

# European Interest Group

June 2019

## CONVENOR'S ANNUAL REPORT April 2018 – March 2019



On behalf of the European Interest Group Committee, it is my pleasure to present the twenty seventh annual report to our Group, for the twelve months ended 31 March 2019.

**MEETINGS:** The European Group held monthly meetings at the Family Research Centre, Panmure, on the first Friday of the month. The Group has operated, and made available to all NZSG members, the FRC from 4pm to 10pm. The team running the meetings has included Carsten Begunk, Anne Brady and myself, with Vivienne Parker and Robyn Williams also standing in for a meeting each. I should like to thank the team very much for their crucial part in making our meetings possible. Meeting attendances have overall been satisfactory.

The Canterbury European Interests Group, part of Canterbury Branch and run by Kathy Bisman, Diane Hansford and Lorraine Wilmshurst, meet bimonthly to assist people with continental research. Kathy reports that sessions have been busy, constructive and interesting.

**AUCKLAND FAMILY HISTORY EXPO 2018:** On the weekend of the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of August the European Group attended the 2018 Family History Expo at the Fickling Convention Centre in Mt Roskill. The weekend was a great success, maybe not as busy as last year, but still very productive with lots of good queries for us to deal to, other exhibitors to catch up with and interesting talks to attend. Our team comprised Carsten Begunk, Diane Hansford (who made the trip up from Christchurch), Ann Magill and myself. Germany and Scandinavia provided the most queries, but there were also queries for Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Bohemia, Switzerland and France.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Group has finished the year with 23 paid-up members. There are also four complementary memberships that received the Newsletter.

**NEWSLETTER:** Margaret Mundy has very successfully fulfilled the role of acting Editor for more than five years. Over the last year Margaret has obtained, and put together, some excellent articles including book reviews and topical news on researching in New Zealand and elsewhere. Thank you Margaret for undertaking this role.

**GROUP PROJECT:** A longstanding objective of the Group has been to index New Zealand records and books which contain numbers of Continental names. The results are forwarded to the NZSG for inclusion in the Kiwi Collection.

For this year I can report that the following indexes, two with a significant number of names, have been completed:

- 'To Walk Under Palm Trees - The Germans in Samoa' (3109 names).
- 'History of Marshland Christchurch New Zealand, Szymanski Brothers 1872 – 2011'. (3174 names).
- '60 years ago ... celebrating the anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Zealand and France 1945-2005'. (610 names).

This work has been driven by Kathy Bisman. I should like to thank Kathy so much for this major and ongoing contribution to Continental European research.

**DONATIONS:** This year the Group made the major donation of nineteen books to the NZSG Library. These were:

- To Walk Under Palm Trees - The Germans in Samoa' by Anthony Brunt.
- Norsewood: A Special Settlement' by D. & T. Kitt.
- Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary' by Jordan Auslander.

Finding your Ancestral Village in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire: Slovakia, Czechia, Ukraine, - Galacia and Hungary' by J.A. Hudick, updated by Lisa Alzo.  
German Residential Records For Genealogists: Tracing Your Ancestor From Place to Place in Germany' by Roger P. Minert.  
Map Guide to Swiss Parish Registers', Volumes 3 - 10.  
Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Free Cities', Volumes 43, 56, 57.  
Map Guide to German Parish Registers: Silesia', Volumes 53 - 55.

**CLOSURE OF THE EUROPEAN INTEREST GROUP:** During the latter part of the year the Group has made the decision, to be ratified at the AGM, that the Group should cease to exist. The European Group was formed in 1991 with two very clear objectives, to promote continental European research and to give advice to anyone with Continental research. This has been fulfilled by giving advice on Continental research and indeed developing the expertise for researching in many countries, holding regular meetings with the emphasis on one-to-one assistance, by producing a Newsletter, attending public events such as Open days and Expos, conducting education workshops, taking a watching brief of the NZSG Library and making major donations of resources to the Library, and undertaking significant indexing projects of New Zealand records for inclusion in the NZSG index.

Over the intervening years the availability of records, especially for Continental countries, has been completely transformed with whole rafts of records, especially the vital records, being digitised and made freely available online. Our meetings have been a wonderful environment in which to set people on their way. However our main expertise, which resides in Kathy Bisman, Diane Hansford, Margaret Mundy, Carsten Begunk and myself, is now dispersed and we struggle to run our meetings. This, combined with the difficulty of filling roles to enable the Group to function and a small membership means it is time to close the Group.

**IN CONCLUSION:** The European Group has played an important role within the NZSG in advocating for things European as well as being a point of advice for Continental research. Given the small size of the Group we have, I think, achieved a great deal and are well known within the wider NZSG. We have always received very positive support from the NZSG. The Group can be very proud of its achievements.

I should like to thank the committee very much for their part in keeping the Group functioning and always operating as a team where the interests of the Group have come first. I think it is really saying something that so far as I can recall there has never been any descension, alternative agendas nor unpleasantness within the workings of the Group. The committee have been a pleasure to work with.

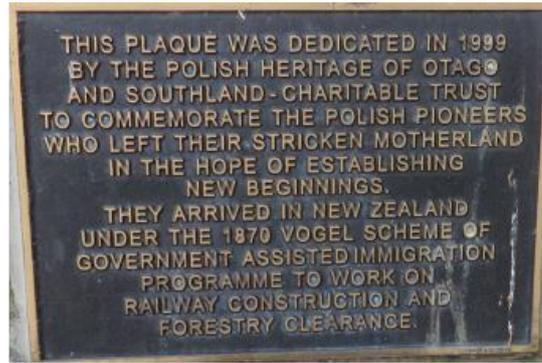
And lastly, and most importantly, thank you members for your support and encouragement of the Group.

Graham Clark, Chairman



Final attendees European Interest Group 3 May 2019 Left to Right  
Judith Lyons, Peter Persson, Gloria Kelly, Jill Owler, Robin Brehmer, Carsten Begunk, Anne Jacobsen, Ann Magill, Graham Clark, Margretta Batchelor, David Ward, Margaret Mundy, Raewyn Nevin, Geraldene O'Reilly.

## The Allanton Cemetery - Otago



The township of Allanton on State Highway 1 lies on the east bank of the Taieri River, eight kilometres south-west of Mosgiel. Formely known as Scroggs Creek and then Greytown, the town's name changed in 1895 to honour James Allan, a prominent early settler. It was also to avoid confusion with Greytown in the North Island.

James Allan had established his Hopehill estate in the 1850s near the site of the villae and river landing at the junction of the Taieri River with the Owhiro or Scroggs Creeks. Other settlers followed and established farms despite the area being prone to flooding.

A settlement sprang up along the main road during the goldrush years. There were two hotels, a smithy and a store. Trade thrived along the river, ships from Dunedin plying up the Taieri River as far as Taieri Ferry several kilometres downriver, where goods were unloaded into punts and lighters for the river settlements, and for on-carriage toward the goldfields at Waipori. A church was build in 1865 and a school followed in 1873.

German-Polish workers wer bought in to help build the Clultha railway southwards in the 1870s and they later turned to farming. Chinese labourers were hired to drain the swamps and they later settled in the district as market gardeners. By 1895 Allanton had a public hall, an athenaeum and three churches as well as a post officer located in the railway station.

The Allanton Cemetery is also known as the Greytown Cemetery and the Grey Cemetery. It is situated ten minutes away from Mosgiel, heading South. Turn at the 'Airport' signpost off the main road (State hightway 1), at the corner where there is a large display of farm machinery. From there it is only a couple of hundred meters. It is on the left, up a steep, but fully sealed drive leading to an extensive new sealed carpark a the top of the small hill.

The cemetery is administered by the Dunedin City Council, and has been upgraded and tidied. Many of the broken surrounds and wrought iron fencing was removed some years ago. It now resembles a lawn cemetery.

Many of the burials in the cemtery relate to Polish immigrants. Their headstones form the bulk of the Catholic section, which is seperated from the Protestants by a wide swathe of lawn. They lie on the south-west slope of the hillside cemetery, facing away from the town and toward the McLaren Gully and Otakia Hills.

Agmong the names associate with the Polish communities are, Beleski, Dysarski, Gorinski, Kovalski, Kreft, Pedofski, Perniski, Smolenski, Switalia, Velenski, and Wrobenski.

A plaque on a large stone loacted in the Allanton Cemetery acknowledges the Polish origins of many of those burried here.

Ref

Dunedin Family Histroy Group Mar 2019 newsletter which alerted me to the Polish nature of this cemetery. <http://polishhistorynewzealand.org/allanton-cemetery/> with a large amount of detail and bibliography

## BalanceSheetEIG2019

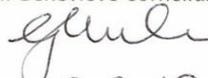
### European Interest Group of NZSG EOF 2018-2019

	Y E 31 March 2019	Y E March 2018
<b>Receipts</b>		
Subscriptions	250.00	220.50
Donations		20.00
Interest	1.82	2.63
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>251.82</b>	<b>243.13</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Gift	(50.00)	(82.44)
Library	(1607.46)	(502.88)
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>(1657.46)</b>	<b>(585.32)</b>
<b>Net Receipts</b>	<b>(1405.64)</b>	<b>(342.19)</b>
<b>Cash Reconciliation</b>		
Opening Bank Balances	<b>1697.57</b>	<b>2039.76</b>
Receipts	251.82	243.13
Expenses	(1657.46)	(585.32)
Closing Bank Balances	<b>291.93</b>	<b>1697.57</b>

Signed: Carsten Begunk [Treasurer]

  
Date: 9-4-19

Signed: Genevieve Cornelius [Examiner]

  
Date: 2-5-19.

All figures for the final balance – 3 May 2019 is exactly the same as at then 31 Mar 2019.

## Confirmation in Denmark Then and now



**Today, the phrase "Entering the Ranks of Adults" has little real meaning. Previously, it was different**

**Confirmation** has been around in **Denmark** since 1736. It was an obligatory religious act, and if you were not **confirmed** at church you were not allowed to study or work. Most of all, **confirmation** is a celebration and a time-honoured coming of age ritual

Far in the 20th century, the confirmation marked a formal boundary between being a child and an adult.

The age of confirmation was between 14 and 19 years. In 1759, a regulation established that confirmation before the age of 14 could only take place if there were completely special circumstances.

With the confirmation certificate in hand, you were ready to take the place as an adult. One was given the skudsmålsbog, which, with the regulation of 27.4.1822, became statutory for men and girls who are in service with others. The priest's statement on the youth was written on the first sheet of the skudsmålsbog book, and later the various employers wrote their assessments - whether he or she suited his work properly.

**.Being confirmed was therefore also an indirect prerequisite for getting away from home and getting a job. .**

From the 19th century, the bishop's archives contain infinitely many applications by 13-year-olds who are asking to be confirmed beforehand. As a rule, the motivation is that they can move for work, and not be burden on their poor family, eg for example another six months.

When the compulsory education stopped after 7 years of schooling, it was time after the confirmation to find a job, or an apprenticeship. The last remnant of this more formal distinction between childhood and adult life disappeared in 1972, when the compulsory education was extended to 8 years.

### Nowdays

One of the greatest paradoxes in a country as irreligious as Denmark is the fact that confirmation remains a very important moment in the lives of Danish youth. In a country where fewer than half of weddings are performed in churches, 71 percent of all children (44 percent in Copenhagen) are confirmed in the State Lutheran church

Confirmation is now viewed by many young people as a more or less secular event, an occasion for receiving gifts and a good deal of money. It is even considered acceptable – for the young people to ask for expensive gifts such as iPhones, computers, gold jewellery, gift certificates, and money as their confirmation gift.

However, if there is not a wish list, the safest option is to give money. This is completely acceptable and even encouraged, as opposed to giving money at birthdays or Christmas.

Confirmation day is followed by “Blue Monday”

All of those teens who were confirmed in the church on Sunday are going out to party all day on the following Monday afterwards. Even schools give them a free pass that day! Blue Monday is about having fun and blowing through a lot of that money they just collected.

The day consists of shopping, amusement parks and restaurants. And the only blue is the colour of their jeans and hopefully the skies over Denmark.

Source: [historie-online.dk](http://historie-online.dk) translated with Google translate

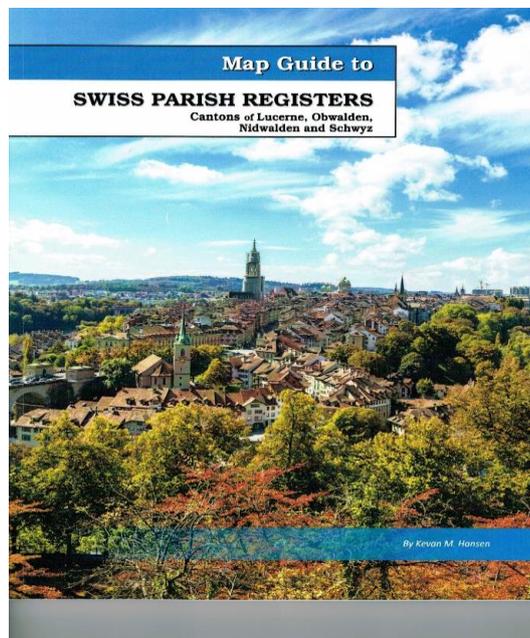
[www.thelocal.dk/20160425/the-complete-guide-to-confirmation-in-denmark](http://www.thelocal.dk/20160425/the-complete-guide-to-confirmation-in-denmark)



## Recent Addition of Map Guides to Library

The European Interest Group has recently completed a major purchase of books from the German Map Guide and Swiss Map Guides series for deposit in the NZSG Library.

The German Map Guides comprise Volumes 53, 54 & 55 Silesia I, II & III, Volume 43 Brandenburg III: City of Berlin, Volume 56 Free City of Hamburg and Volume 57 Free Cities of Bremen, Lübeck & Kiel. With the addition of these books the NZSG Library now has complete coverage for the northern two-thirds of the former German Empire.



The Swiss Map Guides comprise:

- Volume 3 Zurich.
- Volume 4 Fribourg.
- Volume 5 Aargau.
- Volume 6 St Gallen, Appenzell Asserrhoden, Appenzell Innerrhoden.
- Volume 7 Vaud.
- Volume 8 Solothurn, Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft, Schaffhausen.
- Volume 9 Lucerne, Obwalsen, Nidwalden, Schwyz.
- Volume 10 Graubunden I.

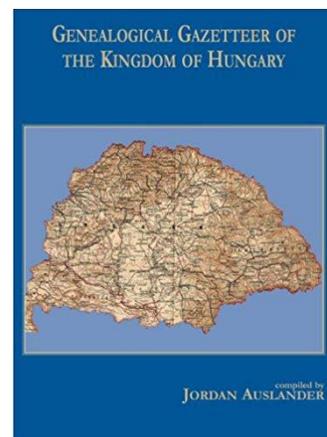
Each volume of the series does the following:

- Identifies the parish where an ancestor worshipped based on where they lived and gives the FHL microfilm number for the parish records.
- Identifies population centres in each parish.
- Identifies nearly every city, town, and place that included residents.
- Visually identifies church parishes for Lutherans & Catholics in each district.
- Identifies adjoining parishes in case an ancestor attended an alternate parish.
- Aids in area searches, particularly across district or regional borders.
- Helps in determining proximity of one area to another.
- Identifies archives, repositories, and other resources.
- Aids in identification of the location of minority religions.

## Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary compiled by Jordan Auslander

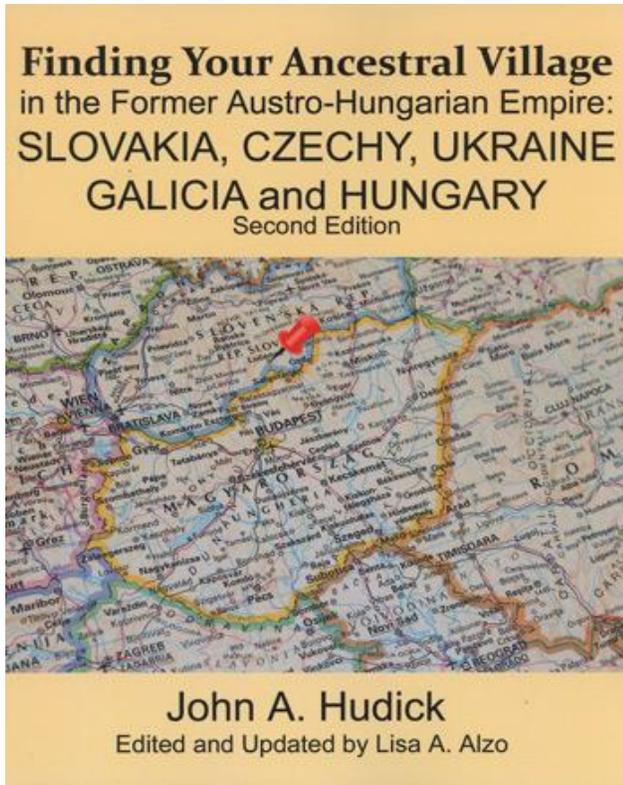
A gazetteer listing alphabetically about 17,000 towns in the Kingdom of Hungary in 1877, an area comprising not only present-day Hungary, but also parts of Austria, Slovakia, Romania and former Yugoslavia. Each entry includes the town name (as it appeared in 1877), the county or district, any alternate names and the current name and country. Each listing also gives the population by religion and where their parish church was located

By way of background the gazetteer is based on an 1877 Hungarian locality dictionary by Janos Dvorzsak, that included the 63 counties of the Kingdom of Hungary with a political and religious classification of the population in each place. Seventy-three percent of the 1877 entries are no longer part of Hungary and have different names, belonging to different countries. This work is to help genealogists identify the different locations and recognize them for their prior names, ethnic and religious associations. A short history of Hungary is also included.



## **Finding Your Ancestral Village in the Former Austro-Hungarian Empire: Slovakia, Czechy, Ukraine, Galicia and Hungary**

by John A. Hudick, up-dated by Lisa Alzo



A guide to assist with research in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, an area comprising modern-day Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia and parts of Romania, Ukraine, Poland and former Yugoslavia.

The tools, tips, and techniques in this guide will help WKH UHVHDUFKHU ORFDWH and DQFH to understand, as a result of all the border changes in this area, the current and former names of the place, its historical county and the region where it was located.

The guide includes extensive information on different types of records for the differing localities and listings of maps, especially historic, gazetteers and websites that allow immediate access to many online resources.

## **German Residential Records For Genealogists: Tracing Your Ancestor From Place to Place in Germany** by Roger P. Minert

Population registration, the practice of documenting the whole population, usually by address, has been universal across the whole of the German speaking world since the second half of the nineteenth century and prior to that, most places in the German had systems to record the arrival and departure of strangers, foreigners and itinerant workers to their areas.

This book looks at the development of the system of registration from early times then, using the thirty-eight political entities that comprised the German Empire from 1871 to 1918, it details for each area the laws and decrees issued, the records produced, whether the records survive and how to access them