

Newsletter



**Te Awamutu
Branch**

No. 287

October 2017



Te Awamutu Website: www.teawamutu.net/genealogy
New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc:
www.genealogy.org.nz

Meetings are held at the **St John Ambulance Hall** on Palmer Street, Te Awamutu, at 7.30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month – February to December.

Visitors are most welcome. \$2 door charge for casual visitors.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd October. FamilySearch – exploring the Wiki, Maps and other goodies.

November Meeting: Tuesday 7th November. Research. Bring your own device to find out what you most want to know.

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Club News!

Welcome to the October 2017 newsletter.

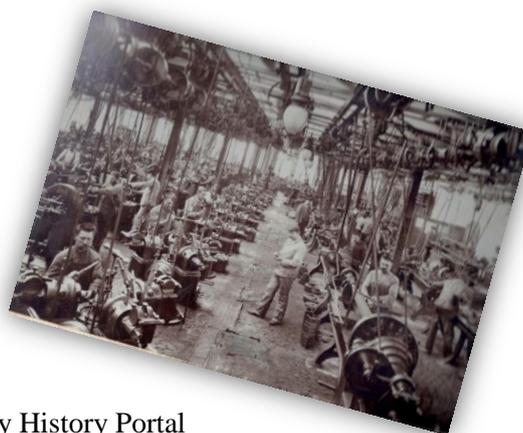
At our last meeting Sandra demonstrated the digital system she uses for keeping her family history research organised. The objective is to have a system where information can easily be retrieved because folders across all four grandparent lines are consistently organised. Extra topics can be added as required.

The key points she covered were:

1. All genealogy records are stored in a main folder called Family History Portal
2. Her four grandparent lines are then organised into the following folders:

1A. Gillgren NZ	2A. Williams NZ	3A. Coleman NZ	4A. Smith NZ
1B. Gillgren Sweden	2B. Williams England	3B. Coleman England	4B. Smith England
1C. Gillgren Worldwide	2C. McKinley NZ	3C. Lindridge UK	4C. Clarke NZ
	2D. McKinley Ireland	3D. Lindridge USA	4D. Clarke England

3. By referencing the folders as 1A, 1B, 1C etc they remain in sequence when sorted. Further lines, under each grandparent root, is done by simply adding the next letter of the alphabet.



4. Within each of these root folders are specific topic folders, for example:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Certificates / BDM | 5. Maps | 9. School Records |
| 2. Census / Electoral Rolls | 6. Newspapers | 10. Shipping Information |
| 3. Place / Parish Information | 7. Probates / Wills | 11. Land & Mortgage |
| 4. Photos | 8. Correspondence | 12. Timelines |

FamilySearch:

Our October meeting will again focus on the hidden treasures in FamilySearch, the world's largest FREE genealogical database with over 5 billion records and growing rapidly. Among other things we will look at the site's Wiki, the parish maps tool, familytree and adding media such as photos and documents.

Viewing image-only records on FamilySearch:

At our September meeting we briefly looked at viewing image-only records – films that have been digitised by FamilySearch but not yet indexed. Only 4 percent of the 5 billion+ records on FamilySearch have been indexed by name. Many record sets are presented as 'image-only historical records' and to access them you do the following:

- On the homepage choose a region on the map.
 - Available collections are shown by geographical location below the indexed records
- If you see a record collection of interest which has several hundred thousand images, don't pass it by.
 - Click on the title and then on 'browse images'.
 - A follow-on screen will appear, offering alternative dates or locations
- When you have chosen one, a second screen may appear, which breaks the image set into even smaller parts
 - Usually you will need to browse through a few hundred images, just as you would when reading a microfilm
 - Since the records are often in chronological order, you can quickly navigate to the relevant time period.
- When you have found your image, you can download it in most cases
- Bear in mind that due to intellectual property rights granted by the archive or record holder, you may only be able to view the record at a family history centre. Our nearest one is at Fosters Road, Temple View.



Fiche Reader up for Grabs!

The club has a fiche reader that it is willing to give away to anyone who wants it. It is currently stored with Linda so if you would like it please speak to Linda.



Bev is working on a Facebook Page for the Te Awamutu Genealogy group. But she needs suitable photos and more content and articles to link in before going 'live'. Bev is going to show the page to members at the November branch meeting

Upcoming EVENTS

Family Research Centre, Panmure

The date for this visit will be Saturday the 11th November. Find out more on club night.

Legacy Users' Group

Venue: 5 Toi Place, Rototuna, Hamilton
Contact: Bruce/Trish Cron. Email:
brucecron@gmail.com, ph. 021 407 478
Sunday, **October 1st** from 1.30pm to
3.30pm

Bastardy Bonds

Many of us have illegitimacy in our family tree and being unable to verify the father effectively chops off a whole branch of one's ancestry. However, there is hope!

Prior to Poor Law Reform and the social welfare system, the care of illegitimate children fell on the local parish. Church wardens were keen to ensure "bastards" did not become a burden on the parish coffers so they went to great lengths to establish who the father was. Many of the records relating to this are held in the Parish Chest and with more and more digitised films now available through FamilySearch.org it has become easier to explore these records in the comfort of your own home. Knowing what laws were passed and when, may help you identify what films you need to be looking at to find some of those elusive sperm donors.



The Bastardy Act 1575/6:

- Granted special powers to church wardens to question single mothers who might be in need of financial support, to ascertain the father's identity and bring him to account. Bastardy examinations sometimes survive in local record offices
- Pressure was exerted on the father to sign a bastardy bond, agreeing to pay for the child's maintenance and indemnifying the parish against any future costs until the child was old enough to be apprenticed.
- Records of any payments may be found in the account books of the overseer of the poor or the church warden.
- Fathers who refused to sign could be issued with a bastardy order by a JP, obliging them to sign the bond or face prison.
- If the father could not be identified, a pregnant spinster may find herself evicted from her home and carted off to her "parish of settlement", often deemed to be the place where she used to live or where she was born.

Amendment to the Act 1732/3:

- It became a legal requirement for pregnant, single women to present themselves to the authorities before the child's birth and to notify them of the father's identity. These are known as Examination Records.

- If the mother didn't divulge the information prior to the birth of the child then they were compelled to do it afterwards.
- As late as the mid 18th C women could still be punished with a public whipping. Even in the early 19th C they could be imprisoned for 6-12 months in the hope they would be reformed.

New Poor Law 1834:

- This replaced the old Elizabethan Poor Law, passing the problem of the upkeep of the poor from the parish to new Boards of Guardians
- As the 19th C progressed, women who struggled to make ends meet could apply for a bastardy bond at Petty Sessions and these cases were sometimes published in regional newspapers. Searching for the mother's name and 'bastardy' at the British Newspapers archive may sometimes yield results.
- Although many women were examined while pregnant or shortly after the birth, several years could elapse before they were brought before the authorities if they managed to survive without financial support

Finding the Records:

- Where Poor Law and Parish Chest records have been digitised they will often include bastardy examinations, warrants and summons, bastardy orders and bonds and affiliation orders.
- FamilySearch.org has the Poor Law records for Norfolk (free).
- There are also transcribed records from Cornish bastardy papers among the Online Parish Clerk database at the Cornwall OPC (cornwall-opc-database.org/extra-searches/bastardy-bonds)

Happy hunting!



When you search for ancestors, you find great friends!



English woman Patricia Higgins has put out a plea to our community for any information that could help her find where her parents lived in New Zealand — over seven decades ago.

Mrs Higgins parents, James and Alice Kenyon, lived somewhere in the district in the late 1930s and early to mid 1940s. Her father worked at Tokanui Hospital and Mrs Higgins recalls her mother saying they lived between the hospital and the railway tracks — but she has no idea exactly where.

Mrs Higgins was born in New Zealand but has little recollection of her early years before the family moved home to the UK. Now she is keen to find out more about her and her family's time in New Zealand. She says her father regaled her with stories of New Zealand all through her childhood, and in the next few months her younger brother and his wife, and then her granddaughter, are visiting our shores, so she is keen to know more.

Mrs Higgins is also keen to find anyone who can trace a lady by the name of Maud Brown — or her family. She says Maud befriended her parents and she was often talked about.

Mrs Higgins says she finds it very sad that she has no idea of her parent's life before they returned to England.

"After all these years it would be wonderful if anyone can fill in the gaps of my parents' time in your beautiful country," she says.

If anyone who can assist with this please contact Dean Taylor at the Te Awamutu Courier —

dean.taylor@teawamutucourier.co.nz or phone: 871 5151 ext.67705.



Mrs Higgins and her parents with Maud Brown on the left

How to Clean an Old Headstone

If you've been to a cemetery to visit a loved one, you probably noticed many stones, especially older ones, in desperate need of repair or at least a good cleaning. Some may be worn beyond readability, as well. There are steps that we each can take to ensure that the place that marks where our loved ones lie is as well taken care of as possible so that our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren can continue to pay respect to their ancestors. Additionally, you may need to clean a headstone in order to extract the information from that stone.

Cleaning Natural Stone Headstones

1. Using water with different kinds and sizes of natural bristle brushes will require some patience, but it is the most natural and safest way to clean stones.
2. To begin, thoroughly saturate the headstone with water. By using a spray bottle or even a pump sprayer, you can use less water and ensure a clean rinse each time.
3. Begin cleaning the stone starting at the bottom and work upward. This will help to prevent any streaking and/or any additional staining from occurring than if you worked from the top down. Be sure to rinse the area cleaned often with the water.
4. It is best to begin cleaning with the softest brushes possible and only gradually move to stiffer natural bristle brushes if needed. Remember, **never** use a wire or metal brush.
5. If there are lichens or moss growing on the stone, gently scrape it with your wooden or plastic scrapers. Often times, will come off fairly easily, other times, it may need to be repeated.
6. When using a brush on the stone, use random circular motions which also help with keeping streaking at a minimum.

7. It is possible to use non-ionic soaps to further aid in the cleaning, but the types that can be safely used are minimal. Unless you thoroughly research the type(s) and how to use it, do not use anything other than water and gentle brushing.
8. Rinse the cleaned area often and thoroughly rinse it when you've completed the cleaning of the headstone.
9. Repeat for all sides of the marker.

What NOT to Do When Cleaning a Headstone

When you follow the steps above, you'll be well on your way to preserving someone's marker longer. What we do not want to do is anything that will accelerate the wearing of the stone, discolouring of the stone, etc.

NEVER Use:

- Wire bristled brushes
- Metal scrapers
- Abrasive pads
- Pressure washers
- Sand blasters
- Power tools
- Bleach
- Acid or acidic cleaning agents (especially on marble or limestone)
- Household cleaners including soap, detergents or Borax

