

# Newsletter



**Te Awamutu  
Branch**

**No. 297**

**September 2018**



**Te Awamutu Website:** [www.teawamutu.net/genealogy](http://www.teawamutu.net/genealogy)  
**New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc:**  
[www.genealogy.org.nz](http://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 most welcome. There is a \$2 door charge for casual visitors.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September. An overview of family history software programs, with a special focus on Legacy

**October Meeting:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. FREE online newspapers – paperspast, Trove and others

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## Club News!

Welcome to the September, 2018 newsletter.

### September meeting:

We will be having a look at family history software programs with a focus on Legacy and the difference between online trees and stand alone trees and why you might choose to use one in preference to the other.

### October meeting:

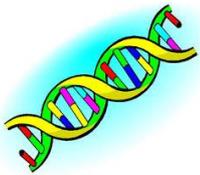
At this meeting we will be looking at free online newspapers and how to access them

### What do you want the branch to provide in 2019?

It is about this time of the year that the committee starts its planning for 2019. We are keen to hear what topics and trips you want next year and will have a quick brainstorm session prior to starting our September meeting.



## DNA Support Group Meeting



**Saturday, 15 September.** Cost: \$10.00 per session with \$5 cash back for those who stay and help from the morning session ~ several helpers are needed please.

### New to DNA testing?

On Saturday 15 September, 1pm – 4pm, at the St John's Ambulance Hall we have a hands-on session ideally suited to those just starting out with their DNA. If you have been DNA tested but not explored beyond your ethnicity results, then you are missing out on the best part – the analysis! If you haven't yet been tested but want to know what all the fuss is about then this session is also for you.

*Getting Started with your DNA Analysis* is aimed at helping beginners get to grips with GedMatch and the website they tested with. Individual help will be available. We still have vacancies in the afternoon session.

### DNA Analysis for more experienced users:

On Saturday 15 September from 9.30am – 12.30pm we have an Advanced DNA session. The session will focus on *Getting Even More out of Your DNA Analysis* using chromosome browsers and DNA Painter

## Joyce Smart

We were saddened recently to learn of the death of Joyce Smart. Joyce was a member of the branch from 1984 – 2014 and one of its earliest members. She also served on the committee between 1985-1989. Joyce's meticulous research and her depth of knowledge was an inspiration to many new members. In her later years, as her eyesight deteriorated, Joyce was unable to continue with her research but she did pass on a love of family history to her daughter Ann Roberts who is a member of our branch. Ann could not have been handed a greater legacy than the work her mother started. Our thoughts are with Ann and the Smart family as they come to terms with Joyce's passing.



## Rootsweb is Back!

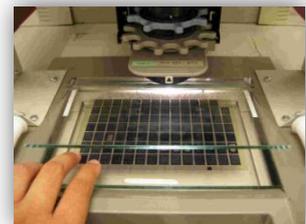
Long before the days of Ancestry and MyHeritage, Rootsweb and message boards were the best way to seek help from others with your genealogy research. Rootsweb.com has hundreds of message boards covering all sorts of different topics and areas. The site has been down for a couple of years while it was rebuilt but now it is back in full swing. Although postings in recent years have died down, the archives on Rootsweb are like an Aladdin's Cave beckoning genealogists. And you can search them for FREE!

<https://www.rootsweb.com/>

Check it out

### Museum fiche

Some members have expressed concern that the fiche now stored at the museum are hard to read. We are unsure if this is due to the fiche themselves, or the museum's fiche reader. If you do strike problems, please talk to Hayley or Rowan at the museum because if they don't know there is a problem, they cannot fix it.



# Family History Q&A

*(adapted from January 2018 Family History magazine)*

## Part 7: Protecting your legacy for the future

1. How can I protect my digital legacy?
  - A. Talk to your family (either close or distant connections with whom you are sharing family history research) and let them know what records you have online or at home. Make provision to share your access and accounts with them; make it easy for someone to take on and manage in the future.
  
2. How can I safeguard my family history research after I am gone? (59)
  - A. Hopefully you can identify an interested member of the family who will become the guardian of your research. Label file (digital and print) intelligibly. Consider splitting your research and artefacts if there is no single person able to take it over.  
  
Have a paper tree, old family photos and key family memorabilia (eg medals etc) stored and prominently labelled. These are the most “accessible” things for non-family historians and most likely to engage the attention of fellow family members. This will increase the chances of your boxes of file being kept and someone, one day, opening up your family history computer files and taking a look.
  
3. How do I get the younger people in the family interested in family history?
  - A. Tell the stories. Rudyard Kipling once said “if history were taught in the form of stories, it would never be forgotten.” Tell the stories of the people in your family photos. Talk to your grandchildren about your life growing up when you were their age.

**THE END**



## What's on the Web?



### Find a will in the UK

Wills and probates from 1996 until present; 1858 – 1956; and soldiers. Search by surname and year. Probate notices are visible and you may discover date of death and family members named as executors.

<https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

### Transform your research into a family memoir

*[Article on p60 August 2018 Who do You think You Are? magazine]*

Personal Historian Essentials 3 is a unique FREE program for Macs and Windows PCs from the makers of RootsMagic that helps you write the story of your life and other individuals. It creates a structure to work from, using your own research file.

This might be good for those who find the prospect of starting from scratch a bit intimidating.

Windows users need a free PDF creation tool (such as Foxit Reader from foxitsoftware.com)

Click the “Free Download” button to obtain your copy of the free Essentials version and follow the step-by-step guide to start transforming your notes into a fully rounded memoir.

<https://www.rootsmagic.com/Personal-Historian/>

## Legacy users' Group

Venue: 5 Toi Place, Rototuna, Hamilton

Contact: Bruce/Trish Cron. Email: [brucecron@gmail.com](mailto:brucecron@gmail.com), ph. 021 407 478

Sunday, **October 7** from 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

**Note:** We have members who attend these meetings. If you are interested please contact Glenyss Hall.



# Land Research in NZ

At our last meeting we had Lyn Williams talk about researching land records. This is a challenging topic and if you don't want the learning curve involved in finding land records then there are other options open to you.

1. As a member of the NZSG you can make a request through their Land Research Service. See the latest NZSG magazine for instructions. You can also request the NZSG to search QuickMaps, which goes up to 2001, for a copy of the survey plan.
2. The branch has a copy of the NZ Land Records CD 1871-1991 which has indexes for transmission docs held in the Hamilton LINZ office. These cover the South Auckland and Taranaki Land Districts and are ordered through LINZ online. The packets referred to in the indexes often contain wills where you may find the legal description of land your ancestors owned.
3. Archway has the Deeds Index online. Deeds preceded the current Torrens system which was introduced in 1870
4. Or you can commission Lyn Williams to find the information for you. There is nothing quite as stress-free as using someone with the right expertise to help you get what you want. Lyn can be contacted via email [lynwilliamsheritage@gmail.com](mailto:lynwilliamsheritage@gmail.com) or by phone 07 846 1511. Her charges are \$40 for the first half hour and \$20 per half hour thereafter. A copy of the Certificate of Title costs \$11 +GST

### Key information needed to access land records

The unique identifier of land is the appellation or legal description (they mean the same thing). This information is recorded on rates notices, land titles and valuation certificates.

By 1924 every piece of land in NZ needed a Certificate of Title. For genealogists, the historic Certificate of Title is the most useful. This gives the names of land owners and when it changed hands. However, the CoT will not tell you when any houses were built on that land. If you are interested in housing information then the property records held by the local authority are the best place to look – although you'd be very lucky to find early records.

Because the appellation is a unique identifier, searching by Certificate of Title is the most accurate, but if you do search by street address be aware that these often change over time. Te Awamutu's change to the Brazilian street numbering system in the 1980s is an example of this.

Where to find a legal description:

- Pre 1876 electoral rolls (legal descriptions often included)
- Rating assessments from local authorities (legal descriptions included)
- Returns of Freeholders of NZ (published 1882, addresses only)
- Postal or street directories, eg Wisers (addresses only)
- Post 1876 Electoral Rolls (addresses only)
- Civil registrations records (adult death or child birth registration)

For further information about land research, check the NZ Land research page on the NZSG website as well as the Gen Guide. Also check the NZSG magazine, Apr 2017 page 57. There is also Ronald Hermon's paper *Where Did My Ancestors Live?* If you are lucky enough to find an early coloured survey plan of your ancestor's land, it is a treasure well worth preserving.

**GB1900 (gb1900.org)** is a newly released project that enables users to search the Ordnance Survey Maps of Great Britain using place names, farms and streets ([maps.nls.uk/geo.find](http://maps.nls.uk/geo/find)). The data is available for anyone to download under a Creative Commons licence from Portsmouth's website *A Vision of Britain Through Time* ([visionofbritain.org.uk](http://visionofbritain.org.uk)). This project has been developed in conjunction with the University of Portsmouth, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission of the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Wales, the Centre for Advanced Welsh & Celtic Studies and People's Collection Wales.

Source: *WDYTYA* magazine August 2018



The history of Father's Day dates back to the USA in the early 1900s, and was partly inspired by the unofficial Mother's Day services which began in 1908.

While many services were arranged in the next couple of years, the most widely noted was organised in Washington, by Mrs Sonora Dodd. Mrs Dodd wanted to pay tribute to her late father, William Smart, who became a single parent when her mother died in childbirth. William Smart raised six children on his own, which was an unusual feat at that time.

Originally Mrs Dodd wanted to hold the memorial service on the anniversary of her father's death, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1910, however this did not leave organisers enough time to prepare a service. Instead the service was arranged to be held on the June 19th, and this has become known as the first Father's Day.

While services continued every year, it was not until 1924 that President Coolidge recommended Father's Day as a national holiday. It took 48 years from that recommendation before Father's Day was officially recognised by President Nixon in 1972.

Most countries follow the United States tradition and celebrate Father's Day on the 3rd Sunday in June, however New Zealand and Australia celebrate Father's Day on the 1st Sunday in September.

Other cultures around the world coincide Father's Day with other celebrations in their community. In Germany it is celebrated on Ascension Day (40 days after Easter), in the Roman Catholic tradition it is St Josephs Day (March 19), and in Thailand it is the king's birthday (December 5).



## From the latest Lost Cousins newsletter ~ Don't lose your records!

At some point during September Findmypast will be changing their systems so that members can only view records for which they have a current subscription - this brings Findmypast into line with Ancestry and most other websites.

Up to now Findmypast have kept track of which records you have viewed in the past and allowed access to those records at any time, whether or not you are a subscriber, or whether the subscription you have includes those particular records. The precise date of the change hasn't been decided, but the advice is to download any records you haven't already stored on your own computer while you still can.

*Note: if you used credits to purchase a specific record you will still have access, even after the change. This is most likely to apply to records from the 1939 Register, as this was not included in subscriptions for some months after the initial release.*

### Article

## Thousands submitted DNA to help solve a 1998 cold case. One man was conspicuously missing

Published: *Washington Post*, 28 August, 2018

Meagan Flynn

Police only thought Jos Brech was curious when he rode his bicycle past an active crime scene in a forest in the Netherlands in August 1998.

The officers had just recovered the body of 11-year-old Nicky Verstappen, who, on a summer camp trip, had disappeared from his tent the night before. The boy had been raped and killed, police said, in a case that would haunt the nation in the decades to come.

But, that night, Brech said he didn't know anything. Police took his name and let him go.

Nicky was found dead a day after he went missing from his tent at a youth camp in Limburg.

They kept his name for a long time - until finally, this year, it came up again.

In October 2017, authorities in the Netherlands launched a massive DNA investigation ahead of the 20th anniversary of Verstappen's death, seeking DNA samples from more than 20,000 men, including Brech, that they would compare to DNA left behind at the crime scene.

If police got lucky, they could identify the alleged killer's family members through partial matches. It was the largest such DNA kinship investigation in the country's history, Dutch broadcaster NOS reported, and more than 14,000 men agreed to voluntarily offer up their genetic information to help police.

But one man was conspicuously not among them.

Brech, in fact, had disappeared the same month the testing began.

Police had grown increasingly suspicious of Brech after his family reported him missing in April. He had left on a hiking trip through the Vosges Mountains in France in October 2017 and told his family he would comply with the DNA request once he returned.

He didn't come back. But authorities still found a way to seize his DNA anyway.

Brech was arrested today on charges of murder and grievous bodily injury after two of his relatives' DNA turned up in the massive screening and after his own DNA, taken from his cabin in the Vosges Mountains, turned out to be a match, according to Dutch police.

Police compared his DNA sample to that found on Verstappen's pyjamas in 1998, leading them to publicly identify Brech as the suspect in Verstappen's killing at a news conference last week.

After the longest-running murder hunt in Dutch history, Jos Brech was arrested at a campsite near Barcelona yesterday.

The announcement kicked off an international manhunt for the 55-year-old Brech, who according to Europol spent much of his time teaching wilderness survival skills called "bush crafting."

He was apprehended in Spain, where police believe he had gone into hiding once the DNA investigation began. Spanish police found him on his way to chop wood in the mountains, they said. A witness had tipped off police after recognising his picture from police and media reports, police said. He earned a spot on Europe's Most Wanted Fugitive List. He is awaiting extradition and has not filed a plea in the case.

Officials were so pleased with the DNA investigation that some are considering the possibility that the familial DNA testing be mandatory rather than voluntary, Minister of Justice and Security, Ferdinand Grapperhaus told Dutch media.

"I think it is really important that we realise that we have technological developments in society that can ease the pain of relatives," Grapperhaus said.

The whole country was following the hunt for the suspected murderer of the 11-year-old Nicky Verstappen. Will justice finally be done?

The Netherlands has used the technique multiple times in the past to nab suspects accused in violent, unsolved crimes, though never to this degree.

In December, police arrested a man suspected of raping and killing a woman in 1992 after testing the DNA of 126 men, one of whom was identified as a family member of the suspected killer, *Dutch News* reported. In 2012, a mass DNA test of nearly 6,600 men led to the arrest of a farmer suspected in the rape and killing of a 16-year-old girl.