZ Artillery. He spent the night of 21 October in the camp hospital. On 3 November he was absent without leave from 8am until 10 pm and as a result he was fined 5/-.

He embarked at Wellington on 19 December 1940 as part of the 4th Reinforcements and arrived in Egypt on 28 January 1941. He was posted to the 6th Field Regiment on 1 March 1941. He served in the Middle East theatre of war in the Western Desert without incident right through until he was killed in action on 27 June 1942, just 20 days after his 23rd birthday.



He is buried in the El Alamein war cemetery in Egypt in grave XXX.A.18. He was entitled to 4 war medals: the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, 1939-45 War Medal and the NZ War Service Medal. They were not issued to his mother until March 1950, nearly 8 years after his death.

On 18 January 1946 his mother applied for a war service gratuity because of her son being killed while on active service, he having made his will in which he left everything to her. She stated that Leslie has contributed about £2 per week towards the household expenses and that her husband, who was 60 in February, suffered badly from bronchitis and was about to give up working. She was awarded £200. In December 1947 she had applied for the New Zealand Memorial Cross, which was despatched on 7 April 1948.