

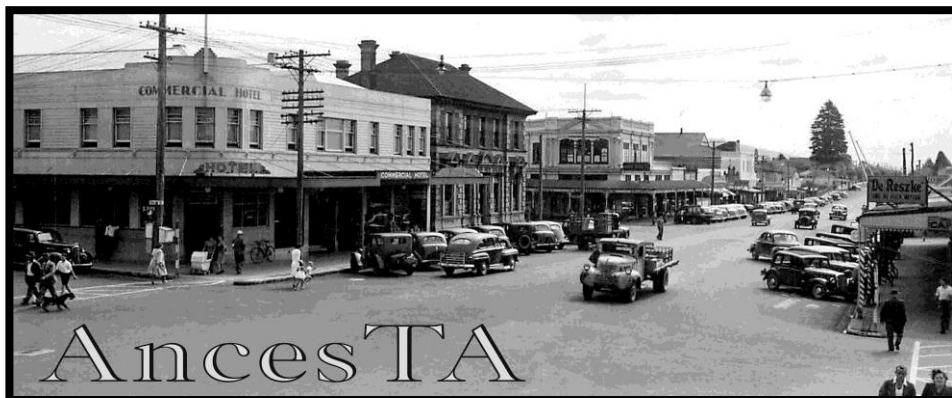
# Newsletter



**Te Awamutu  
Branch**

**No. 298**

**October 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October. FREE online newspapers – Paperspast, Trove and others.

**November Meeting:** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Member Presentation.

**Convenor:** Sandra Metcalfe  
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## Club News!

Welcome to the October, 2018 newsletter.

Hopefully our September meeting opened your eyes to the advantages of using a family tree software program on your computer instead of just using online trees. There is no doubt they force you to become better organised! Although Linda and Christine looked at Legacy there are many other programs available. They all do much the same thing, the main difference being the reporting and charting tools.



For those who are using Legacy, you are reminded there is another support group meeting in Hamilton on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1.30-3.30pm at 5 Toi Toi Place, Rototuna, Hamilton. If you are interested in attending please contact Glenyss Hall. Also see notice below.

### October meeting:

We will be exploring some of the free online newspaper resources including Paperspast (NZ); Trove (Australia); the family notices in the British Newspaper Archive (UK) and some American newspapers

### November meeting:

Someone from the club will be presenting to us. Details to come later.



## Extra DNA support available for branch members:

Learning to interpret your DNA results can be challenging until you get your head around it so to provide branch members with the support they want, the committee has agreed to cover the venue cost for extra sessions during October. They will be held on Sunday 7 Oct, 2-4pm; Friday 12 Oct, 2-4pm and Saturday 27 Oct 2-4pm. **These sessions are free and available to branch members only.**

They are limited to a maximum of 4 people per session so if you want extra help please email Christine with your preferred time slot ( [teawamutu@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:teawamutu@genealogy.org.nz))

We are purposely keeping the numbers low per session so that you get the attention you need and so we don't overload the St John's internet! The connectivity problem has been mentioned to the St John manager and they are looking into it for us.

## New DNA website

A new subscriber-based website called <https://dna-central.com/> is available for those who want to really kick start their DNA analysis.

### Does any of this sound familiar?

- I have 25,000 matches at AncestryDNA but they don't have trees, they don't respond to communications, and I can't figure out how they're related.
- I've heard about Y-DNA and mtDNA testing, but I have no idea what they are or how to use them in my genealogical research.
- Why is it so hard to work with DNA matches and stay organised?

### There is a serious gap in the education of DNA test takers and that is why Blaine Bettinger has created DNA Central.

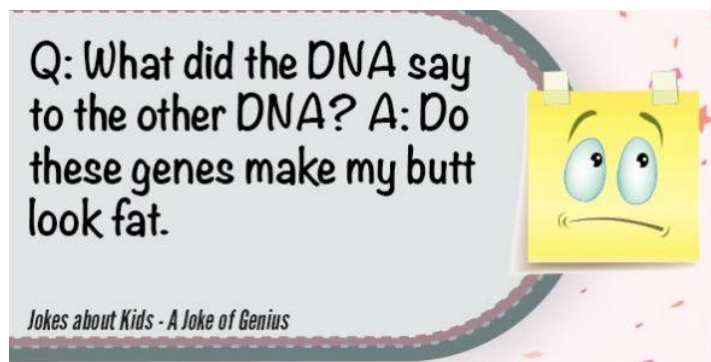
DNA Central costs \$US99 for an annual subscription or \$US9.99 for a one-month subscription. A bi-weekly newsletter with the latest news and tips is also included with each subscription.

DNA Central also includes many courses and webinars, many of them created by Blaine himself. He also states that he will be adding more courses in the near future including a monthly webinar covering different aspects of DNA.

You can get all this and learn more about DNA without leaving your home! Blaine is highly respected in the field of genealogy DNA. To see for yourself, go to <https://dna-central.com/>

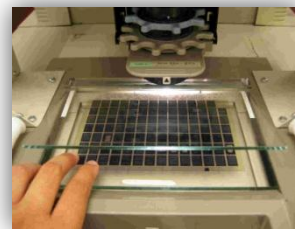
An alternative option for NZSG members is access to the DNA BootCamp webinars. Go to [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz) ->Log in -> Resources -> DNA BootCamp

Those who are not members of the NZSG can access a series of free DNA webinars by going to [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz) -> Education -> Presentations



## Museum Fiche

We are aware some members have had difficulty reading the fiche at the museum. We need to log the issues in more detail so that the museum staff can take action. So far we have been told the fiche are too light and/or the magnification is not enough. Please let Christine know the specifics so we can follow this up on your behalf. It would be useful to know if the problem is with specific fiche or all the fiche you tried.



## CBD Building Display 16 and 17 November

We have another series of buildings to display as part of our CBD Heritage project and are looking for volunteers to assist on the day for up to 2 hours at a time. Duties will include greeting people at the door, and a stint on one of the six building displays to record people's memories.

If you are interested in helping out please contact Sandra or Christine. Background information about your role and the display will be available before the display.

# Auckland Family History Expo

*Sandra Metcalfe*

The Auckland Family History Expo in August featured some interesting speakers. Some of the things learned were:

### Kerry Farmer: English Parish Records

- When looking for births, deaths and marriages do not forget about the Bishop's Transcripts (BTs). These records were copied annually and are a second chance that the records have survived
- Between 1754 – 1837 Roman Catholics had to have a separate marriage ceremony in the Anglican Church
- Non-conformists (Baptists, Methodists, Quakers) could not study at Oxford or Cambridge so had to go overseas
- Non-conformist records will not be found in the parish records. TheGenealogist.org.uk has a large collection on their website
- Use FamilySearch Wiki as your personal genealogical encyclopaedia
- Use the 1851 Jurisdictions on FamilySearch to find out which parish records / bishop transcripts are available and nearby parishes

- Parish Chest records include vestry minutes; bastardy bonds; church warden accounts; settlement / removal records; apprenticeship records; guardianship documents; tithing accounts – in other words, do not overlook this valuable resource!
- For the Commonwealth period, look at tax records. This is a period when many parish records were not kept

#### Kerry Farmer: Scottish Family History – More than the BMDs

- ScotlandsPeople is one of the best value sites for money. Most images cost six credits. Valuation rolls cost two credits. Six credits is the equivalent of NZ\$2.90
- Any unused credits are carried over. Searching indexes cost nothing and seeing a page of search results is free
- Because the Scots had to hire a mort cloth to be buried in a churchyard, the OPRs (1553-1854) record only 10% of the potential burials
- Use the valuation rolls in conjunction with the census to track families. The latest Scottish census is 1911. The latest valuation rolls go to 1955
- Always use the Advanced People search when using ScotlandsPeople
- Other websites to explore include [www.scottishindexes.com](http://www.scottishindexes.com) [www.scan.org.uk](http://www.scan.org.uk)  
[www.deceasedonline.com](http://www.deceasedonline.com) [www.happyhaggis.co.uk](http://www.happyhaggis.co.uk)

#### Rowan Carroll: The NZ Police Gazettes

- First published in 1877, the Gazettes were an indexed, weekly publication to all police stations
- The Gazettes up to 1991 have been digitised but only those prior to 1948 are publicly available. Direct descendants can apply to look at later records through Archives NZ
- Available on Archway; Archives NZ; some public libraries; NZ Police Museum and the NZ Society of Genealogists
- If you are looking for police officers; offenders; lost relatives or victims then use this resource
- Be prepared for unpleasant realities
- Photographs were introduced in 1909. From 1964 these were supplemented with a person's details and modus operandi
- Infanticide was a huge problem in NZ from 1877 – 1950s. Society was very harsh on unmarried mothers
- A list of police constabulary staff was published twice yearly. Pre- 1877 constabulary records are available at Archives NZ
- The 1886 Act separated the field force (the armed services) from the police force. Personnel lists are available at Archives NZ for different alliterations of the police force

#### Diane Loosle: FamilySearch, A Global Experience

- The focus of FamilySearch is to help people discover their heritage. Having your DNA tested is the start of the journey of self discovery. Once people discover, they get bitten by the bug and start to make connections.
- The more children know about their heritage, the better they are able to function. Children want to know. We just have to figure out how to help them know in a way that is meaningful to them. What stories are you telling them? How can you help them connect in a way that their heart feels it?

- The expert in anything was once a beginner. Be gentle when beginners make mistakes. What we were once able to learn in private now happens in public. Rather than condemn, take the approach of “Let me help you learn so we can both get this right”
- Family history in villages is being lost because there is no one to pass the stories onto. Make sure that you capture the stories you can and record them for posterity. Family stories can be lost in three generations if they are not passed on. Use the memories section on FamilySearch to record your family stories
- In FamilySearch, the basics of family history are covered in 66 languages across 133 countries. There are 6.2 billion searchable names in FamilySearch and 1.3 million new names are being added each day
- FamilyTree has 1.19 billion people on it and 3.8 million are being added each month
- FamilySearch have the largest collection of Chinese family histories outside of China
- You can upload a Gedcom file to FamilySearch under Search -> Genealogies -> Submit your tree. This is a useful backup
- Within the next two years all Family History Centres will be networked. You will be able to ask a question and someone from the area you are interested in will answer it
- Looking ahead, FamilySearch are working on the ability to index records with machine learning. This will considerably speed up the indexing process

## *What's on the Web?*



### **Complete Archive of Ellis Island Records - FamilySearch**

Name index to lists of 25 million people (not just immigrants) who arrived at Ellis Island, Port of New York, 1892-1924. In addition, includes a link to images of arrival lists at the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Web site.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1368704?collectionNameFilter=false&cid=bl-fsup-8026>

### **Castle Garden records at FamilySearch**

Passenger lists for over 13 million immigrants arriving in New York City from 1820 through 1891.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1849782?collectionNameFilter=false&cid=bl-fsup-8025>

### **County Down, Northern Ireland Family History Research Site – Ros Davies**

This site has been absent while Rootsweb was down and thankfully has now returned. If you have Northern Ireland ancestry and you haven't looked here before do check it out.

<http://www.rosdavies.com/>

### **Medieval and Early Modern England Documents from the National Archives**

Documents that have been digitised and displayed through The O'Quinn Law Library of the University of Houston Law Center by license of the National Archives. Starts at Richard I in 1176 and goes through to Victoria.

<http://aalt.law.uh.edu/>



## Legacy users' Group

Venue: 5 Toi Toi Place, Rotorua, 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.

### Article

## How a Kiwi helped solve the US' greatest cold case.

*Adapted from an article published: MSN News, 3rd September, 2018*

*Simon Hampton*

Since April's apprehension of Joseph DeAngelo, the ex-cop dubbed alleged Golden State Killer for killing 13 women across California in the 1970s and 1980s, Barbara Rae-Venter's work has been the talk of law enforcement, but had not made it into the public domain.

"Oh, it's just a hobby," laughs Ms Rae-Venter on her genealogy work that helped solve one of the biggest serial murder mysteries in the United States.

But she wasn't just showing Kiwi humility; she feared for her safety.

"They told me to beef up security on my house," she says.

But as others who had done similar work to hers came forward, Ms Rae-Venter's apprehension eased.

If there were more than one person who could use genealogy to solve crimes, she was less of a target.

And so with her blessing, Paul Holes, who also worked on the case, sent out a tweet acknowledging her crucial work in the case and she was taken aback by the response.

It was 2006 when Ms Rae-Venter first became properly involved in genealogy.

Twelve years ago, her father had a heart attack while driving in Northland. Her mother was killed in the accident and her father wound up in Whangarei Hospital for three months.

Ms Rae-Venter came back from the US and cared for her father, shuttling between their home in Kerikeri and the hospital, paying bills and taking care of correspondence.

"In the process of doing that I discovered my grandmother's, and her father's, birth certificates in his desk," Ms Rae-Venter told Newshub from her home in northern California.

"I was astonished to find that not only was she born in New Zealand, but her father had been born in Waipu in 1862.

"I thought my grandmother was off the boat from Scotland. I had no idea."

So, on one of her trips down to Whangarei, she went a little further down to the beach town of Waipu to do some digging into her own history.

By chance, at the Waipu museum she bumped into a genealogist who happened to know her great-grandfather.

"She told me all these stories about he'd been a terrible larrikin and all the rest of it.

"We used to go surfing as kids in Waipu cove. My dad never said, 'By the way, your great-grandfather was born here.' It was really odd finding all of this out."

With her curiosity piqued, she delved deeper into her family history and their emigration from Scotland to New Zealand via

Nova Scotia in Canada, but dead ends along the way led her to DNA, and so became her genetic genealogy hobby.

In March last year, after helping out with other cold cases, Ms Rae-Venter received a call from Paul Holes, a retired investigator in California, asking if she would help him in one of his cases.

Without knowing it was the unsolved Golden State murders in California, Ms Rae-Venter said yes.

"Unfortunately, a few days later I was diagnosed with heart problems and I had to have surgery.

"It wasn't until November when I had recovered that I contact Paul again and asked him if he still needed help with the case.

"He said yes and we went from there.

"It's an unknown heritage case. You've got somebody, you don't know who they are and you want to identify them.

"You take a DNA sample; you extract the autosomal DNA from that. And then you [have a file made], which can be uploaded to GEDmatch and you look for matches with that file.

"From the matches you can figure out who the person is that you're looking for."

The DNA came from a semen sample left at one of the crime scenes.

Analysing old newspaper clippings, birth records and any other information available, MsRae-Venter began working with investigators to build a family tree.

After months of work, they began to narrow their search down to a group of men who became their primary list of suspects.

Then, after using an eye colour prediction tool on GEDmatch, Ms Rae-Venter found out the likely suspect would have blue eyes. Only one of the group had blue eyes. His name was Joseph DeAngelo, and in April he was charged with killing 13 women across California in the '70s and '80s.

Since then Ms Rae-Venter has been approached many times by law enforcement agencies asking for assistance, despite not being publicly associated with the case until a few days ago.

"Law enforcement are incredible gossips, so word spread through the community."

She says she'll help out on cases she can, and mostly works pro-bono or for a nominal fee.

As it turns out, cracking one of the US' most well-known cold cases could be a late career change for the 70-year-old, or at least a hobby for retirement.

Barbara Rae-Venter is a Remuera-raised Auckland, who moved to the US when she was 20 and had a successful career as an intellectual property lawyer.