

NEWSLETTER-ROTORUA GENEALOGY BRANCH OF NZSG

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February –April 2019



CONVENORS REPORT

Welcome back everybody to the New Year. 2019 is upon us. I trust all our members had a good holiday and caught up with family and friends.

I noticed at the end of last year that the February theme for The NZ Society's magazine is "death". We all know that famous quote of Benjamin Franklin (1706 – 1790): "In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes".

Recently your committee had the opportunity to look over material that the Public Library intended to throw out. I found a little treasure from December 1978 – a list of all the burials and inscriptions for the Charleston Public and Catholic Cemetery near Hokitika. When I visited Charleston several years ago, the cemetery (of this once busy town) was overgrown with vegetation. Some of the entries make interesting reading and reflect the precariousness of life in earlier times.

David Guthrie (31)	1874	Landslide injuries
Robert McKerrow	1873	Fall of earth
William Ruzs	1873	Accidentally drowned
Matthew Laurenson	1900	Accidentally drowned (46)
William & George Fox	1893	Drowned
Margaret Higgins	1888	Accidentally drowned
Patrick O'Brien	1888	Landslide
James Collins	1908	Drowned on wreck of Penguin

Recently I purchased a copy of the book *Van Diemen's Women; a History of transportation to Tasmania* by Joan Kevanagh and Dianne Snowden. My Great Great Grandfather Pierce Grace was transported to Tasmania as a convict under a 15 year sentence in 1843 for stealing sheep in Ireland – from an English land lord! The family eventually settled at Glazier's Bay. However, colonial life was fragile.

Tragedy struck in 1879. The Graces, were an industrious young couple, and on this particular Saturday Mr. Grace was working in the bush. Mrs. Grace left their hut about 4 o'clock in the afternoon to pick raspberries, leaving the three children shut up in the hut. The youngest, a female 6 months old (in bed), the others, a male and female aged 1 year 9 months and 3 years, playing about the floor.

Mrs. Grace was about 300 yards away at work and had been absent for about 20 minutes when she was alarmed by hearing some neighbours shouting. She returned to find the hut enveloped in flames and partly on the ground. After the fire had abated sufficiently to allow a search, what remained of the three children was found, the two eldest near where the door was, the infant in the smoldering remains of the bed clothes." Excerpt from *The Mercury* (Hobart) 1 January 1879, p.3.

Relatives told me when I visited Glazier's Bay recently that the reason the children were not in the berry garden with their mother was the danger from snakes.

Convener Wayne Hall

What's ON 2019

Where: Te Aka a Mauri
Rotorua Library
Time 6pm-8pm

February 21st
Speaker Kerry Fowler
Family history

March 21st
Speaker Rod Smith
Author of
"Guinness Down Under"
Website www.guinnessdownunderanz.co.nz
Email guinnessdu@xtra.co.nz

April 18th
Te Aka Mauri
6pm
Anzac theme

Membership:
Individual \$25,
Couples \$35.
Student 12.50
AGM MAY & Annual subs
are due 1st May 2019

Door Charges of \$5.00
members \$10.00 non-
members for special
events. \$5.00 non-
members monthly
meetings

DNA support group
Meets at
Te Aka Mauri 2nd floor
1st Wednesday of the
month 10-12pm
Jan McFarlane support
person

Help desk
Every second Wednesday,
of the month.
(August every Wednesday)
Ron Penhale support
person

AUGUST IS FAMILY HISTORY
MONTH

Book review

The book I read this summer was "Frida" by Annabel Abbs.

As I sat under a Pohutukawa tree I read and thoroughly enjoyed this story about Frida Von Richthofen the wife of D H Lawrence. Frida's controversial struggle for self-determination and her relationship with Lawrence inspired his writing of "Lady Chatterley's lover". (*I must confess I have not read*). Her marriage to Lawrence was her second. Formerly, at the age of 18 her first marriage was to Earnest Weekly an English writer and academic. She was a good wife and mother to their three children.

A return to Germany at the insistence of her sister changes Frida's destiny. She learns that women in Europe are embarking on revolutionary journeys of self-discovery. The suffrage movement and new ways of thinking reformed women's independent thought and sexuality. Frida embraced this. Unaware of Frida's unrestrained behavior, Earnest encouraged Frida to meet D H Lawrence so that she may proof read and edit his writing. During this partnership she became his lover then wife. Her right to pursue her freedom and self fulfilment remained confined by the powers of male ascendancy. An exceptional story and a good read. (*I am off to the Library to find "Lady Chatterley's Lover"*).

Mary Anne Cameron

THE TE ARAWA SOLDIERS' WAR MEMORIAL (ROTORUA)

The Te Arawa Soldiers' War Memorial is being restored as part of the District's World War I commemorations. Originally it was planned for the restoration to be complete by Armistice Day 11th November 2018 (100 years since the end of the Great War). Restoration began in 2016, and it is scheduled to be officially completed for ANZAC Day 2019.

Funding came from NZ Lottery World War I Commemorations, Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and the NZ Community Trust. The Memorial situated in Government Gardens Rotorua commemorates Te Arawa men who died in the First World War. The Duke of York, later King George VI, unveiled the memorial on 28 February 1927.

When the war ended in 1918 Te Arawa began planning a memorial. Key people were Tai Mitchell and Captain Gilbert Mair. In 1919 the sculptor W.H. Feldon created the initial design. Construction began with the foundation being laid in December 1926. The gothic style memorial is made from Sydney grit stone and Belgian marble. The names and ranks of 35 Te Arawa soldiers who died in the Great War are inscribed on two of the eight black granite panels. Another four Te Arawa soldiers are listed in the unveiling programme, but for some reason their names are not on the memorial.

The memorial also depicts key events in the Te Arawa history:

- The beautiful Te Kuraimonoa awaiting her celestial lover Pūhaorangi
- Lieutenant Governor William Hobson signing the Treaty of Waitangi
- Rev Thomas Chapman, the first Christian missionary to Te Arawa, preaching
- Traditional Maori war weapons

Below the four panels are busts of Edward VII, Victoria, George V, two white crosses and portraits of a Red Cross Nurse and servicemen from the Army and Navy. George V also adorns the top of the memorial in his coronation robes. The statue of Rangitihī, great great grandson of Tamatekapua, captain of the Te Arawa waka was removed in 1936 due to vandalism. Twelve tekoteko surround the memorial. A Krupp field gun sits next to the memorial – 1898 pattern. It was restored in 1998.

Two to three thousand people attended the unveiling by the Duke of York. Present were also Prime Minister and Native Minister Gordon Coates and Cabinet Minister Sir Maui Pomare. The religious ceremony was conducted by Rev Frederick Bennet, assisted by Revs Eruini Waaka and Maniahera Tuinatai.

The restoration involves the repair and conservation of the stone work, replacement of the statue of Rangitihī, new interpretive panels and replication in bronze of eight tekoteko and four pou that originally surrounded the memorial. What I am not sure about is whether the names of the four Te Arawa soldiers not on the memorial but listed in the 1927 programme will be added to the memorial. They are Pita Tairua, Timi Awiti, Hori Huriwaka and Eru Rihari. I would like to see their names added to the memorial. No doubt ANZAC Day 2019 will see a significant and moving re-dedication ceremony befitting of Te Arawa and the Rotorua community. **Wayne Hall**

"Guinness Down Under." Author Rod Smith is speaking at the March meeting on his book. Rod is a family history researcher and this book is his first formal published work. With a history in journalism and a great love of recording facts Rod's book recalls the history of the famous brew family "Guinness" coming to Australia and New Zealand. His wife Glennis is the Great-granddaughter of Sarah Guinness and features in his book.

ISBN: 9780473408428

www.guinnessdownunderanz.co.nz