

# Newsletter of the Family History Group, West Auckland Historical Society and Waitakere Branch, NZ Society of Genealogists

## Convenors Message

Another two months have passed since the last newsletter and life has been a bit of a rollercoaster ride. There has certainly been some ups and downs. Hopefully the lessons learned in this last epidemic outbreak will allow our Government to plan the next outbreak to be less inconvenient to all while effectively containing the epidemic to as few as possible. As we have just stepped down a level in the current Covid epidemic restrictions, I trust everyone is in a healthy position to take advantage of the regained freedoms.

John and I have decided to place a hold on the Family History Group Thursday evening meetings in Mill Cottage until the Covid restrictions ease further and the weather gets warmer. At this moment we are unsure of the Saturday opening of Mill Cottage but we intend to restart the West Auckland Research Centre Tuesday morning meetings this month. Start time is 10am but we may be restricted in time to 30 minutes.

Stay safe everyone please.  
Gary.

---

We remain prepared to help you with your research. To achieve this, contact me and I will organise for us to meet at Mill Cottage, or another place to suit. For covid contact tracing, Mill Cottage has the tracing app barcode signs at each entrance door.

I hope you are able make use of the restrictions and are getting lots of research done.

Regards, John

---

## Checking a family history match from a website

It's great to get a hint on your online family tree, pointing you to a record that appears to relate to your ancestor. Before you click 'add', run through this checklist. Genealogy sites such as Ancestry, Family Search and FindMyPast offer tree hints, where the system alerts you to records that may relate to one or more of your ancestors. These can be invaluable, but there is a danger that you can inadvertently take your tree down the wrong path by adding a life event or even an ancestor that looks correct but doesn't actually belong to your tree.

*(Continued next page)*

## Family in Focus

September/October 2020

## Group Meetings

**Waitakere Central Library,  
Research West**

10am to 11.30 am, every 2nd  
Tuesday of the Month,  
February to December.

### Mill Cottage

Every 3rd Thursday of the  
month at 7pm.

Every 2nd & 4th Saturday  
morning of the month at 11am,  
John Soppet and Gary Snow  
are rostered on duty at Mill  
Cottage. Close 3pm.

## Door Charges:

Henderson Central Library  
Gold coin donation.

Mill Cottage. \$2.00

## Contacts

### Gary Snow

Ph 832 5098 or 021 618 434  
gary@snofam.co.nz

### John Soppet

Ph 835 2983, or 028 8500 4358  
jonsops@gmail.com

### Waitakere Branch N.Z.S.G

Waitakere@genealogy.org.nz

### 1. Your ancestor... or are they?

Does the record really relate to your ancestor or someone with the same/similar name and dates? If the record mentions other names you can cross reference these against your own tree, and do the same with relevant dates.

Records such as census hints can be easy to cross reference if several people from one family lived in the same house; baptism, marriage and death records could be trickier but again, should give enough information for you to check against your own family records.

### 2. If it feels wrong it probably is...

Even if it looks right, look at your own evidence before you click 'accept'. Look for obvious place and date mismatches or similarities. Did your ancestor really move 200 miles between being born and baptised? Have they suddenly become a labourer on the census after decades of seeing them as a doctor? These type of mismatches usually hint that something doesn't quite add up and further investigation is needed.

### 3. Check the source

Look for the source of the hint. Ask what is the record, why was it created and what is it telling me? Does the record contradict what you've already proved? Try to keep an open

mind – it could be that this hint is actually correct and the error actually lies in your own research. It can be a disappointment, but it's better to find out now than waste time following the wrong path. If you do find that the hint relates to your ancestor, you'll be able to cite the source and add it to your tree with confidence.

### 4. The hint might be a 'maybe'

If you think the hint possibly relates to your ancestor, but you're not sure, there's nothing wrong with making it a 'maybe' and filing it until you can research it further. Most of the main family history websites have the ability for you to save a hint without adding it to your tree. A few months later, perhaps when you've found further ancestors or discovered more about an ancestor's life, the hint could fit nicely into your findings.

### 5. Look at the record type

If the hint relates to a record type that's unfamiliar to you, or one that you haven't used much in your investigations, find out more. Check the category for that record on the website and that should give you more information. Even if it turns out that the hint doesn't relate to you, that particular record set could still be of use when exploring the lives of your ancestors.

---

## Report

### Auckland Family History Expo 2020

Friday 7 - Sunday 9 August 2020

Fickling Convention Centre, 546 Mt Albert Rd, Three Kings, Auckland.

*Proudly presented by Auckland Libraries and the Genealogical Computing Group of NZ Society of Genealogists*

A very successful weekend. If you didn't go, you missed a very good event.

Our Zoom connection to the International speakers went very well. We were pleased to have the presentation rooms quite full. Each had a live Q&A session at the end. All sessions were recorded and the recordings will be available soon through the Auckland Library webpage.

We had a stream of live presentations from local speakers as well so the 3 rooms were well used all day Saturday & Sunday.

Although the number of exhibitors was down, those that came had a good number of enquiries. The food & coffee stall did a roaring trade.

There were an excellent number and range of raffle prizes. Many very happy winners.

We had sessions for children up in the Library. These were successful and were well attended.

There was story telling and challenges that caused the children to interact with exhibitors.

On the downside, car parking was a problem as the quarry subdivision site development alongside has closed the main carpark.

We are planning to hold another expo next year.