



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

South Waikato Branch

Tirau; Putaruru; Tokoroa and surrounding areas

FEBRUARY 2021

Meetings are 3rd Thursday of month. 1 pm at Tulloch House (TCOSS) - Tokoroa Hospital grounds - Unless otherwise advertised. -see below.

Convenor Judith Gardiner

-021 801 507 - TXT preferred.

Treasurer - Lorna Kay -886 7335.

Secretary - VACANT

Committee Members

Denise Fargher 886 9381; **Sue Turnbull** 886 4243.

Raewyn Alderton 886 8334; **Elsie Monahan** 886 5353

PROGRAMME

18 February NSZG 1.2 and 2.1 videos covering Organisation paper and/or digital Proof & Primary sources.

18 March Round table OWL RULES - "Which ancestor would I like to meet and what would I ask."

27th March Putaruru Cemetery Walk. 10.30 am meet at to be confirmed venue for talk & cuppa before proceeding to Tirau St Cemetery. **MEET at 10.30 am.** for Talks in hall. Quick cuppa - bought biscuits- Gold coin donation. Then make way to cemetery.

Convenor's Report for February 2021

Welcome! Isn't it great to be in 2021, so far? I'm sure this year will be "quieter", less stressful. The weather's been very changeable, and even earthquakey last year.

Have you been socialising with the family, or socialising with research? I'm just finding death dates for odd relatives. Our first topics are "Getting Organised" and "Genealogical Proof." You will find the meeting dates elsewhere in this newsletter. If you have a topic that could be a good meeting idea, please mention it to a committee member.

Thanks to the committee for helping me keep the Branch on track.

Happy researching,

Judith

Christchurch Family History Expo 2021. Notice received. "Following our Virtual Expo in 2020, Christchurch City Libraries (in collaboration with Memories in Time) are pleased to advise that they will be hosting a Family History Expo in Christchurch from 20-22 August 2021."

AUCKLAND LIBRARIES – Heritage Talks. Available on line -Zoom. Contact through www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz. Of specific interest may be Migrant Women on 19 Mar a; Talking Family History ;31 Mar; Military Nurses 21 April

Siblings Can be the Key to Solving Your Family History Riddles

This was a heading to an article in a genealogy letter I receive. It has certainly proved to be true for me. Over the years I have not been able to crack my Danish lines. They married in NZ and appeared not to have known each other prior to this.

My real break-through was from DNA matches. Not from Denmark but from USA. Once one was established, then a couple of others followed. The brother of Gr Grandma had stayed & married in Denmark, but several of his daughters went to Salt Lake City in the later 1800s. It is their lines that are coming through as DNA matches.

Amongst the bits my sister had saved (that I finally got round to) was a Euro Atlas book on Denmark. Now I can find all the little villages. Great Grandpa said Ravneshov on his Naturalisation papers – Found – but 3 of them. Danish for Raven's Castle!! Many of what I am presuming are his connections link to Sweden. I believe his Father was a fisherman – so possible. Genealogy is Detection and clues can take time to make sense or to link to other clues. Patience and persistence can reap rewards.

How can one ancestor be so much trouble?



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

There are maps for all of UK, almost any type of map you may want. Contour maps, Town plans, Land utilization, town as they were – as they are. You can get down to a part of a street,

Sue says “absolutely brilliant”. Thanks Sue. Contributions like this most welcome – and saves me having to put twaddle in the newsletter

DO USE THE CONTACTS from DNA

With DNA tracing sites on the rise, there are more and more stories of unexpected family secrets revealed. After all, tracing down your DNA background can sometimes feel like opening a can of worms. People are finding out about the past of their parents and grandparents that can be hard to accept. Sometimes, online DNA kits can alienate families—they can help catch criminals, too. Try to be sensitive when contacting others. I usually start “DNA match” and then say something like---We have a DNA match of –cM. It appears it may be on my ___ Line, My Grandmother was _____. She was the daughter of _____. I hope this means something and we can share information and prove our link.

Looking forward to hearing from you – Regards --

KILL OFF YOUR RELATIVES

It is really great to be able to find the dates and places people died and are buried. It gives closure to the records and takes them off the “living” on your records. Recently following a line of third cousins who were in NZ I was able to identify several younger than myself who had died.

Look for death notices in old newspapers. Look for burial records. Look for Graves.

I belong to find My Past as a casual member and receive “Findmypast Fridays” which highlights some of their records- Index only. As I write this there was “Dorset Burials” so going into Fontmell Magna and putting in some family names I was able to get year of birth & death for many. Printed these out so I can go through carefully. These are only able to be accessed for 24 hours so one needs to be “on the ball”.

Sue Turnbull, sends this on ---

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BillionGraves Family Research Tools help you connect your existing genealogy records with physical locations. We're offering our BG+ Family Research Tools for only **\$25/YR!** That's only \$2 per month! Your subscription will get you all-access to our incredible database and the aforementioned BG+ tools, designed to help you find more family as you do your genealogy research. Learn more and upgrade today by clicking the LEARN MORE button below. Discount automatically applied.

LEITH PLACE

*Local Quote from SOUTH WAIKATO NEWS Jan 1953.
abridged*

At Tokoroa Ratepayers Meeting” Considerable discussion about the parking conditions at present existing in Leith Place” there was a need to clean up and shingle the road. There needed to be improvement at the southern end entry from Main Road to Leith Place. In discussion about the fence being too close to the Main Road it was pointed out that it was there to protect the young trees and shrubs.

Further discussion pointed out the need for the safety of the public – the women and children, not necessarily the hotel patrons.

SUMMER DUST AS IT WAS ----

- The Presbyterian Rev Perry talks of hearing the noise of a mill in the distance, the tractor working from morning to dusk and the sound of hammers --- “The quantity of dust in Bridge St tells us that Tokoroa is truly back at work.”

- ENJOY THE NEW YEAR !!!

- SOUTH WAIKATO HISTORY

Research is being made for the third South Waikato history book covering the period **1950 to 1980**. It will be researched under headings.

The first being **Local government & infrastructure (Putaruru Borough Council;**

Matamata County Council;

The County towns of Tirau & Tokoroa & Tokoroa Borough);

Roading; Water supply, Drainage; Sewerage; Pest control' Building permits, Subdivisions, seem to be prominent. **National Govt;** Provision of -Railways, Highways, Hospitals, Schools

Any relevant information or contacts

Please Contact Elsie direct. orelse24@gmail.com

Other broad headings probably ----

- Power, Electricity & Dams. Including building of Maraetai (Mangakino) Whakamaru, Atiamuri, Waipapa. Thames Valley Electric Power Board.
- **Farming** etc
- **Forestry & Mills** including Kinleith
- Forming communities under each of the towns & general areas. – Will probably include Tirohanga/ Mokai / Te Poi/ Marotiri as they “Link” through to the old milling of area & they saw Tokoroa as their “big smoke”

The first 2 books covering the period to 1950, “Bedrock & Rail” and “Hard Times and Hope” are available for sale at local venues or for out of area people contact Elsie.

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As I watch this generation try to rewrite history, one thing I'm sure of.... it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Folks, I do try my best. Please excuse any errors.

Let's have a great year and support each other to improve our skills and make some wonderful finds!

Cheers Elsie – for the committee who are working hard on behalf of the Branch.

Happy hunting !! – South Waikato Sleuths! and all our friends in the genealogical world.