

The New Zealand Genealogist

Mahuru September 2024

Vol 55 No 402

EMIGRATION TO NEW ZEALAND.



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New Zealand Society of Genealogists

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The Mission of the **New Zealand Society of Genealogists** is to provide educational opportunities and research resources for the development of knowledge, skills and practice in family history, genealogy and whakapapa for members and the wider community.

Being a member, you get to be part of a community of amazing people with access to a wealth of information that members have put together for over 55 years. You can contribute to that information, either by writing articles about your own research, or helping with projects such as indexing school records in your area of interest. You'll get direct help with your own research from other members or by joining one of our online or in-person courses. Or you can help other members with their challenges. It's all about sharing your passion and knowledge with people who get it, and as a bonus, making new friends!

Benefits of Membership include:

Become a better researcher
Save money on your research
Help preserve resources

Discover new resources

Share your research and skills

* See pages 114-115 for more information

How to become a member

Applications to become a member can be made online at www.genealogy.org.nz or may be made in writing. Application forms can be downloaded from the website or are available from NZSG Membership Department, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741 or by emailing membership@genealogy.org.nz.

Membership Category		Subscription
Ordinary	Open to any one individual (one journal, one vote)	\$112.00
Joint	Open to any two persons living in the same household (one journal, two votes)	\$150.00
Student	Open to people 12–25 years (one journal, one vote)	\$32.00
Affiliate Group	Open to any library, institution, museum, facility, corporate body, family history organisation or group that is supportive of the objects of the Society and which is willing to assist the Society to promote these objects (one journal, no vote)	\$185.00

Subscriptions are for 12 months from the first day of the month in which payment is received.



This month's theme

Immigration

Copy deadlines

Feature articles submitted for consideration must be received by the Editor by the following dates:

Issue	Last date for consideration
March	10 January
June	10 April
September	10 July
December	10 October

Deadline for regular contributions from NZSG, Branches and Interest Groups, Members' Area: 17th of the same month.

Submission of copy

Submissions can be made in electronic format by email in .doc, .txt or .rtf file format emailed to editor@genealogy.org.nz.

Include your name, contact details and membership number.

Criteria

1. Relevance: related to people and their society; genealogy, family history, whakapapa, research, documentary sources, application, biography, genealogical technology etc.
2. Length: Feature articles: 1,800 to 2,700 words (2–3 pages) plus images; Short articles: 500–900 words plus images.

Upcoming themes

December 2024

DNA

June 2025

Amazing women

March 2025

Family Myths debunked

September 2025

World War II

Style Guide

A Style Guide is available on the NZSG website:

genealogy.org.nz/Writing-for-NZG/11165/

Editing

The Editorial Team reserves the right to edit articles to meet standards and for readability, but if substantial changes are required the Editor will consult with the author.

Advertising

Contact the NZSG [National Manager](#) for information about rates, specifications and conditions, or find details on the [NZSG website](#) with other details about *The New Zealand Genealogist*. Copy must be received by 10 January, April, July and October.

Members' Area

Includes: Contact Sought, Information Wanted, Information Offered, Trader and Reunion notices. Members may submit queries of up to 50 words (excluding submitter's name, email and membership number). Please do not abbreviate your enquiry. All surnames should be in capitals. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit, but your full name, email and membership number must be included with each entry.



As spring arrives and gardens blossom with new life, we also welcome new initiatives to our Society.

Our Annual General Meeting in June saw us farewell Barry Pycroft from the Board and welcome Brian Bernon from Otaki and Glenn Stewart from Auckland. Members attending passed a motion to maintain subscriptions at the same rate for the coming year.

The Board had its annual in person meeting on 20 July. Sarah Hewitt was re-elected Chair, with Trisha Dunn as Vice Chairperson and Greta Gordon being the third member of the Executive. There was a wide-ranging discussion on what we have achieved over the past year and what we would like to achieve in the coming year and further into the future. We agreed that we would continue with our focus groups on Kiwi Collection, Collections, Projects, Marketing, the FRC and our Branches and Interest Groups, as well as a number of initiatives that fall under Education.

In addition to those, we have added the following:

Writing Resources - Led by Directors Brian Bernon and Greta Gordon, this group will be looking at what resources we can provide members, as well as Branches and Interest Groups, to encourage and help with the writing of family histories.

Genealogy in Schools - Led by Directors Melanie Middleton and Sarah Hewitt, this group will be building relationships with others in the history and education fields to build resources that can be used by students. We are looking for members with a passion for education to join this focus group – does this interest you?

July also saw another update to the Kiwi Collection. In addition to thousands of records that are no longer time

restricted, there are additional record sets including the pre-1856 Marriages, Griffis Illegitimacies, and New Zealand Herald Deaths 1990 - 2015. This takes the total records to nearly 16 million and some of these new record sets also include images. What will you find?

We have also launched the Kiwi Resources to complement the Overseas Resources on our website. These are a guide of where to look for records in New Zealand. There are also tips on how to search them. They currently cover nearly two dozen topics so you might find something unexpected amongst them. Have a look under the Resources menu after you've logged in.

The NZSG Shipping Collection Project is up to Phase 2 – collating voyages. Our database now has over 20,000 voyages and is growing all the time thanks to all our members submissions. If you wish to help, see our website for information on how to volunteer (or look under Get Involved/Projects, once you've logged in).

How often do you skip over the “blue pages” – the pages in the middle that detail NZSG services and records? We've made them green for this issue to encourage you to have a read. These are the services and records available to you as a member. There might be something new for you to discover.

Our strength comes from our members. If you have any thoughts to share with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We have made great progress in recent years and the Board remain committed to building upon that progress.

Sarah Hewitt, NZSG Chairperson

Board of Directors Sarah Hewitt (Chairperson) Trisha Dunn (Vice Chairperson) Greta Gordon Melanie Middleton Amanda Maxwell Bryce Johnson Natasha Wells Brian Bernon Glenn Stewart	Membership Administrator Nicky Lumby T: 09 394 9546 E: membership@genealogy.org.nz Accounts Administrator Don Cortesi (Volunteer) T: 09 394 9547 E: accounts@genealogy.org.nz Projects Co-ordinator E: nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz Webmaster Jan Sherwood E: webmaster@genealogy.org.nz Auditor - Dellow Financial Services Ltd Hon Solicitor - Harold Kidd	Editor E: editor@genealogy.org.nz Production Team Pauline Weeks Sue Dinsdale Jan Sherwood Gordy Collingwood Jenny Robertson Thea Michael Published by The New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc. PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741 159 Queens Road, Panmure, Auckland 1072 General enquiries T: 09 570 4248 Ext 1
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Brenda Anne Joyce nee Pearce

Brenda was born on 31 January 1938 in Eastbourne, South Sussex, England. She passed on 24 October 2023 in Titahi Bay, Porirua, aged 84 years. Brenda was buried at Rahiri Urupa, Hokianga with her beloved husband Aporo Joyce (next to his parents, siblings and tipuna).

Brenda's parents were Jack and Lucy Pearce of Sussex, England. She had one brother David, 4 years younger than Brenda and still living in Eastbourne, England. Brenda's education was in Eastbourne, and she went right through to University. After graduating, she took an OE teaching job in Cyprus in 1964. It was during this time that she met her future husband, Aporo Joyce. He was there with the United Nations Police Forces. Brenda returned home to the UK after her OE and Aporo back to New Zealand.

Brenda received a letter in the post from Aporo asking for her hand in marriage. Can you imagine the time it would have taken for that letter to travel to England and then for the reply to come back to New Zealand? The engagement ring was included in the letter of proposal.

In 1966 Brenda came to New Zealand and they married in 1967 at the Wellington Registry Office. They lived in Tawa for nearly 50 years. She was in the education sector for the next 40 years. She specialised in Home economics. She taught at Porirua College and at Arohata Women's Prison where she taught the girls to sew. She eventually ended her education career with the Wellington Correspondence School, where she specialised in design and textiles. She was head of department for them.

Brenda was very passionate about her genealogy. The information she has left on her Pearce family, and Aporo's Joyce/Shelford whānau is very treasured.

She travelled back to England many times to visit her family, eventually stopping going about the mid 1990's when she lost her parents. Her and Aporo travelled the world together, so she has wonderful memories of her times spent with him.

When Aporo passed away, her life changed, and she lost a lot of her will to carry on, but she did for another six years. She was a very private person, and she preferred solitude and a good book with a glass of wine as company.

Brenda was dearly loved and respected by Aporo's family as they appreciated how deeply she cared for and loved our Uncle.

The information above has been provided by Lesley – one of Aporo's nieces.

NZSG Service

Brenda was first co-opted to Council in 2001 as Secretary to replace Pat Fisher who had resigned. She was elected as Secretary again in 2002 and 2003. She was again elected to Council at the AGM held in Christchurch on 31 May 2008 and again in 2009.

In addition to her service to the NZSG, Brenda won the Kevin McNulty Award for 2003 (Awarded in 2004) for her book "The Pearce Papers". She also co-authored with Bruce Mathers in conjunction with the NZSG Māori Interest Group *Whakapapa: an introduction to Māori family history*.



Theme for December 2024 Issue — DNA

Our theme for the December issue of The New Zealand Genealogist is DNA. Have you made an interesting discovery about your family history? Do you have a useful tool you'd like to share?

Make sure to look at the slideshare and tips on submissions on our website [genealogy.org.nz/Writing-Articles/11165/](https://www.genealogy.org.nz/Writing-Articles/11165/) before submitting your article.

Send your submissions to editor@genealogy.org.nz



Literary Award Winners



2023 Literary Award Winners

Each year, the NZSG presents three awards for writing at the Annual General Meeting. These awards are for the previous calendar year. We would like to congratulate our 2023 winners.

Lucy Marshall Award:

The Lucy Marshall Award was introduced in 1990 to encourage all members to share their 'how to' knowledge and experience with others by writing articles for our magazine, *The New Zealand Genealogist*.

The award for 2023 goes to:

Paul Hickford (#13587) for

"Unravelling the life of My Greek Uncle"

Published in the March 2023 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*.

The judges commented:

This well written article was given an excellent by one of the judges. Whilst being more about a person it did highlight sources in a geographical area not many are searching and thus finding the sources was well done.

Kevin McNulty Award:

The Kevin McNulty Award was established to honour the memory of Kevin McNulty (#3710) for a published family history.

The 2023 winners are Christine Headford (#13983) and Christine M. Gill (ex-member 29567) for

"The Family of Harry Sangster Hill"

The judges note:

This book is well deserving of the award. It ticked almost all the boxes, was extensively researched and fully sourced. The index includes places as well as names, and although no separate bibliography was listed, many books are included in the source lists. There is an excellent collection of photographs, documents, maps and other illustrations. Congratulations to Christine and Christine.

You can find a copy of their book in our Library.

Ted Gilberd Family History Award:

This annual Award is for the best family history article published in *The New Zealand Genealogist* in the previous calendar year. It aims to promote the writing of family history to a good standard of work and presentation. The Trustees apply established criteria for both selection and

judging.

This year's Ted Gilberd Family History Award winner is Sarah Hewitt (#25499) for

"The Silver Cup"

published in the December 2023 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist*.

The judges commented:

This is a great family history story, well written, well researched, focused and very readable. The style of writing is especially suitable for inclusion in an online publication with short paragraphs limited to exploring one fact at a time. Sarah posed rhetorical questions throughout the article, immediately addressing her own query and creating a degree of suspense as she unravelled the mystery that culminated in a surprise discovery.

Sarah's technique of mentioning appropriate sources within the article not only illustrates the depth of her research, but also provides interesting background material without letting it dominate or detract from the flow of the story. This technique also meant her list of references at the end of the article was kept manageable.

We would like to thank the co-ordinators and judges of our literary awards. Special thanks go to Mary Stuart who has retired from the Lucy Marshall judging panel after 30 years service for her work on the Award.



Possibly the Worst ever Journey to New Zealand

Christine Clement

Edward MATTHEWS was born in Worcester, Worcestershire, England in 1819 to John and Hannah Matthews née GARDNER. An 1820 business directory advertised John Matthews' business at 11 Broad Street, Worcester as "Ironmonger, Locksmith, Bell-hanger, Cutler, Tin-man and Brazier, Wholesale and Retail."

After the death of John in 1856, Edward and a brother operated the business, which prospered, and in census returns the family always had a live-in servant. In 1871 the business was sold to Joseph HALL and all accounts owing were to be paid to Edward on or before the 30 December 1871: "... all remaining after that date will be entered at once in the County Court for delivery."¹

Edward and his wife Ann née NEWTON and their six children Edward John (14), Howard (12), Newton (9), Ada Caroline (6), Eva Ellen (4) and Ernest William Pemberton (1) left the East India Docks, London for Auckland aboard Shaw Saville's *Bulwark* on 27 February 1872.

The *Bulwark* was not technically an immigrant ship and carried 12 saloon passengers, including the wife and family of the captain, 16 second class passengers including the Matthews family, and six steerage passengers. It carried general cargo including livestock, paper, linen, confectionery (pastilles and jujubes), Lea and Perrins Sauce, gunpowder and general drapery amongst the more than 5,000 parcels for various destinations around New Zealand. Also onboard was 450 tons of railway iron for use on Auckland's new rail system. The ship did not arrive in Auckland until 1 October 1872 after a voyage of 212 days – over seven months! Those with friends and family onboard would have given up all hope of ever seeing them again.

The *New Zealand Herald* of the 2 October 1872 described their voyage (perhaps the longest ever voyage to New Zealand):

ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP BULWARK, FROM LONDON.

At last, the ship *Bulwark*, from London, is safely anchored in our harbour, after a passage of over seven months, having left on the 27th of February. Great has been the anxiety in shipping circles respecting this vessel, which had, prior to the news of her having put into the Mauritius, been given up for lost.

The article continues:

The signal of a ship in sight was hoisted at the flagstaff shortly after one o'clock yesterday afternoon, and about three a full-rigged vessel rounded the heads and anchored in the quarantine ground, to await the arrival of the Health Officer. The ship's number was not hoisted, and when the *Bulwark* came in sight, it was thought to be the *Robert Henderson*, of the *Glenhuntly*, for people had ceased to look for the vessel so long overdue.

Besides, she presented quite a smart appearance, and

did not "roll" into harbour like a "tea-waggon", as was anticipated she would do. She is by no means a clumsy looking boat, nor is she an old vessel. She is North American built, has a full but clean stem and a well-rounded stern; nor has she proved herself a bad sailor, notwithstanding the length of her passage and her serious mishaps.

At Mauritius she received a thorough repair, and, therefore, comes into port a comparatively clean ship. Had she come out from London direct with an ordinary cargo, and not called in at the Cape, we believe she would have made a very good passage to this port. It has been said that she is a sister ship to the old *Monarch*, which once visited Auckland. This is not the case. She is in every respect a smarter looking vessel – nor is she anything like so large.

She is very deep in the water, as may be supposed, from the quantity of railway iron on board; but we are informed that she is a foot lighter than when she left the Cape, a large quantity of her cargo (principally consisting of drapery, &c) having been discharged and sold at the Mauritius – altogether, about £4000 worth.

She made an average passage to the Cape, where she put in for water, in consequence of some of the tanks having leaked. A fortnight afterwards she fell in with a heavy gale, which did her terrible damage, and for a time threatened her safety. She was afterwards three weeks making Port Louis [Mauritius], where she remained for two months making repairs.

One passenger died on the passage out. Notwithstanding the extreme length of the voyage, the passengers are in first-rate health, and appeared to be pretty comfortable. They all speak in terms of the greatest praise of the uniform kindness of Captain and Mrs Kelly. Among them is Mr Rye, a New Zealand settler of some years standing, who went home in the *Queen Bee* in 1871.² Dr Philson boarded the vessel about five o'clock, and after making the usual examination, gave her a clean bill of health. She afterward came up as far as the powder ground.

The following are the particulars of her passage as taken from the log:

The ship *Bulwark*, 1332 tons, Captain Kelly, left the East India Docks on the 27th February, and was off Portland on the 6th of March. Picked up the N E trades on the 20th March and crossed the Equator on the 2nd April. Took the S E trades up off the Line. On April 15th had a heavy south-east gale, the ship straining a good deal, in consequence of her weighty cargo. Gale lasted for three days. Commenced again on the 25th, from the N, vessel rolling gunwale under water. Passed Gough Island [South Atlantic Ocean] on May 1st, distant 50 miles.

In consequence of loss of fresh water, through leakage

of the tanks, the captain thought it advisable to touch at the Cape. Made Simons Bay on the 11th May. Left again on the 14th, with light E N E winds. On the 17th, experienced a very heavy gale from the N N W, which continued for three days. After a three days' cessation, it recommenced with redoubled fury; and on the 23rd the ship pooped a terrific sea, which washed the man at the wheel and the mate to the front of the poop.

At 8.30 pm on the following Sunday, 26th May, another terrific sea rolled over the stern, carrying all before it. It smashed the wheel in pieces, washed the two steersmen onto the main deck, dislocating the arm of one, and breaking two ribs of the other, besides otherwise severely injuring them. The captain held on to the wheel, and was washed to the front of the poop, and had both his legs severely injured. The second mate was also washed on to the main deck and was much bruised and hurt about the chest. The cabin skylight and hurricane-house were washed away; the cabin was filled with water, the binnacle, stern pump, compass, timepiece &c, were swept overboard, and in fact, a regular havoc made in this part of the ship. The poop rails, fire extinguishers, hencoops, fowls, pigs and sheep were swept into the sea, and the whole four boats smashed to pieces.

The prospect was now gloomy in the extreme. A fearful gale was raging all around them; they feared every sea would sink the vessel, and worse than all, their boats were gone. The front of the fore-cabin was smashed, and the main deckhouse nearly carried away. Two iron yardarms were lost, and port mizzen chains were carried away. The main deck was much cut, and the bulwarks were smashed. When the wheel was carried away, they had to bring the ship to the wind, and let fly everything for safety, the vessel being utterly beyond control. The water rushed into the hold through the hole in the main chains, and when the pumps were sounded five feet of water was found, and this was increasing every instant.

The pumps were manned by every man and woman in the ship, who worked for twenty-four hours without ceasing, in the hope of saving themselves from a watery grave. To add to the terror of the situation, several cases of aqua fortis took fire, and for a time an inevitable death stared the unfortunate passengers and crew in the face; but the danger was fairly beaten.³ The cases of aqua fortis were thrown overboard, and by very hard work the water was got under.

To give some idea of the terrific force of the sea, we might state that a number of the bolts of the mizen chains were wrenched clean out. Remained hove-to for two days, under a storm trysail. A number of the ship's sails were also blown to atoms in this gale. On 29 May the wheel was fixed, and it was then decided, in the crippled state of the vessel, to bear away for Mauritius. The *Bulwark* was in 420 28' south latitude, 610 east longitude, when she met with her misfortunes. Port Louis was reached on 18 June. When here cargo was partly shifted, and a quantity was sold, as before observed. Extensive repairs were made to the vessel, which left again for this port on 16 August, after a stay of two months:⁴

Afterwards had very fine southerly weather, with the exception of a strong gale on the 1st September.

Rounded Tasmania on September 17 and made the Three Kings on Sunday last. John Parsons, aged 31, died of consumption on the 27th March. He was coming out for the benefit of his health.

During the entire journey no word could be sent of her plight. The list of the 80 tons of damaged cargo sold at Mauritius was listed in the *New Zealand Herald* on 3 October (page 2). It included boots, tapioca, rice and sago, currants, starch, split peas, sugar candles, paper and cloth, woollens, carpets, glassware, blankets, nightlights and a sewing machine for Mrs KOFFERT. No mention appears in reports that the ship had been grossly overloaded with the railway iron!

Christine Clement

E: cmclementnz@gmail.com

References

1. *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 20 December 1871, p2.
2. He brought out some pure-bred Berkshire pigs which survived the journey. However, his first-class fancy fowls did not.
3. Nitric acid. A corrosive liquor made of saltpetre, serving as a solvent for dissolving silver and all other metals except gold.
4. Shaw Saville did not have an agent in Mauritius and the captain had to sell some of the goods being transported to pay for the repairs.

The 'Bulwark' in an unidentified port

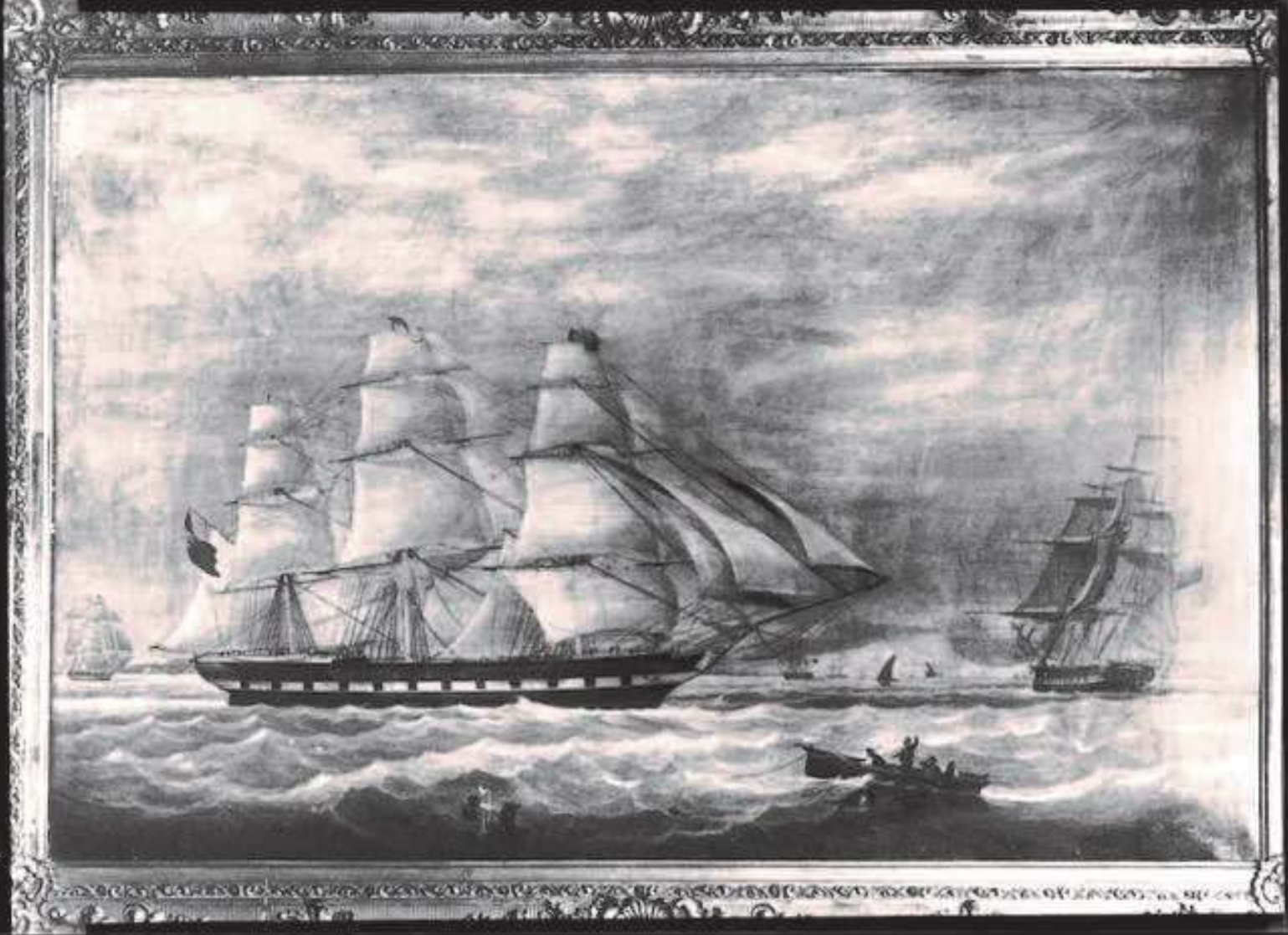
[PRG 1373/30/6]

A.D. Edwardes Collection

State Library of South Australia



PRG 1373/30/6



A Case of 19th Century Chain Emigration to North Canterbury

Allan Hawkes

In the 1830s the GIBBS family (my maternal line) lived in the village of Turvey, Bedfordshire.¹ The family consisted of eight surviving children (of an original ten) descended from my 3x great grandparents, George (c. 1784-1838) and Sarah Gibbs (1784-1853), née STANTON. George had been a shepherd and labourer. Earlier generations of the family had lived in the nearby villages of Biddenham and Stagsden from at least 1736. These were west of the county town of Bedford on the Buckinghamshire border.

In this article I intend to show how virtually all members of this family immigrated to North Canterbury, New Zealand. This immigration occurred over the course of a decade in a chain-like fashion. For some members of the family, this migration to New Zealand had been preceded by migration both within England and overseas to France.

It is important to look at emigration and consider the causes of population movement. Since the middle of the eighteenth century, a combination of social and economic

changes caused a serious decline in the status, income and welfare of village labourers. These included:

- The enclosures of the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, when open fields and commons were appropriated. This upset the lives of agricultural labourers by removing their claim to the use of the land and thereby reducing their economic independence. After enclosure agricultural labourers became dependent wage workers. In Bedfordshire, these enclosures occurred between about 1750 and 1840.
- The destruction of cottage industries (e.g. lacemaking in North Bedfordshire) by the Industrial Revolution worsened labourers' status as dependent workers.
- The effects on the village community of the counter-revolutionary attitude of the ruling class, who feared the spread of ideas from France, during the French Revolution. The increased dependence of the labourer was seen as a means of maintaining the social structure.
- The economic and social consequences of surplus rural

Image above: Creator of collection unknown: Photograph of a painting by an unidentified artist depicting the ship Egmont. Ref: 1/2-028057-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. [/records/22846927](#)

labour aggravated by the Depression following The Battle of Waterloo. During the early nineteenth century the population of England grew rapidly. In Bedfordshire, for example, the population increased fifty per cent between 1801 and 1831. The main cause of the increase was a rise in the birth rate and a great reduction in the death rate resulting from improved living conditions, health treatment and advances in medicine – particularly vaccination against smallpox.

- The poor rates which failed to address the overpopulation problem. The Speenhamland system, which subsidised low wages, was introduced in 1795 to counter the inflation of the French Wars. This unintentionally created a system of subsistence where labourers earned the same regardless of how much they worked. Protest at the labourers' plight of dependent pauperism manifested itself in the Swing Riots that swept over southern England in 1830/1831. Bedfordshire was moderately active. Threshing machines, which deprived the villagers of much of their labour, bore the brunt of destruction, but burning hayricks and barns also occurred. Many employers received threatening anonymous letters demanding higher wages. The government sent troops to deal with the disorders and harsh punishments resulted.

The new Poor Law of 1834 attempted to deal with overpopulation, but the new workhouse system was doomed to fail unless the burden on it could be reduced. The Duke of Bedford's steward, Thomas Bennett, noted in 1834, "Without some means devised to dispose of this redundancy, the workhouse system will fail." The answer to overpopulation lay in two options: migration and emigration. Bennett had recognised that "The owners of the soil can never look to any permanent relief until a considerable part of the population will leave the country altogether." Many migrated to the towns and cities. Others went to the industrial north, and, as early as 1838, many had become navvies on the rapidly expanding railways. However, as Bennett had recognised, the ultimate cure for overpopulation was emigration.

These then were some of the forces at play driving the rural migration and emigration of the 1830s to the 1860s and contributed to the migration and later emigration of my Bedfordshire ancestors and other families from the village of Turvey. This coincided with a marked agricultural and industrial depression in the British economy from 1837 until 1842.

The first Gibbs to migrate from their village were the brothers George junior (c. 1810-1864) and Arthur (c. 1813-1900) and their families around 1838 to 1840. In the 1841 census, George (groom), Mary, (c. 1810-1876) and their five children were staying in railway huts near Balcombe, Sussex.² Arthur's wife Rachel (c. 1815-1876, labourer) and four children were there as well.³ Arthur, a labourer, was living on the South Eastern Rail Road line (built 1838-1842) at Bletchingley, Surrey, seemingly navvying.⁴ Those at Balcombe were navvying on the construction of the London – Brighton Railway which commenced in July 1838 and was being undertaken by the great British and international railway contractor, Thomas BRASSEY. George, Arthur and their brother-in-law, Benjamin BAILEY (c. 1815-1904) (who had married the brothers' sister, Kezia Gibbs (c. 1816-

1884), are known to have gone further afield and worked for Brassey on railway construction in France on the Paris-Rouen line, France's first railway, during the 1840s.⁵ Benjamin cannot be located in the 1841 census and may have already been in France. His wife Kezia and son (born at Balcombe c. 1839-1840) were living with relatives back in Turvey.⁶

The navvying life was known to be hard but the wages were some compensation for this. In 1843 pick men were getting 16s 6d and shovellers 15s per week compared with agricultural labourers who, in 1835, were earning 8 to 12s a week. In 1857 they were still being paid the same. By 1846, navvies were getting 24s (pick men) and 22s 6d (shovellers).

By 1845, when his daughter Mary was born, George Gibbs was a porter at Brighton, possibly at the railway station.⁷ In the 1851 census he was a rail labourer at Hanborough, Oxfordshire, while wife Mary was with Arthur and Rachel and their family at Church End, Buckingham.⁸ Four of George and Mary's children, aged between six and 13 years, were staying with three families (all relatives) back in Turvey.⁹ When his son Henry was born in 1852, George was again working as a porter, this time in Bermondsey, Surrey (now Southwark, London), perhaps at London Bridge Station.¹⁰ It is apparent that the disruption of family unity was a result of the migratory quest for work. In 1851, Benjamin and Kezia and three surviving children were back in Turvey. He was again working as an agricultural labourer.¹¹

The younger Gibbs brothers, James and William, were still at Turvey in 1851 working as agricultural labourers, as were their sisters Elizabeth (1818-1900, later Mrs Thomas AYRES/AYERS), Hephzibah (1822-1894, later Mrs William HARTWELL) and Kezia, already mentioned.¹² The late 1840s and early 1850s were not good for navvies as railway construction had contracted and many workers went abroad. However, the migration for railway navvying was only an interim stage in the travels of these Bedfordshire villagers. The next step in their efforts to better themselves was much more drastic. It would involve leaving loved ones forever and embarking on a long one-way voyage to an unknown land on the other side of the world. Their decision to immigrate to New Zealand would mean undertaking a migration of over 19,000 kilometres.

The first Turvey family to take that courageous decision to immigrate to New Zealand was probably that of William GARLICK (a brickmaker, bricklayer and labourer), his wife Sarah Ayres, (a dressmaker and lacemaker) and their baby son, Thomas. By doing so they were to be among the founding settlers of Canterbury. The Garlicks were aboard the *Sir George Seymour* when it left Plymouth on 8 September 1850. It arrived at Lyttelton on 17 December, and with three other ships, carried the first 782 immigrants, known as the "Canterbury Pilgrims", to the Canterbury settlement.¹³ Details of the four ships and of their passengers are commemorated on marble plaques in Pilgrims' Corner of Cathedral Square, Christchurch. William and Sarah were later to have a daughter Elizabeth who married my great grandfather, Henry "Harry" Gibbs. They were second cousins.

The next Turvey family to immigrate to New Zealand seems to have been that of Arthur Gibbs (farm labourer) with his wife Rachel (née HARLEY) and their three surviving children. They sailed on the *Canterbury*, which left London on 21 June 1851 and arrived at Lyttelton on 21 October.¹⁴

This family was followed by various relatives aboard the *Cashmere*, which left London on 2 July 1855 and arrived at Lyttelton on 23 October. They were James Gibbs (agricultural labourer, a widower) and his son Thomas; Elizabeth Gibbs (general servant); Benjamin Bailey (labourer), his wife Kezia and their son John (shoemaker); and William Ayres (bricklayer), who was later to marry the aforementioned Elizabeth Gibbs. The adult fare for the voyage was £21. Many passengers paid as little as £1 in cash in England but much larger amounts (e.g. £15) in promissory notes. The balance owing was paid by the Canterbury Provincial Government.¹⁵

This group was followed by Elizabeth Gibbs' parents, George Gibbs (labourer) and his wife Mary (née POWELL) and seven of their other children. They embarked on the *Egmont* at London on 10 September 1856 and arrived at Lyttelton on 23 December. The adult fare was £21, with the younger children charged £10 10s. The total fare for the Gibbs' family was £157 10s. They had paid a mere £8 in cash but £93 in promissory notes. George was still paying off the promissory notes in 1862. The Provincial Government assisted with the balance of £56 10s.¹⁶ That same year, Thomas Percival WOODING emigrated from Turvey on the *Joseph Fletcher* and subsequently married Hephzibah Gibbs, who had emigrated with her parents, George and Mary, on the *Egmont*.¹⁷

The largest group of Turvey emigrants arrived at Lyttelton on 27 September 1858 aboard the *Zealandia*, having left St Katherine Docks, London on 11 June with 399 passengers and 45 crew.¹⁸ They included Henry (agricultural labourer) and Sarah Wooding and two children; Thomas (bricklayer) and Elizabeth (née Gibbs) Ayres and four children; William (farm labourer) and Ann Gibbs and three children; Charles (farm labourer) and Ann SKEVINGTON and two children; Rachel MARKHAM (a 65-year-old widow and former lacemaker); and Elizabeth STANTON, née DRAGE, (widowed lacemaker) and two children. She was later to marry James Gibbs, a widower who emigrated on the *Cashmere* in 1855.

The last of the Gibbs family to arrive in New Zealand was James (a smith) on the *Clontarf* which left Gravesend on 30

November 1859 and landed at Lyttelton on 16 March 1860.¹⁹ He joined his parents George and Mary who had arrived on the *Egmont* in 1856.

The result of this emigration was that 49 or so people left one Bedfordshire village in the decade between 1850 and 1859. This was almost five per cent of Turvey's population (1,028) in 1851. This is by no means an exhaustive count of Turvey emigrants, as I have noted only those who were on the same shipping lists as my Gibbs families. Others may have immigrated on other ships to Canterbury, to other areas of New Zealand or to other colonies that were to form Australia or Canada. Emigration of this order must have gone some way to alleviating the rural overpopulation problem.

It seems that, initially, after disembarking at Lyttelton, all these Turvey emigrants headed directly or indirectly north to the tiny settlement of Woodend, 25 kilometres from the fledgling settlement of Christchurch. Arthur Gibbs who had arrived on the *Canterbury* in 1851 initially worked for John DEANS, a founding Christchurch settler. Arthur then moved to the Christchurch suburb of Papanui where he took up road construction contracting before farming at Woodend. The seven Turvey emigrants who arrived in 1855 on the *Cashmere* proceeded to Woodend where the only building standing was a partially built accommodation house. They busied themselves building houses, felling bush and readying the land for farming and preparing for the arrival of more relatives and friends from Turvey. The next influx was the family of George and Mary Gibbs and seven of their children who had disembarked from the *Egmont* two days before Christmas in 1856. This family initially stopped at Papanui, possibly for road construction work with George's brother, Arthur, before proceeding on to Woodend.

The *Zealandia* emigrants had been encouraged in 1858 to relieve the labour shortage in Canterbury, but they mostly moved out of the main settlements and initiated a new wave of land purchasing. The 23 from Turvey headed for their kinsfolk already settled at Woodend. Benjamin Bailey had begun farming there in 1857, and he and James Gibbs selected freeholds in 1858. About this time the Gibbs brothers built three sod cottages in the fork of the road junction near the settlement's first building, which by then had become a hotel. By this time, the settlement had adopted a name: Gibbs Town. Perhaps this was an obvious choice when the number of Gibbs's settled there are considered; four brothers (Arthur, George, James and

William) each with their families, a total of 25, along with two of their married sisters, Keziah Bailey and Elizabeth Ayres, and their families. The only sibling not to emigrate from Turvey was Hephzibah and her family.

By the 1860s Gibbs Town had developed into a small township with three hotels, two mills and a number of businesses and tradesmen. As the population grew, the name Gibbs Town gave way to Woodend, a



**Left: Sod cottage built by the Gibbs's family
1858, Woodend.**

**Photo credit: The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand, Vol 3,
Canterbury Provincial District (1903).**

reflection of its location at the northern end of the adjacent native bush reserve.

In the early 1860s the Gibbs brothers were contracted to construct part of the road over Harper Pass in the Southern Alps to the West Coast. They, and Thomas Ayres and Charles Skevington worked on construction of the Rangiora Road and the Great North Road from Styx to Weka Pass. Most public works were initially undertaken by either local contracting gangs or as a private venture by individual settlers who raised the labour and were paid by the Canterbury Provincial Government in Crown land. In this way the Gibbs brothers and other Turvey emigrants added considerably to their freehold land. Land ownership was something well out of their reach back in Turvey.

The chain pattern of the Turvey immigrants into North Canterbury must have involved letter communication back home, with the earlier immigrants encouraging the later ones to make the momentous decision to leave their homeland and their agricultural labouring and lacemaking way of life forever. Some colonists' correspondence has survived and extols the virtues of early life in the new colony, but I have not seen any for these particular immigrants. It would be marvellous to read the contents of their letters.

The Turvey emigrants arrived in a wild and undeveloped land. Through hard labour and perseverance, they carved out a new existence for themselves, characterised by an independence derived from an abundance of relatively well-paid work and freehold ownership of land. Dietary, medical, educational and religious requirements were met. They took a gamble to make one of the longest migration in man's history, and it paid off handsomely.

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Kevin Morris

It was not difficult to discover the name of my wife's great great-grandfather, Edward Swallow, on a passenger list of a ship leaving for New Zealand in 1839. In fact, FamilySearch produced eight results for an Edward Swallow born in 1816. But what was puzzling was that I found Edward listed as a passenger on three ships leaving England in 1839: the *Adelaide* in September, the *Bolton* in November and the *Coromandel* in December.

Next, Edward Swallow (a married man) appears alongside Ann and a young boy (aged between one and nine) on a list of emigrant labourers, authorised by the New Zealand Land Company to embark aboard the *Bolton* bound for New Zealand. The list is dated November 1839.³ Careful examination of this list under the extreme right hand column ("Remarks by the Surgeon") shows "Not on Board" against Edward and Ann's entry. There is also a series of columns labelled "Not on board when last pilot boat quitted the ship," and there are marks in these columns against Edward and Ann's name.

However, there is another passenger list for the *Bolton* that lists Edward, Ann and a six-year-old boy as passengers with no indication that they were not on board at departure.⁴ Another list for the *Bolton*, "emigration Register - Register of Emigrant Labourers who have received a free passage to New Zealand," lists Edward and Ann together with a six-year-old boy. Their names are crossed out and the comment "not aboard" is written in pencil.⁵

A further document, the "Coromandel Register of Emigrant Labourers who have received a free passage to New Zealand," gives a departure date of December 1839 and lists Edward and Ann both aged 23 together with a six-year-old boy. On this list their names are not crossed out and there are no notes to indicate that they were not on board. Indeed, this is the ship on which they came to New Zealand.⁶

It is clear that Edward, as a single man, was put forward by his cousin Thomas Uppadine Cook for free passage to New Zealand in August of 1839. Thomas had entered and won land in Wellington through the land ballot that the New Zealand Company ran in July 1839. But Edward did not board with his cousin Thomas, and the *Adelaide* left in September without him.

There is a record of marriage between Edward and Ann CAPLIN on 30 September 1839 at the parish church of St James', Paddington. A Henry COLE and William HOGG are listed as witnesses.⁷

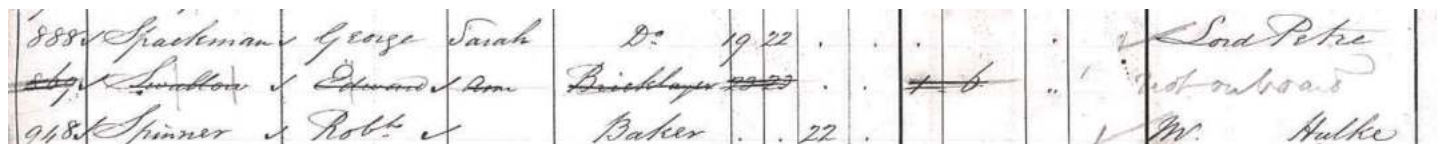
So now the puzzle: why did Edward not board the *Adelaide* with his cousin Thomas and then marry Ann a few weeks later? Further, who was the six-year-boy that eventually travelled with them on the *Coromandel* after they had been listed as passengers on the *Bolton* but failed to board?

The beginning of the answer was to be found in a newspaper article printed in the *Otago Witness* in November 1878. This article was headed "Chats with Farmers. A visit to Shepherd's Bush, the Farm of Mr Edward Swallow, Goodwood."

The interview details Edward settling in Wellington with his wife, two sons, a daughter and his nephew. It also describes the voyage to New Zealand on the *Coromandel* as one of the longest on record. The emigrants boarded the *Coromandel* at St Katherine Docks on 9 December 1839 and did not reach Wellington until 29 August 1840. Indeed, Edward and Ann's first son, also Edward, was born at sea on the voyage. Family oral history is that the birth occurred while the ship was in Sydney Harbour. Edward and Ann had a second son, William, in Wellington in 1843. Ann died soon after William's birth and Edward remarried Susannah WAKEFIELD, who was a single mother with a young baby, Susannah.

The surviving New Zealand 1851 census for Goodwood, North Otago provides the name of Edward's nephew, Henry Swallow. Henry is listed as an adult and the census states his occupation as "labourer." Edward took his family to Goodwood from Wellington after being employed by William SUISTED to help build his homestead, Goodwood. Edward snr is listed as "bricklayer."

The 1851 census record also details that their house was "lathe and clay with grass roof." Edward snr and Henry are both listed as able to read and write, while Edward jnr and William are listed as able to read only. They had six pigs and three cattle. Their religion is listed as Methodist.



Excerpt from the 1840 'Bolton' Passenger List stating Edward Swallow is not on board
FamilySearch— New Zealand. Archives New Zealand. Passenger Lists, 1839-1973

The question of why Edward changed plans in September 1839, married and took Henry into his care can be explained as follows.

Henry's full name was Henry Jonas Swallow. He became Edward jnr's elder brother and was James Frith Swallow's eldest son. James Frith Swallow's partner was Mary Ann PECK. Henry was baptised 7 August 1833 in the parish of Chiswick. James and Mary were listed as his parents, but I have found no marriage record for James and Mary Ann.

Mary Ann's father was Jonas Peck, from whom Henry took his middle name. Mary Ann had an older sister, Maria Anna Peck, who married William Caplin in 1813 at St-Martin-in-the-Fields. William and Anna Maria Caplin had a daughter, Ann Caplin (a cousin to Henry), and this Ann Caplin is whom Edward married in the Parish Church St James', Paddington on 30 September 1839.

Henry's mother Mary Ann died of typhoid on 21 August 1839. The death certificate has "Sarah Swallow present at the death in George St." It is a reasonable assumption that this Sarah Swallow was either Edward's sister or mother.

James Frith Swallow appears to have been a father who was not often with Mary Ann and their two sons, Henry and William James Swallow (b. 17 January 1839). Mary Ann died just eight months after William James' birth.

Williams James is listed in the 1841 census alongside William and Anna Maria Caplin (his uncle and aunt) at Gillard's Place, St Peters', Hammersmith. However, William died of "convulsions" on 17 September 1841. Isabella Caplin was listed as present on the death certificate (Isabella, Ann Caplin's sister).

So just as Edward was due to leave for New Zealand, his sister-in-law Mary Ann died of typhoid, which left the two children without a mother. Their father was likely in Jamaica at the time. Edward decided he would take care of his elder nephew Henry. The younger nephew William was taken in by his aunt Anna Maria Caplin.

The New Zealand Company rules did not allow single men to take children to New Zealand so Edward married Ann Caplin, his sister-in-law's sister's daughter or his nephew Henry's cousin. The Caplins and the Swallows were clearly known to each other and it is very likely that Edward would have already known Ann. Given that he was about to leave for New Zealand as a single man, it does not seem that he had thoughts of marrying Ann Caplin until circumstances changed with the death of his sister-in-law Mary Ann.

James Frith Swallow, Edward's older brother, partner to Mary Ann and father to William and Henry was born in 1810 in Reading but baptised in St Paul's Hammersmith. There is a report in 1833 that states: "James Swallow of King St, Hammersmith, seaman, bound over to keep the peace towards Sarah Swallow. George Cook, gentleman; James

Miller, coach maker, and the defendant stand bail."

Again, it is not clear whether this was his sister Sarah who would have been 27 years old or his mother who would have been 50 years old at this time. James is also listed as being a patient at the Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital with an inflamed foot being discharged in 1829. In other documents he is listed as a labourer.

James appears on the passenger list of the ship *Ethelred*, which arrived in Jamaica on 8 May 1841. His occupation given was as a "cattleman." James' immigration was a part of the West India Emigration Society scheme under the provisions of the Jamaica Emigration Act. More than 1,000 arrived in Jamaica under the scheme over the period of a year between 1840 and 1841.

In a report by John EWART, the agent-general of immigrants to the Governor Sir Charles Theophilus METCALFE, dated 30 September 1841, it is stated that: The expense hitherto has been considerably increased, owing to the more than usual charges at the depot of the Admiral's Pen, arising out of the unlooked for detention and sickness of a number of the people sent out in the ship *Ethelred*, and sending back to Britain 27 of them who became discontented and unwilling to remain in the country.⁸

I do not know if James was one of the 27 sent back to Britain, but there are accounts in the papers of 1841 that refer to British immigrants in Jamaica. There is mention of persons who have been enticed by flourishing representations to leave England and travel to Jamaica as labourers.

The account from the Rev S. OUGHTON of Kingston, Jamaica refers to James Swallow, who represented himself as the grandson of the late Rev Mr Thomas UPPADINE of Hammersmith.⁹ James was in very reduced circumstances and was induced by immigration agents to embark for Jamaica. However, on arrival in Jamaica he could not find work. He became unwell and sought medicine at the house of a Dr PAUL. This doctor pushed James out of the house, and he fell and severely cut his head. A gentleman on observing his exhausted state directed him to a surgeon, who then gave James an order to a public hospital. James was unable to reach it and was apprehended by two policemen and taken to the house of correction for the night. He was taken to court the next day and Dr Paul alleged he had disturbed his domestic peace. James was ordered to find sureties to keep the peace for the next six months. The Rev S. Oughton became his bail. An offer was made to obtain a position in the police, which he obtained in Spanish Town.

James told the Rev Oughton "that the depot presented a spectacle of inexpressible horror, sickness and death reigning there in their most terrible forms." The Rev Oughton continued "I should have said that I directed



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Swallow to write out his case, which I sent to the Governor, who wrote me that the matter should be investigated."

All of these small pieces of information about James would suggest that he was either not in London when his wife Mary Ann died or that his brother Edward did not feel that he could be relied upon to take care of his two sons when his mother died. Edward and Anna Maria, his wife's sister, stepped up to care for William and Henry.

I have not been able to establish what became of James Frith. There are records of a James Swallow, a destitute cook, registered at the workhouse in Castle St, Westminster in 1844, but I cannot know if this was James Frith Swallow. However, James and Mary Ann's son Henry Jonas Swallow went on to marry Margaret HARRISON at First Church in Dunedin in 1856, and together they made a reputation for themselves in North Otago by having 17 children, which included three sets of twins.

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NZSG Kiwi Resources

Inspired by Anne Bromell #2567, *Kiwi Resources* aims to be a comprehensive guide to finding records in New Zealand. Anne joined our Society in 1980 and became President in 1983. Amongst her many achievements were a series of books on family history resources in New Zealand. Her last book "New Zealand beginner's guide to family history research" was published in conjunction with the NZSG in 2004, the year of her death.

There are over 20 different pages covering everything from the usual BDM records, probates and newspapers to sports,

transport and the law. There are also tips on how to search various databases.

And of course, don't forget everything in the NZSG Library and the Kiwi Collection!

Have we missed something? Let us know at education@genealogy.org.nz



DINNER ON BOARD THE FIRST EMIGRANT SHIP FOR NEW ZEALAND

Early colonists: Gundrys from Wiltshire

Jeannette Grant

America had its Pilgrim Fathers seeking religious freedom; Australia had its First Fleet of convicts. In New Zealand, Māori trace their whakapapa back to the specific canoe that brought their ancestors from Havaiki, not in the hypothetical Great Fleet envisaged by nineteenth century historians, but as individual groups of pioneers and refugees who arrived in Aotearoa over a period of centuries.

Many Pākehā families are also aware of the specific vessels on which their ancestors reached this country, and the original Old Colonists Association has now been joined and overtaken by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, which aims to research and record family histories.

Some of our family's roots date from the earliest days of European settlement, but they have been well and truly mingled with both the Māori tangata whenua and those who have arrived much more recently. While both my parents were born in New Zealand, three grandparents were born in England, as was my husband John James GRANT. This, however, is the story of the GUNDRY branch.

The earliest known family member to settle here was William Richardson Gundry (1814-1855) in 1839. We are descended from his elder brother Samuel Gundry (1808-1894), who followed his brother's advice and arrived in 1851.

The Gundry brothers came from Wiltshire and several generations had lived in the town of Devizes, where their father and grandfather had been grocers. When William and Samuel came to New Zealand, they continued a family tradition with their occupations. William was a grocer and chemist. Samuel was a grocer and a wine and spirit's merchant.

William Richardson Gundry was the sixth child and fourth son of Peter Gundry (1780-1844) and his wife Mary HICKLEY (1780-1846). On 25 October 1838, he married Helen WATERS in her hometown at Upavon, Wiltshire. They had no children as she died at Upavon on 17 May 1839 aged 23 and was buried in the churchyard there.

He seems to have taken her death very hard for in July 1839 he told his family he was "off to Australia." He arrived in Port Adelaide on the *Dumfries* on 12 October 1839 but only stayed there for a matter of weeks. Instead, he sailed on the barque *Exporter*, first to Sydney then to New Zealand, where he bought 500 acres in the Hokianga area and gave his name to Gundry Street in Rawene. Here he took up with Makareta Rautangi, daughter of Pero and niece of Te Reti Whatiia, two of the chiefs who signed the Treaty of Waitangi on 12 February 1840.

William moved to Auckland after it had been established as the new capital by Governor Hobson. Like his father, William began his career as a grocer and by 1845 "Gundry & McDonald" was a well-established grocer in lower Queen Street. On the 1853 electoral roll, William is listed in Albert Street as a chemist. In his will, written in 1852, he described himself as "chemist and druggist." He was also a speculator in land. He bought land in the early auctions in areas as far apart as Takapuna, Dominion Road and Onehunga. Gundry Street in Newton is named after him, and he was well acquainted with many of the notables of the time. He and Helen had four children before their private marriage in Onehunga on 13 May 1851, and their youngest son, Henry, was actually born after William's unexpected death. We think they married in a different parish where no one knew them, as all their Auckland friends assumed that they were already married!

Image above: Dinner on board the first emigrant ship for New Zealand (The Aurora)
[Auckland, Star Lithographic Works, 1890] [Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington](#)

William died of fever in Auckland on 20 December 1855 and was buried the following day in the Symonds Street Cemetery. His grave was one of those moved when the motorway went through. Now his name appears on the memorial wall.

The Reverend Arthur Guyon PURCHAS was made an executor of William's will and the guardian of his children. He even officiated at the marriage of Helen Mary Anne Gundry (aged 17 years) to Francis YOUNG in 1864. Several mentions of the family appear in the diaries of the Reverend Vicesimus LUSH who refers to a succession of "half-caste children" living with the family of the Reverend Arthur Purchas to attain an education.

When you consider the shortage of European women in nineteenth century New Zealand, it is not surprising that two of William's sons, William John and Henry, married Māori women, while the girls, Helen and Olivia, married European men. Among the descendants of these four, some consider themselves Pākehā, others Māori — even to the extent of spelling "Gundry" as "KANERI." Today, some are even unaware that they have Māori heritage.

William obviously considered that there was a great future in New Zealand and managed to persuade two of his brothers, Samuel and John (1816-1886), to migrate. However, they did not join him in Auckland but instead sailed to Lyttelton on the *Steadfast*.

The *Steadfast* left London on 26 February 1851 and arrived in Lyttelton on 8 June 1851. She was the ninth of the 25

immigrant ships chartered by the New Zealand Association. Of 535 tons burden, she carried 135 passengers: 14 in the chief cabin, 25 in the intermediate or second cabin, and 96 in steerage (eight paying passage, the remainder assisted). The captain was Thomas SPENCER.

Samuel Gundry, my 2x great-grandfather, was one of those people beloved by genealogists — he liked to write things down. In fact, in 1849 he had compiled what he described as a "family register", largely based on an old family bible. He went back as far as his great great-grandparents, William and Jane Gundry of Chard, Somerset. He recorded that he found the births of their children in the Quaker register office of Houndsditch, London, and comments that they must have been among "the earliest members of that sect."

In 1851 he was accompanied by his three daughters by his first wife Emma HAYTER (1811-1841) and his second wife Mary Ann LOWE (1825-1864) with their two children. Also on board was his younger brother Dr John Seager Gundry with his wife Isabella BAYNE (1822-1906).

Dr John Seager Gundry had married Isabella on 17 July 1849. He was the surgeon superintendent on the voyage out and kept a diary of the voyage and of their first three months in New Zealand. This was printed privately by the Nags Head Press in 1982. On his arrival in Lyttelton he became a pharmacist/doctor in Cashel Street in the new settlement of Christchurch. He was a Freemason and the initial Unanimity Lodge at Lyttelton was formed at a meeting at his house. His wife Isabella did not enjoy colonial life, and when she became pregnant, he and Isabella returned to England and their only daughter Mary Augusta Gundry (1859-1926) was born in Wells on 30 May 1859.

John later attended Lichfield Theological College and from 1872 to 1873 was a curate in the Shenstone diocese, Lichfield. From 1873 to 1875 he was a chaplain in the Alphington diocese, Exeter, and from 1875 to 1886 he was a curate at Honiton. He was the Vicar of Honiton when he died on 15 February 1886, aged 70, at 8 Devon Square, Newton Abbot.

Samuel Gundry, on the other hand, not only stayed in New Zealand but produced a large family; the three daughters born in England with his first wife Emma Hayter were followed by two sons and four daughters with his second wife Mary Ann Lowe. Of Samuel's nine children, Caroline Isabella died at one day old, but all the others married and most had large families. All in all, he ended up with 64 grandchildren in New Zealand and one in the USA. By the time he died, he had nearly 20 great-grandchildren and, although family sizes have dwindled, the eighth generation is now being born and his descendants number several hundred. The vast majority are still in New Zealand.

Samuel's name appears on a jury list in 1856 as a storekeeper and in 1859 as a merchant. He described himself as a grocer and wine and spirits' merchant. Within weeks of reaching New Zealand, his wife set up a school as she was determined to see her children properly educated. They lived in a house called "Steadfast Cottage" in Lyttelton and she died there aged 39 on 11 March 1864 after a



Image above: Samuel Gundry
Grant Family Archives

lingering illness.

Samuel's second daughter, Emma Jane Gundry (1839-1915), married Henry Hamilton KNOWLES (1833-1915), son of Henry Samuel Knowles (1794-1865) and Louisa Marianne HAMILTON (1807-1892), on 26 October 1859. Emma would become my great-grandmother. In his later years Samuel lived at "Bryndwr", Christchurch, with his eldest daughter, Mary Elizabeth LATTE (1837-1894). He died there of old age on 8 May 1894, aged 85. On his 80th birthday he had updated the family register he began in 1849 with detailed lists of his children, their spouses, children, grandchildren and such. It contains a very plaintive postscript:

NB My eldest son Charles Edward went to England some years ago and I have heard nothing of him for a long time, therefore his name only appears in the list of Births. He might be married and have a family – SG

In actual fact, Charles (1849-1928) had married a widow, Eliza PARKER (née EDWARDS, 1854-1899) in Lambeth on 31 January 1887 and had one son, Theodore Ronald Gundry (1889-1980), before the family migrated to New York in 1892. They lived successively in Massachusetts, Canada and California.

Samuel's second son, William Hickley Gundry (1852-1907), became an accountant and married Ellen Maria DEIGHTON (1853-1929) on 17 January 1872. They had eight children. Ellen's uncle was officially "New Zealand's first colonist." Who was he and how did he get this distinction?

He was Samuel Deighton (1821-1900), the second son of John Deighton (1791-1854) and his first wife Sarah KETTLE

(née WHEELER, 1791-1830). John was a bookseller at 13 Trinity Street, Cambridge, England. In 1839, the New Zealand Company issued a prospectus and was selling land orders in England for £100 each. These entitled the purchaser to one acre of town land and 100 rural acres. John bought two such land orders, one for each of his two eldest sons, Richard aged 20 and Samuel aged 17. On 18 September 1839, the two sailed on the *Aurora*, which was the first of the five New Zealand Company shiploads of migrants to reach New Zealand, arriving in Port Nicholson on 22 January 1840. It was *Aurora's* last voyage as she struck a rock trying to leave the North Kaipara Heads in April 1840.

Samuel Deighton's claim is based on the acknowledged fact that he was the very first of these official colonists to set foot on New Zealand soil. Samuel learned Māori very quickly and served as an interpreter for New Zealand Company surveyors for years. He led a very full and active life in New Zealand and was stipendiary magistrate in the Chatham Islands for 19 years. In 1889 he published the definitive 900-word dictionary of the Moriori language. He did not marry until late in life (28 July 1882) and died in Christchurch on 9 November 1900. His death left his widow, Kathleen Olivia (née HOBBS, 1856-1926), with seven children aged 2-17 years.

It is always worth researching previous generations as you never know what you are going to find.

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Of Brosnahans, Collinses and Seelers: Chain migration from County Kerry, Ireland to South Canterbury, New Zealand: 1860s to 1900

Dorothy Dowgray

In 1872 an Irish girl and her younger sister left their home in Currans Parish in County Kerry, boarded a ship (the *Crusader*), and sailed away to South Canterbury in New Zealand. Johannah BROSNAHAN, my great grandmother, (also BROSAN) was 18 years old and her sister Margaret was just 14. The age given on the shipping list was correct for Johannah, but Margaret had her age listed as 16.¹ They were unaccompanied by any obvious family members but were among eight other young people from County Kerry, aged between 16 and 25 years. All had their passage partly sponsored by an unknown agent in Timaru. Family lore says that the GAFFANEY family of Arowhenua were Johannah and Margaret's sponsors.

Why had they been encouraged to migrate? Their passage had been made possible, but why and by whom?

Johannah and Margaret were the eldest daughters of Michael Brosnahan and Margaret COLLINS. Johannah and Margaret were born on the Kilfelim Townland in Currans Parish and baptised in the Killeentierna Church.² Kilfelim seems to have been the home of Michael's father, Timothy Brosnahan.

It appears that Michael and Margaret had also attempted to come to New Zealand in 1872. A document in the NZ National Archives shows that the Brosnahans had been nominated and sponsored by the Gaffaney family.³ However, their application was turned down because of "evident forgery by the receiver of the certificates sent to him for completion." A close look at the ages listed for the

family show the following: Michael Brosnahan aged 45, actually 48; Margaret aged 40, actually 42; son Timothy aged 19, actually 16; son James aged 16, actually 10; daughter Mary aged 17, actually 12; daughter Annie aged 15, actually eight. So only Johannah and Margaret were able to immigrate, despite Margaret's age being exaggerated.

Finally in 1874, Michael and Margaret were able to immigrate to New Zealand aboard the *Carisbrooke Castle*. They brought their children Timothy Michael, Mary, James, Annie, Catherine/Kate, Patrick, and Ellen. Sadly, the two youngest children died during the long voyage and were buried at sea. Michael had at least one brother, James, who remained in Ireland. James married Mary SCANLON and lived on the Kilfelim Townland. In 1876 James's son, Jeremiah Brosnahan, migrated to New Zealand aboard the *Otaki*. In 1887, he married Hannah BREEN, and they lived at Seadown. So, we know who sponsored the Brosnahans, but why?

In the years after the Great Famine of the 1840s and early 1850s, Ireland was largely populated by landless peasant families whose tenure was at the whim of landlords. There was also a divide between the Church of Ireland land-owning classes and the Roman Catholic peasant farmers. Emigration out of Ireland to America and Canada had started in the 1820s and 1830s as land became available in Upper Canada (now Ontario). After the Great Famine, many migrants set out across the Atlantic, some in the so-called coffin ships. Irish political convicts had earlier been

Images above (from left): Catherine HOARE nee SEELER (1804-1900)

Margaret BROSNAHAN nee COLLINS (c. 1830-1919) and her daughter Kate BROSNAHAN (1866-1928)

Johanna POFF nee Brosnahan (1854-1943) - Dowgray Family Archives

banished to New South Wales and Hobart, some later escaping to North America and South America. The gold rushes in California, Victoria (Australia), and Gabriels Gully in New Zealand held promise for young Irish men. For these men, there was also the promise that their families could be sponsored out of Ireland or that they would somehow be able to reconnect with their loved ones.

In 1860 a young man, Richard HOARE of O'Dorney Parish in County Kerry, had been working in Scotland as a seasonal labourer and received an assisted passage to the colony of Otago. He left Glasgow on the *Robert Henderson*, and after arriving, he moved north towards Timaru. He found work on sheep stations belonging to the RHODES brothers.⁴ Richard Hoare was the first of the County Kerry migrants who came directly to New Zealand under the Vogel settlement scheme.

Richard Hoare's parents were Patrick Hoare and Catherine SEELER from O'Dorney Parish, and it was through the Seeler family connections with Johannah and Margaret Brosnahan that the chain migration for my family began. Catherine was Johannah and Margaret Brosnahan's aunt. Johannah and Margaret's mother, Margaret Collins, was the daughter of a Patrick Collins and a Margaret Seeler. Thus, family connections were at the heart of this migration.

Patrick and Catherine Hoare arrived at Timaru in 1862 aboard the *Echunga* along with seven other Kerry immigrants. A small settlement, later known as Kerrytown, sprang up just north of Timaru, and many other Kerry families joined the Hoares.

Little is known of the Seeler family, but DNA testing has me linked to a dispersed group of Seeler families across the world; some of these links have been proven, others have only been postulated. Catherine Seeler Hoare and Margaret Seeler Collins had siblings (at best) or cousins who married in Kerry Ireland and took their families to Ontario and North America. Some of the Seeler families with whom I have a DNA connection were Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland. Some were connected to the Parish of Abbeydorney and some to the Parish of Ballymacelligott. In Ballymacelligott, the landlords were often of the Blennerhassetts family. Some of the Seeler men joined militias and served in the British Army in Upper Canada and or the Napoleonic Wars, then retired back to County Kerry with an army pension. Conversion from Catholicism to Protestantism may have been an expediency, and in some instances, the reverse may also have occurred.

Margaret Seeler married Patrick Collins sometime in the early 1820s. Patrick may have been a tenant in Clashatlea townland in Ballymacelligott Parish.⁵ He had a house and land; one neighbour was Maurice Collins, and two others were Seelers, a William CEILER and Mary SEILER, residing in separate dwellings. Other residents in the same townland included a John Collins and the TANGENY family.

Patrick Collins had a brother Maurice Collins who married an Abigail MCARTY (MCCARTHY) in 1842. He migrated with his family in the 1850s to Simcoe in Ontario, where he was neighbours with a David and Henry Seeler. The family of Maurice Collins were Roman Catholic and the Seeler brothers were Church of Ireland/England. Patrick Collins of Clashatlea in Ballymacelligott was married to an Annie

Seeler. Patrick Collins and Anne Seeler (Margaret Collins' aunt and Johannah and Margaret Brosnahan's great-aunt) had a daughter Ann Collins. Sometime in 1839 or 1840, Ann married a James Brosnahan, and in 1865 they immigrated to South Canterbury with their children on the barque *Rachel*.⁶ Their daughters were Kate, Annie, Elizabeth (Ellen), and Mary. Their son, John (known as "Peg-Leg") had immigrated earlier in 1862 aboard the *Echunga*, arriving in Canterbury at the end of the year along with his sister Margaret.⁷ Frustratingly, neither John nor Margaret appear in the immigration list for the voyage, and it is possible that they were not sponsored passengers. In 1863, Margaret Brosnahan married Michael Gaffaney, and in 1865 John Brosnahan married Hannah O'DRISCOLLE.

James and his family farmed at Arowhenua. James died in 1890 and Ann in 1906. Kate also married into the Gaffaney family. Her husband was Francis Gaffaney. Mary married Michael BARRETT and died in childbirth in 1879. Elizabeth married Daniel BRYANT, and Annie did not marry.

Ann Collins had two brothers I have been able to trace through DNA: Maurice Collins and Jeremiah Collins. As previously mentioned, Maurice married Abigail McCarty and went to Ontario. He died in Michigan in 1901. Jeremiah Collins married Catherine REAGAN in Ohio and later died in Kentucky in 1898.

Onboard the *Carisbrooke Castle* in 1874 was a Patrick Collins, his wife Catherine Tangeny (Tangeny from Clashatlea perhaps?), and their five children. This Patrick Collins was the brother of Margaret Brosnahan and son of Patrick Collins and Margaret Seeler of Clashatlea Townland.

The connection between the Seeler, Collins and Brosnahan families was revealed; the sponsorship of my great-grandmother Johannah Brosnahan and her sister Margaret by the Gaffaney family was starting to make sense.

In 1875 Johannah Brosnahan married James POFF, another Kerry man from Mt Nicholas Townland in Ballymacelligott Parish. During the subsequent 25 years Johannah and James Poff went on to have 16 children, 12 of whom reached adulthood, including my grandfather, Sylvester Timothy Poff, born in 1885 at Makikihi.

Margaret Brosnahan also married in 1875 at the age of just 17 to an older Kerryman, John SPRING. They too went on to have 16 children and farmed at Seadown all their lives.

In conclusion: A matrilineal line

A year ago, I knew I had a few ancestors buried in Temuka Cemetery in South Canterbury and other relatives buried throughout Canterbury. Then a DNA test revealed a great many more ancestors and relatives in the region. This finding allowed me to connect dots and to explain how it was that my great-grandmother, Johannah Brosnahan (later Poff), was able to travel halfway around the world. What has interested me particularly is that the "pull" effect was through the matrilineal line of family from Seeler/Ceilor to Collins then Brosnahan to Poff. So, while the quest for land to farm in one's own right was a great incentive for the Irish men, the family connections that brought them to New Zealand were, at least in my family, through the female line.

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3. This information was taken from National Archive in 1986, and the reference number then was: Immigration 10/1. I have been unable to cite the latest reference number.
4. Sean G Brosnahan, *The Kerrytown Brosnahans*, Timaru, 1992, p.29.
5. Irish Valuation Books for 1858.

6. Brosnahan, p. 65.

7. Ibid, p. 65.

Other resources

DNA test through Ancestry.

Papers Past: paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers.

Find My Past for a variety of Irish Records.

Shared photographs from Family Trees at Ancestry.

Archives New Zealand.

Immigration: The Milnes into Dunedin

Bobbie Amyes

Every New Zealander is an immigrant. Their waka may have arrived centuries ago; many of my whānau trace their ancestry through their whakapapa and ancestral canoe. Now with the advancement of DNA, their ancestral lines can be traced from Polynesia back across the Pacific to ancient Asia. But for those of us with Pakeha ancestry, our immigrant story is more recent, generally dating from the 1800s onwards. Our waka, our ancestral vessel of arrival, may have been by sea or air. Often the question is asked "Which ship did your ancestors come on and when?" But these questions may be less important than the "why." Our ancestors may have come for many reasons. Often it is to escape the financial hardship of their ancestral homeland and seek a better future, a chance to own land or to practise their religious beliefs freely. For others, war, famine, and the disruption of their community became driving forces. Thus, an article on a family's immigration into Dunedin may concentrate on these aspects: the waka of original arrival, the date of arrival, or the reason for immigrating. For many genealogists it is the excitement, the discovery, the unearthing of each step that encourages us to keep on delving into the past. So, it is with unravelling the story of the MILNE relatives who arrived in Dunedin.

Every good genealogist will help a newbie by saying: "Start with the known facts." So, what was known? My grandfather James Alexander Milne GRIMWOOD came to New Zealand around 1895/1896. For a man who spent his career working for the Union Steam Ship Company, the fact we have no date of arrival, nor the name of the ship is slightly ironic. Even the "why" is not quite clear. His name, however, gives us a clear genealogical link. James was the son of James Grimwood and Margaret Milne. He is the grandson of Alexander Milne. Alexander, along with his siblings, Margaret Milne (b. 1806) and George Milne (b. 1820), are key players in the story of the Milnes into Dunedin.

I did not know my grandfather very well. He and my father had a falling out, and it was only when we returned to Lower Hutt in 1954 that I remember meeting my grandfather. He died in 1957. Using the standard genealogical tools – BDM records, Papers Past, career records held by the Wellington Museum, and family tales from my father and uncle – his life became a little clearer. His mother, Margaret Milne, died in 1875 when he was two and his father, James Grimwood, was killed in a railway accident six years later. James, along with his two older siblings, was an orphan by the time he was eight. It

appears he continued to live with his newly widowed stepmother and his sister Margaret.

The family had moved from Aberdeen to Newcastle upon Tyne then to Poplar in London. From an article on his retirement in Papers Past we know he worked as clerk for Wigram & Money near Canary Wharf prior to immigrating to Dunedin. Papers Past also informed us that his sisters Askin and Margaret came on a visit to New Zealand in 1937 and that it had been 42 years since they had last seen him in Ireland. His career records, archived in the Wellington Museum, state that he started working for the Union Steam Ship Co. as a purser in 1897. So, clues from the past give clues about the "why": orphaned, no firm attachments to any place, a stepmother who remarried, and his sisters living in Ireland. But why New Zealand? My father had commented that his father had remarked on the family likeness of his New Zealand relations – the family had come before.

As I was sorting out my grandfather's timeline, my sister and I undertook a more intensive study of his grandfather and our great grandfather, Alexander Milne. Alexander was born to Peter Milne and Mary GORDON in 1800. He was their eldest son. A brother, James, was born in 1803, a sister Margaret in 1806, and another brother, George, the youngest, in 1820. It is Margaret and George who play a role in the story of the New Zealand Milnes. But first to Alexander. Alexander Milne married twice, possibly three times. It is from his first wife Isabella TORRIE, that the next New Zealand connection comes. Isabella died not long after the 1841 census. Of her five children, only Elizabeth remains a mystery, but the rest all migrated: Isabella to Australia, Askin to Ireland, John to the USA and Mary to New Zealand. Alexander's next wife or partner was the mother of my ancestor, Margaret Milne, who married James Grimwood. Margaret's mother had another child, James, before she too presumably died. Alexander took another wife, Mary DOW, with whom he had three children who also migrated: Alexandrina to South Africa, Alexander to the USA, and May, who shifted from Scotland to England and then back to Scotland. Migration was to become the pattern for this generation, and it was Mary Milne who came to New Zealand.

Nineteen-year-old Mary, having left home in Aberdeen to work in Dumfries, married John PAISLEY, a policeman, in 1852. The couple had three children, and it was after the birth of the last child, Isabel, that Mary was widowed. John

Paisley died of phthisis pulmonalis in August 1857. In 1870 Mary and the three children Alexander, Agnes and Isabel arrived in Dunedin on the *Edward P Bouverie*, which left Greenock, Glasgow on 4 May 1870 bound for Port Chalmers (so a “how” and “when”). Choosing a better life for her children could certainly be the reason for Mary’s decision but with her eldest sister married and living in Australia, why New Zealand? The Paisleys settled in Hampden, a small township north of Dunedin. The girls married, but it was Alexander whose enthusiasm for adventure set him in the pages of New Zealand’s history. While gold attracted many to Dunedin in 1861, the lure of the still flourishing Australian goldfields in 1881 tempted Alexander and two mates who set sail on the ill-fated *Tararua*. The ship foundered off Waipapa Point in Southland. Mary only knew of her son’s trip and consequent death because, while waiting to board the ship, Alexander told Robert HASTIE: “Write and tell my people we’ve gone”. Along with other passengers and crew, Alexander and his friends are buried at Waipapa Point in the Tararua Acre.

It turns out Mary Milne/Paisley was not the first of our Milnes to Dunedin. Research on the life of Andrew ROBERTSON (an early Dunedinite, after whom, for some reason, my father was named) provided the clue. Andrew Robertson arrived on the *Blundell* in 1848, a lad of 11 years. He was with John BLACK and Margaret Black and two children, William and Ann. Beside Margaret’s name on a passenger list for *Blundell* was the surname Milne. Suddenly various snippets of information we had gleaned over the years made sense. Further research showed Margaret Milne’s marriage to Andrew Robertson had produced three

children, with only son Andrew surviving. After the death of her husband Andrew, Margaret had married John Black and had two more children, William and Ann. This was the family on the *Blundell*. John, Mary, Andrew, William and Ann were early pioneers. Over their lives they saw the tiny Scottish settlement in Dunedin develop into a thriving city. The name Black is part of North East Valley’s heritage. Black Road is where Margaret and John set up home, and the street is named after them. While Andrew and William had children, Ann’s marriage to Alexander Fraser was the most prolific. So, our earliest Milne immigrants have a “how,” a “when” and probably a similar “why” to all those other early immigrants who arrived in Port Chalmers and carried on to Dunedin.

It was a serendipitous question by another researcher that found me looking at another Milne family, that of the descendants of George Milne (b. 1820). His eldest brother Alexander was the direct ancestral link to one daughter, Mary Milne Paisley and four grandchildren, Alexander, Agnes and Isabel Paisley and James Alexander Milne Grimwood. Alexander, Agnes and Isabel arrived in 1873, and James arrived around 1895/1896. Alexander and George’s sister, Margaret Milne Robertson Black, came with husband John Black and three Milne grandchildren, Andrew Robertson, William Black and Ann Black in 1848.

George Milne (b. 1820) had married Elizabeth EDWARDS in 1842, and the couple had two children, George (b. 1843) and Alexander (b. 1845). Like her sister-in-law Margaret Milne, Elizabeth also lost her husband while raising young children. Elizabeth’s new husband, James Milne, was no relation to our Milne family. Elizabeth and James’ only surviving child, a daughter, Mary Ann, was the subject of the serendipitous question. Mary Ann Milne had arrived on the *Lady Egidia* in 1861 with her father, her mother and two half-brothers George Milne and Alexander Milne. The ship sailed on her maiden voyage from Greenock on 12 October 1860. James Milne was a stonemason, and his stepson George followed in his footsteps. Though the family settled in Hampden, George is most well-known for his masonry in Oamaru.

Although we know the “how” and “when” behind the immigration of Milnes to Dunedin, the “why” is not obvious. Was it perhaps a chain migration? Margaret and John Black had found that Dunedin provided opportunities for their family, and they had prospered. Had Elizabeth been in correspondence with her sister-in-law and spoken to her husband in favourable terms about New Zealand as an option for immigration? Then when Mary Milne Paisley was looking for a better life for herself and her children, did she write to her New Zealand aunts for advice? That Mary and children ended up living in Hampden, the same place where Elizabeth and James settled, would seem to give credence to this idea. And when my grandad James Alexander Milne Grimwood decided to immigrate, did the fact that he had Milne family members in New Zealand sway his decision? For a man not known for sentiment, naming his two sons with Milne first names seems to indicate a fondness for his New Zealand relatives.

The families all benefitted from the growth of Otago. The success was built on the hard work of the pioneers and the riches provided by the gold rush, the grain and wool from



Andrew Robertson – Toitu Otago Settlers Museum
(with permission)

the hinterland, and the expanding industrial and technological development in the towns. Otago's shipping industry stretched across the Pacific and opened trade routes for the exchange of goods. Grandad was able to benefit from the expansion of the Union Steam Ship Company, just as the earlier Milne family members had in their own fields (such as farming, stonemasonry, raising children, and running businesses).

Finally, one last member of the Milne family immigrated to New Zealand. It was grandad's nephew, my Uncle Paddy, Clifford WOODMAN, son of grandad's sister, Askin. But unlike all the other Milnes, he arrived not in Dunedin, for by then the Union Steam Ship Co. had shifted its headquarters to Auckland. Cliff came as crew in 1936 on the maiden voyage of *Matua*, which had been built for the Union Steam Ship Co in Newcastle upon Tyne. He remained with the shipping company all his working life. So, the "how", "when" and, in this case, the "why" are all known. Paddy had lost his twin brother in WWI. Along with another brother, Paddy had endured Gallipoli and subsequent campaigns. His homeland was unsettled by division following the establishment of the Irish Republic. Work opportunities were limited in the years following WWI and the Depression. His mother had reached out to her brother for help and Grandad suggested joining the crew on the *Matua's* maiden voyage. Thus, four generations of Milnes made the immigration journey to New Zealand starting in 1848 and ending in 1936.

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Cliff Woodman with his cousin Tim [JM.] Grimwood
Amyes Family Personal Collection

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A Sangster Family Travels to the Southern Hemisphere

Alan Baldwin

The emigration of seven adult children of a Scottish family, primarily to New Zealand, spanned 15 years. In addition to the children, I have also been able to find out a little more about the parents’ family life.

The Family’s Origins

The family are the children of Alexander and Mary SANGSTER (nee BEATON). Alexander Sangster (b. 1811) was the son of Alexander Sangster (b. 1779). He married Jean TAIT (also born 1779) on 3 November 1810. Alexander Sangster Snr was a farmer in North-East Aberdeenshire. Alexander Sangster Snr was born on 18 August 1779 and married Jane Tait. He died 18 March 1821 and is buried in the Cruden Church cemetery. He was a farmer at East Sandend, near the coastal settlement of Whinnyfold in the parish of Cruden. His farm was located near Whinnyfold, a fishing village. Alexander Snr manufactured grandfather clocks and maintained the clocks at nearby Slains Castle which was owned by the ERROL family.

Table 1. Children born to Alexander and Mary Sangster

Name	Birth Date	Married Name #	Order Departed Scotland
Mary	17 Apr 1834	Reid	
Lewis Beaton	18 Jan 1836		2
Jane (Jean) Tait	4 Sept 1837	Reid	3
Christian	18 May 1839		
Ann	11 Apr 1841	MacGlashan	1
Elizabeth (dec)	21 Sept 1842	*	–
Williamina	24 Sept 1844	Murrison	6
Elizabeth	29 Dec 1845		7
Alexander	15 Jun 1849		5
Margrit Comrie (dec)	11 Aug 1854	*	–
William Beaton	28 May? 1856		4
# For females who married in Scotland, giving surname for shipping list			
* Died in infancy			

Moving from Scotland

As indicated above the children of Alexander and Mary left Peterhead individually, often after marrying someone in Scotland.

Ann and William MCGLASHAN

Ann Sangster married William MacGlashan in March 1860. Previously she had lived at home and been a schoolteacher. William was a stonemason. Three weeks after they married, the couple boarded the sailing ship *Egmont* which departed on 4 April 1860 to Auckland. William was 30 years old, but

Ann was only 18 when they married, and she turned 19 seven days into the voyage. The couple initially settled in Auckland and had 12 children, but the two eldest daughters died in infancy. In 1867 seven years after arriving in Auckland, the family moved to Hawkes Bay, first settling in Clive and later in Petane (Esk Valley).

There are a number of the MacGlashan family buried in a cemetery near the Esk Reserve. Ann MacGlashan died on 13 June 1928 at Kakarama in southern Taranaki at age 67 and was buried at Eskdale. William had died 15 years earlier.

Lewis and Isabella Sangster

Lewis Sangster, the oldest son, was born in 1836, and grew up to work with his father in his blacksmith shop. In early February 1860, when he was 34 years old, he married Isabella MURRISON. Three years after Ann and William McGlashan had ventured overseas, Lewis and Isabella decided to emigrate, along with their three-year-old daughter Mary. However, their destination was the town of Invercargill, situated at the bottom of the South Island, and at the other end of the country to Auckland where the McGlashans had settled. Lewis, having learnt the trade of a blacksmith, obviously saw opportunities for business in the developing region of Southland. They emigrated in the *Wild Deer* in 1863. Lewis set up his foundry in Spey Street, then moved to Gala Street, and later to Biggar Street.

The Beaton name was the maiden name of Lewis’ mother (and was sometimes used as a middle name). The children in the family born in Scotland were Margaret Mary (b. 1861, d 12 Oct 1967) and James Alexander (b. 1862). Lewis and Isabelle had over twenty years in New Zealand. Born in New Zealand were two girls and five boys: Robert Yule, Janet, Lewis Beaton, William, Alexander, Francis, Herbert James, and Isabel Snow.

Jean and Robert REID

The third of the offspring to marry was Jean Tait to Robert Reid on 7 June 1860. For a while they lived at 19 Queen Street, Auckland, near Jean’s parents. During this time, they had two children. Robert was a carpenter and turned his hand to building boats. Robert and Jean also decided to immigrate and booked a passage on the *Balaclava* which was disembarking passengers in Auckland. The major port city may have seemed an attractive situation for his trade.

William Beaton Sangster

The fourth to make the journey was William Beaton Sangster. William was the youngest in the family, born 26 May 1856, and immigrated in 1874 when he was 18 years old. William landed in Port Chalmers and presumably stayed in the region for a while. I don’t know anything about his activities there. We do know that he immigrated to Australia and married in Brunswick, Victoria. His wife was Strain DAVIDSON. In Australia, as mentioned in his will, he was an inventor with patents for a dredging scoop and one

for a breech loader for smoking. He died in East Melbourne in 1921.

Alexander Sangster

Alexander was a blacksmith by trade. However, prior to coming to New Zealand he had managed a Turkish bath in Peterhead. This came about when his father went to Aberdeen to set up another bath establishment in that centre. Alexander immigrated as a single gentleman perhaps on the *St Vincent* to Port Chalmers. He became the proprietor of hotels, first in Fortrose and then in Riverton. He was musical and led a pipe band in Invercargill. He was also involved in local politics and in one election stood for parliament against Joseph WARD.

Alexander married Emily Maria MARTIN who had immigrated to New Zealand with her family at age six. They had six children. At some point Alexander and Emily moved to Wellington and lived there for some time. Alexander died aged 72, and Emily at age 80. They are buried in the Karori Cemetery in Wellington. There is an entry describing Alexander's life in the Cyclopedia of New Zealand, Southland Edition.

Elizabeth Sangster

My branch of the family is descended from Elizabeth. (One of her daughters, Charlotte, was my father's mother). In Scotland, Elizabeth had worked with her father until his death in 1873. By then she had decided to join her family in New Zealand and immigrated to Bluff. She was accompanied by her mother. Elizabeth worked her passage as a matron for females from Scotland and Ireland, who were sponsored by a Southland Provincial Government Immigration Scheme to bring more women into the province, particularly for domestic work. During the voyage she kept a diary, describing both the sailing conditions and her experiences of managing the welfare of the young women. The original of this document is in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Sadly, Elizabeth's mother took her own life shortly after disembarking and being re-united with her family.

Elizabeth must have settled into life in Invercargill quickly, no doubt aided by the presence of two members of her family, Lewis and Alexander. Within a year of arriving, she married a widower, Andrew FAIRBURN, a market gardener. Andrew had three children from his first marriage to Thomasina Davidson, but one died in infancy. Thus, at the time of marrying Elizabeth he was caring for two children.

Immigration to Australia

Wilhelmina, another of the Sangster children, married a merchant seaman William MURRISON at the Sangster residence in Aberdeen on 4 January 1872. In the same year a son was born. Wilhelmina's husband set off in command of a cargo vessel which was eventually planned to arrive in Melbourne. The idea was for him to be based in Melbourne and for the family to reunite there. Accordingly, on 7 May 1875, Wilhelmina set off with their young son on the *St Osyth* departing London and arriving in Melbourne in June 1875. The plan for a reunion didn't work out as William Snr died in a shipwreck. Also, sadly for William Jnr, a year after arriving in Melbourne, Wilhelmina died of pneumonia. It has been reported that William was cared for by an aunt on his father's side.

There are links to New Zealand in this story. When William Murrison had grown up, he came to New Zealand in 1907 aged about 35. He married May Matilda HOOK and had a family who are the basis of the New Zealand branch of the Murrisons. He had previously married earlier, when he was 22 in Australia, to Sarah Ada OLDHAM and had children. Thus, there are branches of the Murrison family on each side of the Tasman.

Immigration of Joseph BALDWIN

In Invercargill Charlotte Fairbairn met Joseph Baldwin, a builder and cabinet maker. Joseph grew up in Burnley and most of his family and relatives were employed in the Lancashire cotton industry. Joseph decided to travel another path and learnt a trade.

He left London 19 December 1900, on the *Karamea*, bound for Wellington. It is not clear why he decided to immigrate, nor why he chose a vessel disembarking in Wellington. However, he made his way to Invercargill where he met up with the Fairbairn family. He became involved with Charlotte Fairbairn, and they married on 17 April 1908. They decided to move to Nelson and had two children there, one my father John Jackson Baldwin and a brother Philip who died at five months. They later moved to Wellington, which was obviously not unfamiliar to him and where, perhaps, there were more work opportunities. Joseph and Charlotte had a house in Berhampore. Joseph died relatively young and to support herself and her son, Charlotte used her experience of market gardening to run a fruit and vegetable shop out of the house she lived in on Adelaide Road.

My father lived in Wellington most of his life. He qualified as an accountant and established a practice in the BNZ building in central Wellington as a public accountant.

The Baldwin Family Visit

One interesting story surrounding the birth of John Baldwin is that Joseph's family came from England to visit. The visiting party was his mother and two daughters: Alice, unmarried, and Harriet, a widow. Another sister, Bertha did not travel. Another event that took some research to uncover is that Harriet did not return to the UK but stayed in New Zealand and moved to Auckland. It is not clear how much communication there was between Joseph and Harriet. Harriet married Richard DINSDALE on 8 June 1915 in Ponsonby. Harriet died 30 March 1920 and was buried in the Birkenhead/Glenfield Cemetery.

Alan Baldwin

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Acknowledgments of some Sangster family researchers

Joan Hopcroft, Riverton; Ann Thompson, Invercargill and Auckland; Mhairi Erber, Christchurch; Nancy Croad, Auckland; Alan Sangster, Cruden, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

Major research sources

ScotlandsPeople.govt.uk; Denise and Paul shipping lists. Alexander and Mary Sangster family bible and other family resources.

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How emigrant children neither seen nor heard became audible

Jenny Jones

It was one of my grandmother's sayings that children should be seen and not heard. She was joking, but in 1842, when my ancestors came to New Zealand on the *London*, the idea was deadly serious. In documents relating to the voyage, the children are utterly silent; their presence is acknowledged briefly in records of dietary allowances, illness and death.

That did not bother me too much when I researched and wrote *No Simple Passage*, which dramatised the voyage of 258 emigrants from the UK to Wellington.¹ I was thrilled to find any surviving documents, and it felt natural for the story to centre on the adults, hardy pioneers who, together with Māori, took first steps towards what Aotearoa would become.

Through the publication of *No Simple Passage* many descendants of the original passengers were able to contact one another on my dedicated Facebook page and share fascinating information about their families.²

But it was a shame for the story to be written only for adults. I wanted my grandchildren and other young children to know their beginnings. I wanted them to understand how it might have felt to leave the only country they knew, spend a long four months at sea, and then step ashore to start a life in another place.

Children then, children now. There should be a natural connection, but a child who has been on the planet for just a few years can struggle to make sense of the present, let alone the distant past. Born to a world of tablets and cell phones, they find it hard to imagine how life could be lived without them – as for a world without cars, planes or rockets!

I wrote the story of the children for print publication, but when a Coromandel-based actor offered her services as a narrator, I realised that an audio version would have advantages. Relatively cheap to produce and cheap for people to buy, it would be accessible to younger or new readers as well as the blind or visually impaired.

The challenge for me was to learn to connect with three worlds: my own childhood world, to remind me how it feels to be a child; the chaotic, tech-obsessed world of present-day children; and the illness-and-death-haunted world of children in the nineteenth century. I needed to find the essence of connection between those worlds.

Children are intensely interested in food, animals, their physical bodies, movement, and words. They want fun; they like jokes; they are curious about everything; they want to make friends and have adventures, while feeling safe within the bonds of their families. They feel deeply, especially when people they are close to die – a bereavement can affect them for life – and yet, essentially, they live in the present.

So, in writing the book I focused on all these things and imagined how children aboard the *London* might have experienced them.

Although I had researched my ancestors' experiences on the *London* extensively (and those of the other passengers), I could not confine the story to the individual people – I had to create a story. So, I endowed my own great great-grandparents with additional characteristics. For instance, in addition to one woman being five months pregnant upon boarding, my ancestors acquired a son of about nine years old, and they made the decision to emigrate together with another couple, real passengers, from the village of Great Snoring (a real place in Essex, but not the one they came from). The couples were great friends, and their children were playmates.

The diary of one of the cabin passengers recorded much about his Newfoundland dog, and I added an encounter with the children so that a friendship could develop. It was very exciting for Joe and Bertie to watch Mr Empson, the dog, catching albatrosses. Things were done in those days that are not considered appropriate today, especially in terms of the environment, so there were challenges there but nothing insurmountable.

Slowly the children became audible. I could hear Joe and Bertie's voices in my head and enjoyed their company immensely. The next task was to produce the audiobook. Together Sharyn Morcom, my excellent narrator, and I finalised the text. Artist Deborah Hinde, who previously illustrated *No Simple Passage*, made me an eye-catching cover. People at Crescendo recording studio in Auckland were tirelessly helpful and also facilitated distribution of the book on platforms such as Spotify, Kobo, Google Play and many more. (However, it turned out that the Amazon platform, Audible, does not distribute audiobooks unless they are linked to an e-book or printed edition.)

The book, *From Great Snoring to Peaches and Pork*, was well received by adults and children alike, and I congratulated myself as a grandmother who, despite the friendly jibes of her grandchildren, had got ahead of the tech game.³ Until I hit a snag. Many grandparents had not experienced audiobooks themselves and told me they would prefer a physical book. "What is a platform?" they asked. "What is Spotify?" "How do you 'get the book'?"

So, I had to connect with a fourth world: that of grandparents for whom modern tech is threatening and daunting. But that was easy. I was there myself not long ago.

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References

¹ Jones, Jenny Robin, *No Simple Passage: The Journey of the London to New Zealand, 1842 – A Ship of Hope*, Random House, Auckland, 2011.

² Jones, Jenny Robin, 'Descendants help to recreate voyage of the London 1842', *The New Zealand Genealogist* May/June 2011, Vol 42, No 329.

³ Jones, Jenny Robin, *From Great Snoring to Peaches and Pork*, narrated by Sharyn Morcom, digital audiobook, Saddleback, 2023.

Services and Benefits for NZSG Members

This page explains the services and other benefits available through individual or joint membership of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

Supporting genealogy and family history in New Zealand

All NZSG members support the Society to make resources more accessible through projects and liaison with national organisations. Major achievements include access to birth, death and marriage registrations, improved content access to government records, and the creation of nation-wide transcriptions, such as cemetery and school records.

The New Zealand Genealogist

We produce four issues per year of our award-winning journal, published since 1970. You access it online, including some back issues to 1977. The Editor welcomes articles for publication. Information on submissions is on page 90.

Keeping in Touch

Our e-newsletter, *e-KIT* (electronic Keeping In Touch), is a regular email full of up-to-date Society and genealogical news. Along with The BIG Picture (news for Branches and Interest Groups), *e-KIT* is also available on the website.

Those on Facebook can follow our [Facebook page](#). Members can join our Forum and our Google group [Memlist](#) to keep in touch with current events, information and assistance.

Courses and Online Groups

Our Introductory Course is available online or at the FRC. Information on these is on our website under NZSG Services.

We are currently building a number of Online Groups to enable our members to get together, wherever they are in New Zealand or the World. One of our more popular ones is our Online DNA Interest Group (ODIG).

NZSG Library

The Library is based at the Family Research Centre (FRC) in Panmure, Auckland. The FRC is open to the public, but members receive a substantial discount on entry fees.

The Library is open Monday, and Wednesday to Saturday, 10am to 4pm, with late nights on Wednesday and the first Friday of the month. Check the website for opening hours around holidays.

See our website for the Library Catalogue and details on borrowing or using our Research Service.

FRC Research Service

We provide research guidance to members if you are unsure where to search next for that elusive fact about your ancestor or family member. We can also look up any of the resources not available for borrowing, or if you live outside Auckland.

researchservice@genealogy.org.nz

Other Research/Purchasing Services

We have a number of other services which you might find useful. Full details of how to access these is on our website under NZSG Services.

Membership discounts

Members receive a discount on access to the Family Research Centre (FRC) and for some NZSG sales products. Other member discounts will be listed in the member-only section of the NZSG website and promoted in *e-KIT*.

Reciprocal access

Members can request a letter of introduction for reciprocal access to Australian genealogical libraries, including the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney and the Genealogical Society of Victoria. Contact the membership administrator with details of your visit and your membership number

membership@genealogy.org.nz

On our website - www.genealogy.org.nz

The NZSG website is the hub for information about the NZSG, both for the public and for members. Here you will find background, events and contact details.

Members and the public can:

- Access the NZSG Library Catalogue
- Access the member/public tier of the Kiwi Collection
- Access our Resources on Getting Starting and Research Skills, including *Getting It Right*, a guide on how to cite your sources and information on copyright
- Find their local Branch or Interest Group
- See what's happening in their local area
- Purchase products and services from the NZSG Shop (some are not available to non-members)
- Watch our monthly presentations on many different aspects of the NZSG and researching your family

Members can login for a range of online resources and services:

- Access to information on NZSG Record Collections: see next page for more information
- Access Kiwi Resources—a guide to researching in New Zealand; and our Overseas Resources for researching further afield
- Free access to historical newspaper databases for Great Britain and other countries through Gale Newspapers
- Free downloads of digital records on 'Discovery' at The National Archives (London)
- Submit entries to the online Register of Members' Interests
- Receive free assistance through the NZSG Research Service to search Library collections
- Receive assistance to search New Zealand land records (charges may apply)
- Subscribe to all the records on the Kiwi Collection

NZSG Record Collections

Members have collected a considerable amount of information over the years and made it available to other members. With the exception of the Kiwi Collection, this is available to members without charge. It is a major benefit of membership and for personal research only.

Full details on all our Collections and how to access and contribute to them are available under NZSG Collections on our website www.genealogy.org.nz

Members are welcome to contribute new or updated material.

Access to some Collections is through Research Services researchservice@genealogy.org.nz

NZSG Certificates Collection

This collection was set up as a repository for certificates that members had obtained, but found to be unrelated to their research. We now accept certificates and miscellaneous documents of any kind whether they are related or unrelated to your research. We welcome further contributions.

Certificates can be accessed either through our online email service or through our postal service. Details on how to access these are available on our website. An index is included in the Kiwi Collection.

First Families

First Families is a collection of information about families; where the family emigrated to New Zealand before and including 1901 and where partners were married in New Zealand before and including 1901.

It is an index, that has been compiled from family record sheets, contributed by both members of the NZSG and non-members. Each family record sheet includes the names of three generations and their spouses where known. It can include parents who may not have come to New Zealand, thus bridging the gap between New Zealand and the country of origin.

Surnames can be searched by members in the database accessible on the First Families page on the website. An index and images are also included in the Kiwi Collection.

Pre1856 New Zealand Marriage Records

This is a collection of New Zealand marriages that took place before compulsory civil registration. The collection contains over 28,500 entries from sources including civil registration entries, church records, newspaper notices, family and social history publications, Māori Mission records, Bible entries, ministers' diary and journal entries and submissions from NZSG members to name a few.

Access is through Research Services or by subscription to the Kiwi Collection. Contributions can be made through a form available online which can be emailed or posted to us.

Pedigree Registration

This is a collection of Pedigree Registration forms submitted by members. Every surname on the forms is indexed. These names appear in the Kiwi Collection.

An online search request form is on our website. A contribution form can also be found there. Please note the submission requirements.

Funeral Service Sheets

One of our newer Collections, Funeral Service Sheets are collected by members all over the country. An index is included in the Kiwi Collection. Access is through Research Services.

NZSG (Griffis) Illegitimacies

This collection is a name-searchable database involving illegitimate births in New Zealand between 1877 and 1950 that were available in public records, either at local court houses or National Archives. Virtually all of these records have now been transferred to Archives New Zealand.

The database includes details of the child (if named) the mother and the father, the location of the event, the record type and repository. Query results provide basic information only. Researchers are encouraged to go back to the original source record for more fulsome detail.

Access is only for records more than 100 years old and is through Research Services or by subscription to the Kiwi Collection.

New Zealand Cemeteries

We have produced cemetery transcriptions for approximately 1400 cemeteries nationwide, for burials from 1812 through to 2020. Most municipal cemeteries are included, but a significant proportion of this collection includes private cemeteries, Māori Urupa and remote burial locations. Access is through Research Services and or by subscription to the Kiwi Collection.

Obituaries Collection

This Collection includes contributions from members nationwide from sources such as national and regional newspapers, club newsletters and periodicals. An index is included in the Kiwi Collection. Access details are on our website.

School Records

These records are a valuable resource for family historians because they not only put families together in local communities, but allow us to trace their movements from place to place. The NZSG has been transcribing and indexing school APW records from their earliest beginnings and over time has accumulated records for almost 2000 schools nationwide dating from 1858 to present time.

An index is available on the Kiwi Collection. Access is through our NZSG School Records Officer— see website for current details.

NZSG Kiwi Collection

The Kiwi Collection is a major database of nearly 16 million New Zealand sources, including indexes to many of our Collections, as well as images for some. The Kiwi Collection is an online, subscription-based service available exclusively to NZSG members. See the online Shop for details on how to subscribe.

Information from the NZSG Record Collections is available to full NZSG members only, without charge. Access to the collections is a major benefit of your NZSG membership. Members receive this information on the understanding that it is to be used for their personal research only. You should not pass it on to non-members, or make access to the collections available to non-members. Local NZSG Branch members are not full NZSG members.

NZSG Shipping Collection Project

Launched in May 2024, this Collection aims to collect information on every voyage to, from and around New Zealand up to 1920. The Project will be conducted over four phases to ensure as much information as possible is collected.

Kōtuia ngā Kete: Immigration Stories

Emma Philpott

What were conditions like on the passenger ships that transported migrants to New Zealand in the 1800s? What did passengers do on board vessels which were at sea for a hundred days? How dangerous were they?

Our museums provide insights into this part of our immigration history through the collection items they care for. I hope that the following kōrero/stories linked to early migration to New Zealand may spark some connections of your own.

Passenger voyages on the *Edwin Fox*

Edwin Fox Museum volunteer Heather Fryer writes about the treacherous journey to reach New Zealand on sailing ships.

"The journey to New Zealand typically took around 100 days on seas that were often unforgiving," Heather writes. "As well as facing boredom, passengers had to deal with cramped quarters, little privacy, limited sanitation, the pervasive odour of livestock and outbreaks of typhus, dysentery, and measles."

She details a few of the stories of the passage to New Zealand in *The Secret Lives of Immigrant Ships* - www.kotuia.org.nz/korero-stories/the-secret-lives-of-immigrant-ships/

The *Edwin Fox*, which now sits, preserved, in dry dock at the Edwin Fox Museum in Picton is a unique opportunity to get a sense of conditions on board during the vessel's lifetime.

"The story of her struggles encountered while making this most arduous of journeys is one which would have been shared by many of the passengers and crew making this voyage," explains Heather.

Four voyages carrying immigrants and some of the collection items held by the museum are detailed in Heather's article *Storm-tossed battler: The Edwin Fox* - www.kotuia.org.nz/korero-stories/storm-tossed-battler-the-edwin-fox/, including photographs and belongings connected to passengers on those journeys.

Heather is actively researching the family history of people connected to the ship and has found over 2,000 names so far, so it's going to be quite a long job!

The Edwin Fox Museum is also running a descendants' muster over Matariki weekend 2025. Anyone who is interested can register for more information at info@edwinfoxship.nz.

Shipwreck, salvage and castaways

During dangerous ocean crossings across the roaring forties, shipwrecks were common occurrences. The New Zealand Government established castaway depots in many of the sub-Antarctic islands to assist survivors in these harsh environments.

Canterbury Museum's Associate Curator Collections Inventory, Phil Skewes, provides a history of these depots and the story of the shipwrecked *Dundonald* crew in Point me the way home: www.kotuia.org.nz/korero-stories/point-me-the-way-home/



Sign: Provision Depot.

From the Canterbury Museum collection

www.kotuia.org.nz/collection-item/42754763/

Immigration is also linked to the story of the collection salvaged from the *SS Maori* steamer which slammed into a rock off the coast of Cape Town in 1909, with 32 crew members lives lost. Cargo included items bound for the emerging middle class in New Zealand, including "knick-knacks for the mantelpiece, gravy boats for the table, ceramic toys for the children, and new season's ties for the gents".

The breadth of the *SS Maori* collection is detailed by New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa Writer Frances Walsh in *Deep down objects of desire* www.kotuia.org.nz/kete-sets/deep-down-objects-of-desire/

Finally, if what we wore is more your thing, you may be



Teacup, blue floral pattern, salvaged from the *SS Maori*. From the New Zealand Maritime Museum Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa collection -

www.kotuia.org.nz/collection-item/49917016/

interested in this piece (right) from Te Papa Senior Curator, NZ Culture and History, Regnault, who uncovers sealskin shoes, trousers made of sail cloth, and coarse woollen three-piece suits stored in castaway depots in Shipwreck Chic: the museum edition - www.kotuiia.org.nz/korero-stories/Shipwreck-chic/

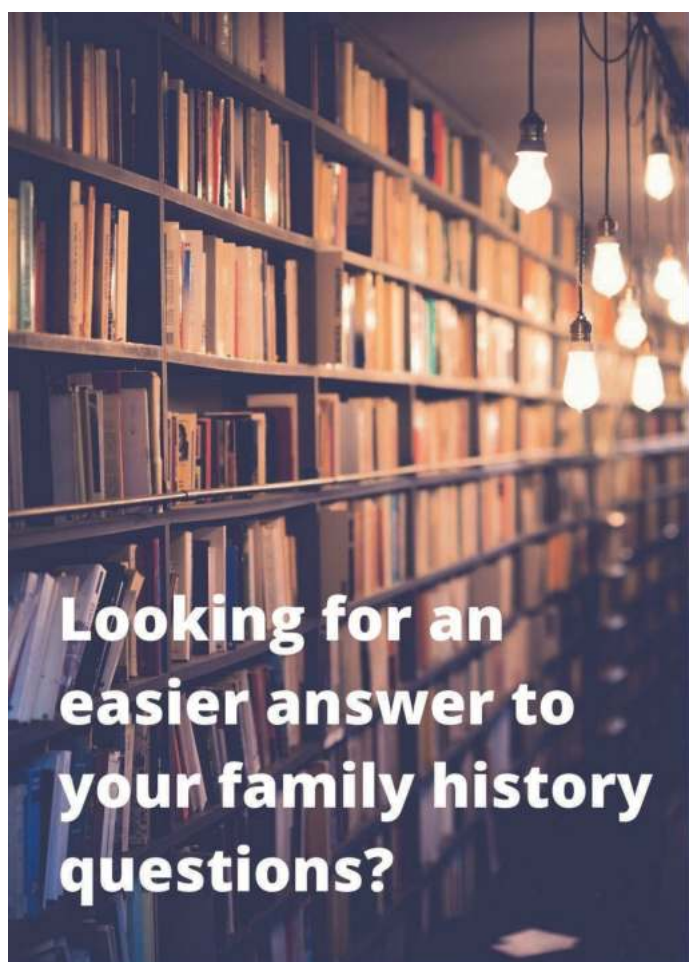
We'd love to add to our collection of immigration stories on Kōtūia. If you would like to share a personal connection or piece of research which shines a light on collection, please be in touch.

You can find out more about contributing to Kōtūia here: www.kotuiia.org.nz/help/contribute-kete-and-korero/

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Right: Portrait of Mr & Mrs Jewell.

From the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa collection - www.kotuiia.org.nz/collection-item/175986/



- Access the NZSG Kiwi Collection from your online PC, tablet or smartphone
 - 15 million records, with more being added regularly
 - Annual (\$50) and monthly (\$20) subscriptions available exclusively to NZSG members
- www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi

Migration to New Zealand - a Guide

Christine Clement

The following is taken from the book Migration to New Zealand: A Guide for Family History Researchers - 2nd edition by Christine Clement 2016 ISBN: 9781925323412

I am often asked how to find out when an ancestor came to New Zealand. The following may help:

Ask yourself these questions.

Who? Who am I looking for?

Do you know if he/she came as a single immigrant or were they part of a family group? Did they come with a cousin, sibling or a friend? Did they come as part of a special settlement or scheme? Is there a family story about a possible surname change – intentionally – pardoned or escaped convict, military or ship deserter etc? Was the surname or forenames anglicised? Were they married before emigrating – no point searching under the maiden name then? Don't assume the surname can only be spelt one way – try a phonetic search if offered. Try phonetic and 'correct' spellings – Gough and Goff, Marjoribanks is correctly pronounced Marchbanks – MacDonald can also be spelt McDonald and M'Donald as well as McDonell etc. New Zealanders are good at adding 's' to a surname. Was a child, farm, house or stud named after the ship or the ship's captain? Sometimes the name of ship is remembered by other family members due to a dreadful journey or a baby born or a death on board. Did he/she work their passage, jump ship or were there other family or people from the same village already here – remember to search under the maiden name for other siblings?

What and Why? What happened for he/she to migrate? Were they following other family members or religious or political ideals? What was happening in the country or village at the time – mass exodus due to some reason – war, drought, religious persecution, political upheaval, economic depression, industrial revolution. Keep in mind that wars and political events caused many boundary changes in European countries. Was it a voluntary migration or involuntary migration i.e. convict transportation or military service? Did someone nominate them to come to emigrate, or was it a government assisted passage?

When? Try and narrow down the time period. When was the last time he/she appeared in the 'old' country – i.e. baptism or marriage, census record etc. Absence from a census could also point to family migration so search for parents as well as siblings – use mother's maiden name too. When was the first time he/she appeared in the 'new' country – search for parents and siblings too (siblings with the more unusual names are often the best to look for)? Check for newspaper reports, electoral rolls, postal directories, land records, diaries or logbooks, school rolls,

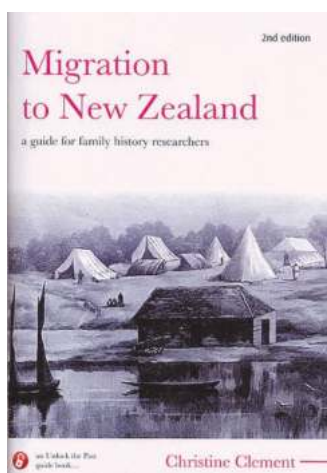
church records, birth or death of a child, marriage records etc.

The New Zealand Notices of Intention to Marry (Archives New Zealand) often record the length of residence in the registration district. Marriage reports in the newspaper will often report residence of parents. Look at witnesses on the marriage certificate – parent, sibling, cousin? Did the partner or witnesses come from the same village/district in the 'old' country? New Zealand death certificates from 1876 recorded how long the deceased had been in the country. Obituaries often reported this and sometimes the name of ship although this can be inaccurate. Does the probate or will give details of family in 'old' country?

Look and read books and newspapers on the area of arrival and settlement. National biographical books like Cyclopaedia of New Zealand (6 volumes 1897-1906), Who's Who (from 1908), Dictionary of New Zealand Biography (printed 1940) and the online Dictionary of New Zealand Biography (originally printed 1990 to 2000) often include background. Check the Bibliography of Published New Zealand Family Histories (National Library of New Zealand) for an already published family history – again check also for siblings, under the maiden name and people from same village/area. Naturalisation records – New Zealanders were British Subjects until citizenship was introduced in 1949. People who were not born within the British Empire could apply for naturalisation from 1843. Many British and Empire born people applied for New Zealand citizenship after 1949. Again, don't assume the surname can only be spelt one way. With handwriting a T can be interpreted as F, I can be interpreted as J etc.

Where? Are there any family stories on the background of the ancestor you are searching for? If not look for and ask relations for birth, death and marriage certificates, obituaries, diaries/journals, photographs, letters, family bible, church certificates i.e. baptism, confirmation, naturalisation records, passports, family heirlooms as well as family stories. Where did they settle when they first arrived – did they settle near the port they landed? Again, check electoral rolls, postal directories and newspaper reports, also museums and libraries for local and regional immigration information

How? Depending on the time period, passengers came to New Zealand by different routes. Early sailing voyages came from Britain and Europe south-west down the north Atlantic towards and sometimes stopping at Brazil, then south-east towards Cape Town, again sometimes stopping and then along the 'roaring forties' to New Zealand. Sailing ships returned 'home' via the Straits of Magellan or Cape Horn due to the prevailing winds. In 1855 the Panama Railway was completed but it was not until 1866 that a regular run was established between Panama, Wellington and Sydney. It was not profitable and closed in 1868. The Suez Canal opened in 1869 and was well used by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation company (P & O)



to India and Australia but the NZ Shipping Company and Shaw, Savill & Co came via Cape Town and Hobart. In 1870 the San Francisco mail run began from Australian and New Zealand connecting with the transcontinental railroad to the US eastern seaboard. With steamships this became the quickest way 'home' from New Zealand. From 1892 a regular steamer service operated from New Zealand to Vancouver, to connect with the Canadian transcontinental railroad. In 1914 the Panama Canal was formally opened. The New Zealand Shipping Company's *Remuera* was the first passenger ship from New Zealand that passed through the canal on the 14 July 1916 on its way to London – a journey of 44 days. Many, though not all passenger lists are now online.

Think outside the square. Your ancestor may have come to New Zealand:

via Australia - as a convict, during the gold rush period, on an Imperial military transfer, as Taranaki or Waikato Militia or when New Zealand was prospering, and Australia was in decline. Trans-Tasman travel was very common - passenger lists are rare, though not unheard of. Passengers paid their own way so neither government was interested. Passports between New Zealand and Australia were not needed until 1 July 1981. Remember someone coming to New Zealand from Britain or Europe may have come via Australia. Many P & O vessels came to Australia from London and then the New Zealand passengers were trans-shipped across the Tasman.

via the United States - as a shipwrecked or deserting whaler? In 1839 there were an estimated 150 American whaling ships and 50 from other nations recorded in and around New Zealand waters. Your ancestor may have come to New Zealand after the Californian Gold Rush (1848–1855) which brought some 300,000 people to California from all over the world - half arrived by sea and half came from the east overland. Or maybe from the massive Comstock silver lode which was discovered near Virginia City, Nevada in 1859? Mormon missionaries first came to New Zealand in 1854. Thousands of individuals from all over the world served in the American Civil War of 1861 – 1865, some forcibly and others thinking it would be a short war – a number of these soldiers are buried in New Zealand. The US transcontinental railroad finally met on the 10 May 1869 at Promontory Summit, Utah enabling passage from New York to San Francisco. The 'Frisco Mail Run' began in 1870 from New Zealand and also called at Suva and Honolulu. Many Scots and other Brits settled in the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) as plantation managers and owners.

via Hong Kong or India which were both important British trading and civil servant outposts. The First Opium War between British and China was in 1842. Christian missionaries settled from 1865 in Hong Kong. The Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901) opposing foreign imperialism was fought between Chinese and an international force of 2,100 American, British, Russian, French, Italian, and Japanese soldiers. The British Raj which included India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma reigned from 1858 to 1947. In the 1920s the North Auckland Land Development Corporation sold land for orchards in Kerikeri. Advertising was directed at retiring army and navy personnel and expatriate Britons in Asia.

via the Pacific Islands where the first Europeans to settle were often shipwrecked or deserting sailors from whale and trading vessels, some being runaway convicts. Sandalwood, slaves and *beche-de-mer* (sea slug) were valuable commodities in the South Pacific and attracted traders from the United States, Australia, China and South America. Missionaries began settling in Samoa in the 1830s, German settlers followed from 1855. The Chinese settlement of Samoa dates to the 1870s. During the 1850s and 1860s European settlers from Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, France, Russia and the United States established themselves in Tonga. Some of these German's came via Brazil. Cotton plantations were established in Fiji in the 1860s but began to fail when the American Civil War ended. This was then replaced with sugar, again many managed or owned by Europeans. Indentured Indian labourers began arriving in Fiji from 1875. After being used as a penal colony Norfolk Island was settled in 1856 by the descendants of the Bounty mutineers from Pitcairn Island. The Gilbert Islands (Kiribati) were settled by the British from 1837 and with the nearby Ellice Islands (Tuvalu) became a British protectorate in 1892. Missionaries arrived in the Cook Islands in 1821, and it became a British protectorate from 1888. Members of the London Missionary Society came to Niue in 1846, and the island was annexed to New Zealand in 1901. In 1797 members of the London Missionary Society landed in Tahiti, the French began settlement in 1846 and in 1880 the islands were ceded to France. During the 1860s Chinese plantation workers were introduced to Tahiti. The first missionaries from the London Missionary Society and the Marist Brothers arrived in New Caledonia (New Scotland) in the 1840s. In 1853 France took formal possession over the islands and it became a French penal colony from the 1860s until 1897. During the 1860s 'blackbirding' (a euphemism for enslaving people) was rife in the South Pacific and islanders from New Caledonia, the Loyalty Islands, New Hebrides (Vanuatu), New Guinea, and the Solomon Islands were taken to work in sugar cane plantations in Fiji and Queensland. At the same time Pacific Islanders were also taken to Peru for indentured work.

via Canada where the Canadian transcontinental railroad was opened on the 7 November 1885 opening the route between the ports of Montreal and Vancouver. A trans-pacific steamer service began in 1893 from Sydney and Auckland was added to the route in 1911. The Klondike Gold Rush of 1896 to 1899 led to a migration by an estimated 100,000 prospectors to the Yukon in north-western Canada. Literally 1000s of people were sent to Canada from Britain as parish-funded emigrants from 1835.

via South America from where a number came to New Zealand during the 1860s gold period. Some came as sailors but by 1874 there were fewer than 100 South Americans living in New Zealand. Valparaiso in Chile was an important port for ships returning 'home'. In April 1840 the *Middlesex* was to call there on its way to England from Wellington. In December 1840 the arrival of the Chilean brig *Morely* to Wellington 'reduced the price of flour to £20 per ton'.

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William Anderton (1840-1899) – An immigrant on the *Bombay*

Keston Ruxton

We have been fortunate to know quite a lot about our ANDERTON heritage because of the *Bombay* settlers in Auckland, who, over the years, have made great efforts to remember the 1865 arrival of the *Bombay*. Our great great-grandfather William Anderton (1840-1889) and his younger brother Charles Anderton (1846-1895) were immigrants aboard the *Bombay* who arrived in the Waikato. As has been widely documented, they and the other passengers were lucky to have survived, both their journey out and the hard years that followed their arrival.

The Waikato Immigration Scheme brought large numbers of immigrants to the Waikato, in a bid to strengthen the area after the Land Wars. The government sought immigrants from four main classes under the scheme: labourers, mechanics, small farmers, and capitalists. The labourers (agricultural and railway workers) and mechanics (industrial craftsmen and artisans) were to be offered free passage and a land grant if they resided on land allocated to them for three years.

In Auckland, from the end of 1864, ship after ship arrived, crowded with men, women and children seeking their fortunes in a new land. Raupō shelters were built around Mechanics Bay in Auckland to house the new arrivals until they could be sent up country to their land. These were often overcrowded due to the delays with surveying of land.³

The *Bombay* settlers travelled to the Onehunga Barracks, and stayed there for a week or so, until they were taken across the Manukau to Drury on cutters.⁴ They then stayed at Drury for a number of weeks, before being sent to stay at Williamson's Clearing, where some huts had already been erected.⁵ When they arrived, they found most of the land covered in heavy bush.⁶

William and Charles had a similar background to many of the other immigrants, coming from a family of yeomen and

*Waikato Immigration Scheme Ad*²

FREE EMIGRATION to AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.—The Government of New Zealand are prepared to grant **FREE PASSAGES** to eligible **AGRICULTURAL and GENERAL LABOURERS, MECHANICS, MINERS, &c.** Applications for schedules and other information to be made at the Office of the Government Agency, between the hours of Eleven and Four daily, No. 3, Adelaide-place, London Bridge, London.

WM. S. GRAHAME, } New Zealand Government
JOHN MORRISON, } Emigration Board.

EMIGRATION to AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.—The Government of New Zealand are prepared to give **FREE GRANTS of LAND** in the Province of Auckland to **SMALL FARMERS.** Further particulars to be had on application to the Government Agency, No. 3, Adelaide-place, London Bridge, London.

WM. S. GRAHAME, } New Zealand Government
JOHN MORRISON, } Emigration Board.

*Image above: William Anderton at the Anderton homestead, Portsmouth Road, Bombay.*¹

(Ruxton Family Collection)

husbandmen, who had been drawn into cotton handloom weaving and then the cotton mills of Lancashire during the nineteenth century.

We can trace their family line back to the Ecclestone, Croston, and Bispham Green areas of Lancashire in the seventeenth century. However, the family appears to have been tenant farmers and small landowners in the area for much longer than that.

William's grandfather, also a William Anderton, was born in Bispham Green in 1768 and married Ellen FAZAKERLY (1777-1840) in Ecclestone in 1805.⁷ He took up the tenancy of Bank Head Farm in Walton-le-Dale in 1822.⁸ This was a 14-acre farm with a house, weaving-shop, and barn owned by Richard DURNING's Charity in Bispham.

Richard Durning was a yeoman in Parbold, near Bispham, who died in 1691 and left a considerable amount of property in trust for the maintenance of a local school. The trust and the school are now called Richard Durning's Endowed Church of England Primary School and still exist today.

The Bank Head Farm tenancy was handed down through the Anderton family until it was inherited by Abraham Anderton, the grandson of William Anderton (b. 1768), almost 100 years later in 1918. The farm and its original 17th century farmhouse still exist today.⁹ It is the only property still owned by Durning's charity and has been largely retained for historical reasons.

William's (b. 1840) father and Henry Anderton's (b. 1768) son, Henry Anderton (1815-1855), appears to have spent most of his childhood at Bank Head Farm. Being a fourth son, he then seems to have struck out on his own. He became a handloom weaver as, by this his time, the Walton-le-Dale area had become a centre for cotton. However, the fate of handloom weaving is well-documented, and this appears to have also impacted Henry's fortunes. He died of pneumonia at the age of 40.¹⁰

William himself was born in neighbouring Bamber Bridge. He had lost his father and up to four siblings by the time he was 15. However, unlike many at the time, he and his surviving siblings seem to have been given the opportunity to attend a local school and learn to read and write.

William married Elizabeth ROBINSON (1839-1911) in May 1860 at St John's Church in Preston.¹¹ By the time of his wedding, he had joined the army of workers in the local cotton factories as a tape sizer. Around this time his younger brother Charles was working in the coal mines.

William and his wife went on to have two daughters, Susanna HOWARTH (née Anderton, 1861-1921) and Alice HARLING (née Anderton, 1864-1955) in Bamber Bridge, but a major recession called the Cotton Famine, triggered by blockades of the southern states during the American Civil War, hit the Lancashire cotton industry.¹²

This likely drove William to leave his wife and daughters and seek a better life in New Zealand. He and Charles left England aboard the *Bombay* on 26 November 1864.

As many will know, the *Bombay* proved to be an unlucky ship, and was beset by storms on all her voyages to New Zealand. She was delayed by strong winds at various points on her 1864-1865 voyage and struck the worst weather ten days out from Auckland, when a cyclone took out her masts and left her rolling around in the sea until the *Constance* arrived and towed her down the East Coast. Her passengers told vivid stories of the "anxious days experienced during this terrible storm" for many years afterwards.¹³

A diary of the trip written by W PATTINSON was published in *They Came by Ship, Centenary of Bombay 1865-1965*.¹⁴ We are also lucky to have an unpublished diary written by William himself.

Although William's diary is shorter and less eloquent than Pattinson's, reviews of the two indicate that he still recorded many of the key happenings on the journey. While he had been taught to read and write at a local school, he appears to have been less educated than many other 19th century diarists, but this does not seem to have stopped him from writing about sights on the trip, which would have been completely new to him.

These included seeing phosphorescence in the sea east of the Cape Verde Islands on 29 December 1864:

in the morning before it was light I went up on deck and looked upon the water and it was same as it was all on flames it looked so brille and seemed to be full of littell fiery stars and saw a lot of porpoces and flying fish all at once [sic].

He also recorded the New Year celebrations onboard the ship:

I was wakend about twelve or a few minuts before with the gangeling of cans and ringing of bells and playing of music and drumming at bords and all sorts of noises they could think off and sentence making that nois till neer a quarter past 12 and then the Captain came out and wished them all a happy new year and gave the sailors a glass of Grog all.

He was amazed at the sunsets and, on 1 March 1865, wrote that "the sun set butiful in the heavens it set in Golden Clouds and the sky was all culors we never had such sunsets at home." These would all have been amazing sights for someone who had come from nineteenth century industrial Lancashire.

William provided an account of the cyclone which hit the *Bombay* as it rounded North Cape, New Zealand, indicating that on 8 March 1865 there "came on a storm at about 9 oclock in the evening and carried away our bow sprit and gib boom and all three sails and part of the mast and five sails and three yards them is wat the sails is fastend too." The storm apparently continued on 9 March and carried away the main mast and all five sails, yards and rigging. William noted that the captain indicated at this time that "he had never seen such a storm in these latitudes all the 25 years he had been at the sea ... he might cros it a hundred times and not meet with another storm like it."

Things had cleared by 10 March, which was a beautiful day and gave the crew and passengers an opportunity to look at the ship. William indicated that "all of us was verry busy

shifting the wreckage that was flying about the deck and the sailors were very busy making ready for putting up some more sails and we got up one and part-ready for another."

They had got the other sail up by the next day, and William noted that they came across the *Constance*, "a butiful bark and she was bound for hackland to our joy being the first ship we had seen for 8 weeks within a day but thank God we did not need one til the day it came."

The most moving passage in his diary, though, is the words he wrote when he finally saw Auckland:

a butiful morning and as we passed along the shore their was some butiful senery the shore was butiful doted with mountains and on the top they wear some of them covered with folige and we pasd a grate many little islands which made the seen more pleasing and as we came near to hoakland we past an extinct volcana and all round the sides there was trees as thick as ther could be put which looked butiful and the town is a far more butiful place than I expected it is far nicer than preston all the houses stand on the slopes of hils and the trees being among them makes it all apeer like a garden and the harbour is right in front of them and as we passed along we saw plenty of wild ducks and a great many hother sorts of berds. The scenry all together was Great. I never expected to see it was so butiful and the weather so nice and warm and not opresiv.

One can just imagine his reaction as the *Bombay* was towed down the Hauraki Gulf and finally rounded North Head to the Waitematā Harbour and his new home.

William and Charles' mother Alice Anderton (née WILSON, 1817-1887) and three sisters Margaret (1848-1919), Ellen ((1851-1941) and Mary Jane (1855-1871) followed them to Australia aboard the *Royal Dane* to Rockhampton, Queensland in 1870. Alice, Margaret and Ellen later travelled on to New Zealand, but Mary Jane died soon after arriving in Queensland.¹⁵

William did not return to England to pick up his wife Elizabeth ROBINSON (1839-1911) until November 1875. His two elder children, Susanna and Alice, remained in England when he returned to New Zealand with Elizabeth shortly after.

His account of his arrival back home to Lancashire in 1875 indicates his spelling had improved during his time away



William's diary

and is both funny and quite touching:

Saturday 20 [November] Continued I had to wate about 3 hours for a train the train started [from Preston] for Bamber Bridge about 5 minutes to 7 and got to Bamber Bridge by 7 Oclock and went to Mrs Anderton or rather to my Wife and found them all in bed.

Sunday the 21 it is just 11 years to day since I left England to goe to New Zealand we had our second weding party to day.

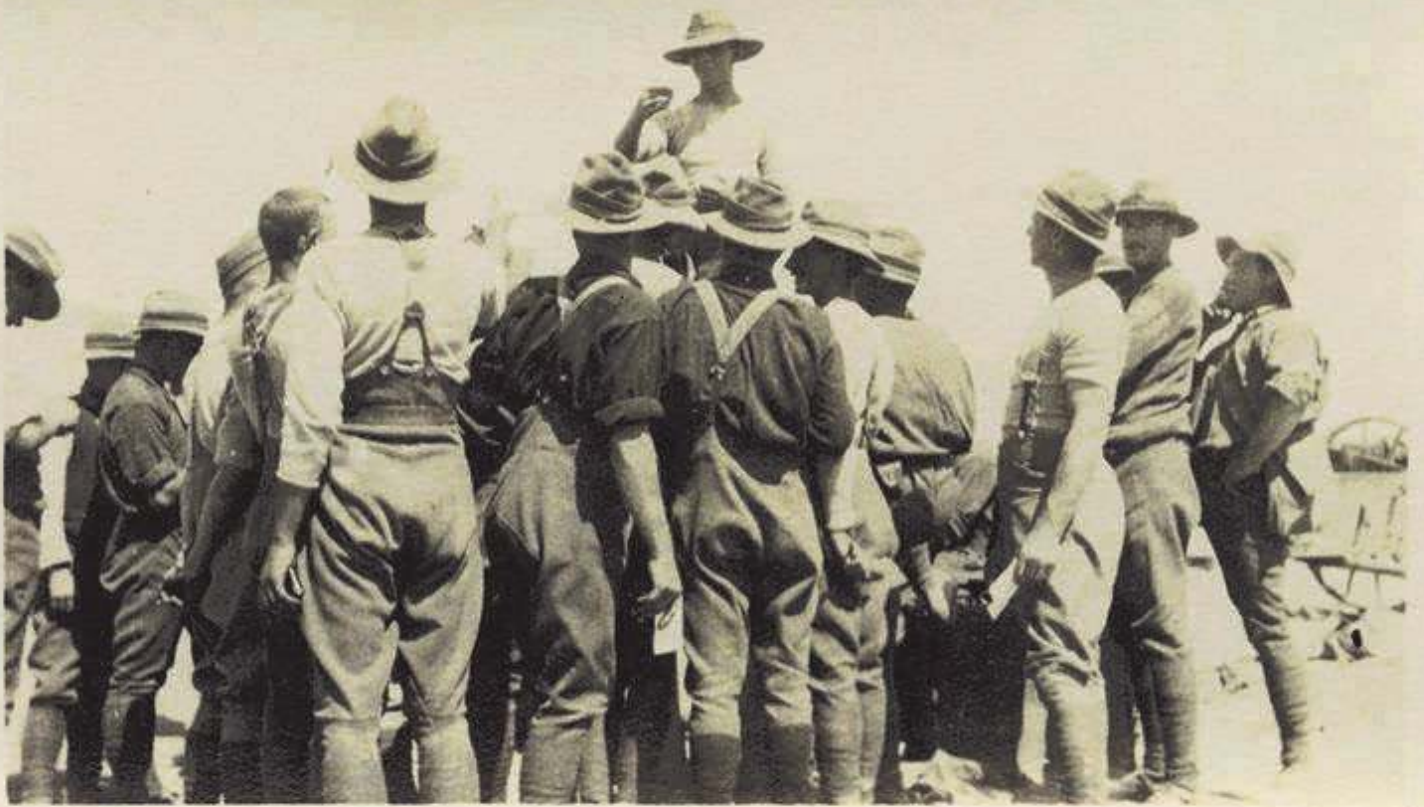
To be separated from your spouse for 11 years, and then be reunited with her again is, thankfully, something few of us can even imagine today.

Keston Ruxton

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2. *London Evening Standard*, 16 December 1864, p1.
3. Henry ERL Wiley, *South Auckland: A Centennial Publication*, Franklin Printing & Publishing Co., Palmerston North, 1979, p206.
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Which Private Laing did Mrs Fogo write to?

Jeff Kennedy

Researching a simple question of identity uncovered some sad tales of a returned soldier's possible suicide and a young mother's death. I am in the middle of a project transcribing the letters my paternal grandfather sent back to New Zealand during World War I. The transcribing is relatively quick, but I am also seeking to identify the people he mentioned, so I can write brief biographies about them. This takes time. Often, there is nothing more than a surname to go on. A good example of this is a letter he wrote to his sister from the New Zealand Command Depot at Codford on 5 April 1917.¹

At the end of the letter, he wrote: "A man in the Coy. today asked me if I knew a Mrs Fogo of Mosgiel. He had had a letter from her today & she was asking him if he knew me. Laing is his name." So now I had two people to identify: Mrs FOGO and a soldier called LAING, who must have had some connection to Mrs Fogo.

My grandfather, Alexander Smillie KENNEDY (1880-1976), came from Mosgiel, where his father, Donald Kennedy, was the town clerk. The 1911 electoral roll for Chalmers lists only one Margaret Fogo, who lived in Forfar Street, Mosgiel, with her husband, David Ewan Fogo, a tailor.

Searching the Department of Internal Affairs BDM

database² quickly confirmed that David Fogo had married Margaret MCINNES on 28 January 1903.³ Another record showed that Margaret Fogo had died in Mosgiel on 24 November 1958 aged 81 years.⁴ Neither the BDM index nor FindaGrave gave a more specific date; and the Dunedin City Council (DCC) cemetery record had "not recorded" for the date of birth.⁵ The next step was to search for Margaret's birth. To complicate matters, there were two birth registrations for "Margaret McInnes" in the relevant time period, both with parents named Christina and William and both in the Port Chalmers area. The first Margaret was born on 17 June 1877 at Purakanui (Pūrākaunui), Otago; the second was born on 12 October 1877 at Port Chalmers.⁶ David Fogo had also been born in Port Chalmers (on 13 June 1875).⁷

At this point, I sought to identify the soldier "Laing" in order to find a link to Margaret Fogo. Searching the Auckland War Memorial Museum (AWMM) online cenotaph database for "Laing" gave 137 hits but applying filters for "war = WWI" and "surname = Laing" reduced this to 38. I then viewed each record, excluding those who had enlisted too late or had died too early.⁸

Archives New Zealand provides free access to military service records. Entering "Laing" together with the service

Image above: Getting Mail

Nelson Provincial Museum Collection: [NPM2020.13.75](#)

numbers obtained from the AWMM database let me review the posting history of these soldiers and allowed me to narrow the field down to two soldiers who were at Codford Camp at the time my grandfather wrote his letter.

The first possibility was Private Thomas Laing (1875-1928), service number 8/3308, 8th Reinforcements Otago Infantry Battalion. Thomas was born in Scotland and worked as a labourer for the Public Works Department in Waihi on enlistment. He received a head wound in action in France on 8 September 1916 and, after some months in hospital and a convalescent camp, he was taken on strength at Codford Camp 26 January 1917, remaining there until leaving for Torquay Depot in August 1917 to return to New Zealand. Thomas is a tragic reminder of the ongoing cost of war beyond the end of hostilities. At 6.30 a.m. on 24 October 1928, his "badly mutilated" body was found on the railway track at Ngahauranga (Ngauranga) Station, Wellington. At the inquest, witnesses stated that he "had been distressed over what were described as imaginary troubles" and had been "wandering around aimlessly" at night. The Coroner found that the deceased was knocked down and killed by a train early on Wednesday morning: "The whole facts pointed to suicide as being a possible solution, but did not definitely establish that."⁹ The newspaper reports stated that Thomas had no living relatives in New Zealand, though a brother had been the Union Bank manager in Dunedin. On enlistment, Thomas named one brother (Charles, in Inverurie, Aberdeen, Scotland) as his next of kin, but gave his own address as care of the Union Bank of Australia in Dunedin. Andrew Laing, who had been manager of the Union Bank in Dunedin from 1905 until he left for Melbourne in 1920 died several months before Thomas (on 8 April 1928).¹¹ His estate was valued at £14,990 – around NZ\$1.8 million in 2024 terms.¹² It would be interesting to seek out the probate records to see if he acknowledged his war-shattered brother Thomas.

The second possibility was Private William John Laing (1886-1973), service number 8/2034, 4th Reinforcements Otago Infantry Battalion. William was born in Sydney but was working as a carpenter for the Union Steam Ship Company in Port Chalmers on enlistment. He suffered a strain at Gallipoli and was operated on for an inguinal hernia in England in late 1915 or early 1916; discharged from Hornchurch Convalescent Camp, he was taken on strength at Codford Camp 19 October 1916 and remained there until he was transferred to the Ordnance Depot for carpentry work on 5 June 1917. Returning to New Zealand as a Sergeant in April 1919, he initially continued as a carpenter in Port Chalmers. He married Lavinia FOSTER in 1922, and by the 1925 electoral roll, the couple were living in Mt Eden, Auckland where they remained for the rest of their lives.

So, which of these two Laings was corresponding with Margaret Fogo? Both 1877 birth entries for Margaret McInnes placed her in the Port Chalmers area, which tied in with William John Laing. On the other hand, many Scottish families in Dunedin in the early 20th century maintained close links with family back in Scotland. Margaret's parents were born and married in Scotland,¹³ so it is quite possible that she had a family connection to Thomas Laing.

Focusing again on Margaret, I turned to the NZSG's Kiwi Collection. The school records (Admission, Progress, and

Withdrawals, APW) set had an entry for Margaret (Maggie) McInnes and the reported birth date of 17 June 1877 matched the 1877/12034 birth registration. Margaret attended Port Chalmers School from February 1884 until July 1891, and her address was given as Ochil Bank. Her father, William (c. 1831-1891) was listed as her parent/guardian. The NZSG Certificates Collection provided a copy of the birth registration entry, giving more details on her parents. William and Christina (née HENDERSON) had come to Otago around 1860 and spent their lives in the Purakanui/Port Chalmers area.¹⁴

Widening out my search, I looked more closely at the next of kin identified by each of the Laings on their service records. While Thomas nominated his brother in Scotland, William John had named his sister Mary (sometimes spelt May) Laing of Port Chalmers. I had not been able to find William Laing in the Kiwi Collection APWs, so I searched for Mary. This is where I got my breakthrough.

Like Margaret McInnes, Mary had attended Port Chalmers School, but their time there does not seem to have overlapped. Margaret left on 13 July 1891, and Mary was not admitted until 12 October 1891. However, the APW record also gave the name of her parent/guardian. Mary was being looked after by C. McInnes, Ochil Bank, Port Chalmers. Here was the first clear link – Mary Laing was being looked after by the recently widowed Christina McInnes (Margaret's mother).

Mary was born at Port Chalmers to Edward BARON and Elizabeth Laing on 15 June 1884, but her younger siblings (including William John) were born in Balmain, Sydney. Searching Papers Past for more information on the Laings, I came across a death notice for Elizabeth: "On 28th December 1888, at her residence, Balmain, Sydney, Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Mr E. B. Laing, and eldest daughter of Mr William M'Innes, of Port Chalmers; aged 26. Deeply regretted."¹⁵

A few more checks confirmed the details. Elizabeth McInnes was born to Christina and William on 3 October 1862 and married Edward Baron Laing on 20 September 1882 in the Port Chalmers Presbyterian Church.¹⁶ Her sister Margaret (later Mrs Fogo) was born fifteen years after Elizabeth, in 1877. It is not clear whether Mary Laing accompanied her parents to Australia; certainly, after Elizabeth's death, Mary lived with her grandmother and cousin, Margaret, at Purakanui. But what about my soldier, William John Laing? Returning to the School APW records, I found two other Laing children with Mrs McInnes of Ochil Bank listed as their guardian: Christina Laing (b. 25 February 1883) attended Port Chalmers from September 1889 until August 1897 and Jack Laing (b. 29 November 1886) attended from October 1892 until November 1900. Jack's APW date of birth was the same as that given in William John Laing's service record, confirming his identity.¹⁷

The National Library of Australia's Trove website provided additional detail on Elizabeth's death. She died of syncope (a form of cardiac arrest) soon after giving birth prematurely to a stillborn baby. Her husband, Edward, was away on a two-year whaling voyage, and her three children were in the care of her sister in New Zealand.¹⁸ Edward later moved to Norfolk Island where he remarried in 1891

SUDDEN DEATH.—A married woman, named Mrs. Elizabeth Laing, residing at 60 Palmer-street, Balmain, died suddenly from syncope, at half-past five last night. This sad event, it appears, followed upon a premature confinement of a still-born child. What makes the death more sad is that her husband is absent on a two years' sea-voyage, whaling, and there are three children left without means at present, under the care of a sister of Mrs. Laing's, from New Zealand.

Report on Elizabeth Laing's death
Balmain Observer, 29 Dec 1888, p. 4

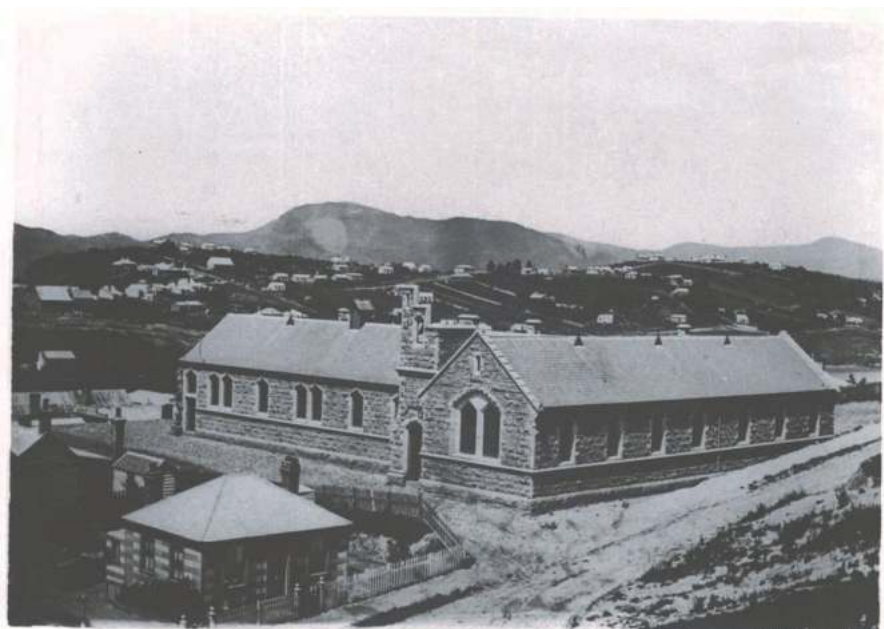
and took up farming. Around 1905, he returned to New Zealand and farmed in the King Country. He died at Auckland, aged 101 years on 11 February 1953.¹⁹ Edward was born in Ballarat, Victoria. His father was a gold miner who brought the family to Otago in 1861. Unsuccessful with gold, he turned to sheep and cattle farming in North Otago. When Edward celebrated his 100th birthday, newspapers reported that Sir George GREY used to stay at the Laing farm while on fishing trips and that Edward had played with future Prime Ministers Joseph WARD and Robert STOUT as a child.²⁰

So, a puzzling question of identity ended up having a simple solution: Mrs Margaret Fogo wrote her 1917 letter to Private William John Laing, the nephew who had come to live with her family as a two-year old after the death of his mother. Reaching this conclusion involved many free information sources such as Papers Past, Archives New Zealand military service records, the DIA BDM index, NSW BDM index, electoral rolls, and Dunedin City Council cemeteries records. However, the crucial piece of evidence helping uncover the link between Margaret Fogo and William John Laing came from the parent/guardian information in the School Records (APW) series in the NZSG's Kiwi Collection.

Jeff Kennedy
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References

- ¹ Kennedy, Alexander Smillie. "Letters to family (7 March-13 July 1917)," 1917 MS-4397/021; Kennedy, Miles: World War I papers of Alexander Smillie Kennedy (1910s, [2010s?]); Hocken Collections, Dunedin, Hākena Search (hakena.otago.ac.nz/scripts/mwimain.dll/144/DESCRIPTION/WEB_DESC_DET_REP/SISN%20228407?sessionsearch).
- ² bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/.
- ³ NZ BDM 1903/1922.
- ⁴ NZ BDM 1958/30876.
- ⁵ FindaGrave (www.findagrave.com/memorial/221295456/margaret-fogo); DCC (www.dunedin.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/cemeteries-search).
- ⁶ NZ BDM 1877/12034 (17 Jun 1877) and 1877/7331 (12 Oct 1877).
- ⁷ 1875/12902; The BDM index mistranscribes his surname as "Foge."
- ⁸ www.aucklandmuseum.com/war-memorial/online-cenotaph - service number 8/3308
- ⁹ *Evening Post*, 27 Oct 1928, p. 17; *Dominion*, 27 Oct 1928, p. 6.
- ¹⁰
- ¹¹ *Otago Daily Times*, 3 Apr 1920, p. 6; ScotlandsPeople, 1928, 204/11, Inverurie.
- ¹² *Otago Witness*, 7 Aug 1928, p. 47. Present value of estate calculated using the Reserve Bank of New Zealand inflation calculator.
- ¹³ NZ birth register entry for Margaret McInnes, 1877/12034.
- ¹⁴ NZ BDM 1877/12304; Burial register; Electoral rolls.
- ¹⁵ *Otago Witness*, 11 Jan 1889, p. 21.
- ¹⁶ Birth, NZ BDM 1862/14501; marriage, NZ BDM 1882/2605. See also Port Chalmers Marriages 1858 to 1920 (www.presbyterian.org.nz/archives/marriageregisters/portchalmersmarriages2.htm): accessed 18 Jul 2024.
- ¹⁷ While William Laing's death record (NZ BDM 1973/27840) gives a birth year of 1885, NSW BDM 4765/1886, Balmain, confirms 1886.
- ¹⁸ *Balmain Observer and Western Suburbs Advertiser*, 29 Dec 1888, p. 4, col. 7.
- ¹⁹ *Press*, 12 Feb 1953, p. 10; NZ BDM 1953/177566.
- ²⁰ *Press*, 19 Jul 1951, p. 5.



Port Chalmers School
(Port Chalmers Grammar School (ca 1872).
D. A. De Maus.
[Hocken Digital Collections](https://hocken.digitalcollections.govt.nz/),
Uare Taoka o Hākena,
University of Otago

Wallace Cleveland, Head Chauffeur, Public Service Garage, Stanley St, Auckland

Teresa McCarthy

Dad started working at the Public Service Garage in Stanley Street, Auckland in 1952, aged 26 years old. He worked his way through the ranks of driving vans, and delivering phone books from the trucks to the position of Chauffeur and Head Chauffeur which was the 'A' group of ministerial drivers. His numberplate was CR101 (the Crown numberplate system). He retired after 35 years' service.

He drove many ex-Prime Ministers, Governor-Generals, and Court Judges. To name a few; Sir Walter Nash, Norman Kirk, Sir Bill Rowling, Sir Robert Muldoon, Sir Keith Holyoake, and Sir Geoffrey Palmer. There were many royal tours to New Zealand by The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh over the years. Dad, in his ministerial driver role, usually drove royal staff, e.g., ladies-in-waiting etc. as part of the royal entourage. On one particular trip he went aboard the Royal ship *Britannia* with other drivers, and they were able to buy souvenirs for their families. (I still have a makeup compact with the *Britannia* insignia on it.) He has a rather special letter from the New Zealand Secretary to the Queen being commanded to send a photograph of the Queen and Duke thanking him for his service during the Royal Tour. This was after the Royal Tour in March 1963.

One story he relayed with great delight was when he was called to do an urgent trip to Taupo to pick up the New Zealand Governor General, Sir David Beattie, who was fishing there at the time. Sir David was called back to

Government House urgently and needed a driver. Dad collected him and drove to Government House arriving at about midnight. Sir David asked him, "Where are you going to sleep, Wally," to which he replied, "I don't have anywhere booked, sir." Sir David said, "Well then, Wally you had better have a bed upstairs." As far as anyone knows, he was the only driver ever to stay at Government House.

Another story that he loved to share was about the 1980 Tour of the North Island when he was taking the Armia (King) of Bahrain. During this tour, all the drivers who had been allocated the royal party were given a gold Omega watch each. He was absolutely delighted and wore it always. It appears that another driver in the entourage was driving the Bahrain Minister of Finance during the tour. As they drove over the Desert Road, heading towards Taupo, the Lake was shining like a mirror in the distance and the driver was asked what it was? He was told that it was the biggest fresh-water lake in New Zealand. The man was duly impressed and said, "what do you do with it"? He said "Well, sir, you can swim in it, boat on it, fish in it and ski on it, in fact, anything you want." He said "Really? "Do you think the New Zealand Government would sell it to us and we could take it back to Bahrain"? That caused a smile on the face of the driver who related that one back to the team.



Royal Tour, Auckland, 1963

Rupert Pike

Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections [1437-04](#)

As a ministerial driver, quite often overseas dignitaries gave beautiful gifts, souvenirs, and keepsakes from their countries in thanks for the driver's professional service whilst they were in New Zealand. Dad had many keepsakes, and he could relate stories of who gave them to him and when. They were very treasured items that he would talk about often over the years.

Dad had to book a driver to do a job with Sir Robert Muldoon as he was already booked up, so he gave the driver some necessary tips. "Always take the 8'O'clock and the *Sunday News*. The driver asked if he would get paid back for them and Dad said, "Don't ask." The driver decided to get the 8'O'clock as he read that, but not the *Sunday News* as he did not read it. It appears when he picked up Sir Robert and Lady Muldoon, Sir Robert asked him if he had bought the 8'O'clock and he said "Yes, sir but not the *Sunday News*, I never read it". Lady Muldoon said "Oh, but Sir Robert always gets the *Sunday News* as well"! Not that day he didn't!

There was a photo of Dad in the *North Shore Times Advertiser*, published 17 March 1983. He is shown sitting waiting in the vehicle doing his famous cryptic crossword from the *New Zealand Herald*. At the time the current Prime Minister, Sir Robert Muldoon, was doing a speech during the opening of the Red Beach Surf Clubs new rooms in the Hibiscus Coast.

There was always a lot of waiting and filling in time at the Public Service Garage whilst waiting for functions to finish and getting driver bookings 24 hours a day, which was monitored by the garage driver crew. They also played hands of crib, 8 ball and drank lots of tea and coffee. Most

drivers did long shifts of overtime and were very busy over the years.

The Public Service Garage was amazing to the families of the drivers and staff. The family Christmas parties were second to none. Always with a fire engine with Santa on it and, of course, much food, soft drink, ice cream and a merry-go-round for the kiddies. Every child got a present and they were the best. (I have still got a couple.) Names were called out and no child missed out. The staff paid into a social fund during the year and it supported the costs of the Christmas party that was excitedly looked forward to every year.

Being a ministerial driver did not mean a lot of time at home with the family. Many functions were missed because of a last-minute call by an MP needing a ride somewhere. The job came first, and the men were very dedicated. Overtime was the norm, and at times the family hardly saw the father much at all, especially if he was on a 15-20-hour shift during tours etc. The mother very much had to go solo and take care of the children as the father was mostly at work or sleeping. There was about 60 per cent divorce rate that came with the job because of the crazy hours and nature of the job.

As I read this again now, what an exciting life for the chauffeurs, but not so much for the families. I say this with confidence because our family lived through it!

Teresa McCarthy nee Cleveland, eldest daughter
E: saleskat@gmail.com

Book Review

Robertina

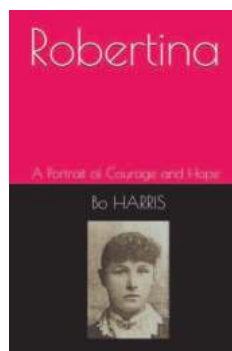
Inspired by a portrait of a beautiful woman that hung on my wall in New Zealand, *Robertina* is based on the tragic story of a Great Grandmother. Her family journeyed from the wind-swept Orkney Isles, Scotland to Otago on the sailing ship *Nelson* in the 1870s to become early settlers and there is a graphic account of the three-month long sea journey to Port Chalmers.

In researching the story, where all dates and places are based on fact, I was fortunate to uncover detailed accounts of the sea journey using Papers Past and other resources, and readers have found this chapter particularly enlightening.

The story is woven around the history of the time frame of the book 1860s -1900 and highlights aspects such as:

- why people left the Orkney Isles or mainland Scotland for a better life in the new world.

- what Dunedin was like in the 1870s when immigrants arrived?
- the hard life of pioneer settlers in Macraes Flat, Otago
- the problems for a woman to survive with children if her husband died.



Bo Harris
E: boharrisrr@gmail.com
(born in Dunedin, NZ,
nee Sharon Law)

James Roach 1880-1966

The Voice of a Passchendaele Prisoner of War

Kathleen Atkins

When I embark on genealogy research, I am usually guided by a current interest. This might be the family line I am currently focused on, a topic to write about, or a hypothesis suggested by a new DNA match. But some days, I just do a random search on a website. It was one of these arbitrary searches that led me to an accidental find in Archives New Zealand online.

I typed "ROACH" into the search engine and 748 items came up. Typically, I would apply a filter to narrow my search, perhaps confining my search to a geographical area or time frame. This time, I simply scrolled and came across a title: R24428203 Prisoner of War – Statements Collected 7 December 1918.¹

Scanning the description of the item, I saw: 38598 Rifleman J. Roach, 4th Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade, captured during Passchendaele, Belgium operations, 12 October 1917. Checking our family history records, I realised that this J. Roach was James, a close relative. Of course, I ordered the record. While I waited for the document to arrive, I reviewed what I knew about this specific James Roach, one of several in the predominantly Roman Catholic paternal side of my family tree.

James and I are related through our fathers. His father, Michael, was a brother of my great-grandfather, Bartholomew Roach, so James was my first cousin two generations removed.² We both lived in New Zealand because Michael, Bartholomew, and their half-brother, Patrick POWER, left Waterford, Ireland together in 1874, on board *S.S. Oxford*.³ They initially settled in the Waikato.

Michael was 27 when he arrived in New Zealand, and three years later he married 16-year-old Elizabeth (known as Lizzie or Eliza) KENNEDY in Hamilton. Eliza's family had immigrated to New Zealand from Wexford, Ireland.⁴

Michael and Eliza's first two children died in infancy. They moved to Auckland, where, in 1880, on 22 August, the couple had twins, James and Bartholomew. Sadly, Bartholomew also died at four months of age from diarrhoea.

A further eight children were born into the family. In addition to raising so many children, Eliza worked as a nurse (I wonder where she found the time).⁵

James was raised as a Roman Catholic and attended St. Aloysius' School in Hobson Street with his siblings.⁶ As an eight-year-old, he won a prize for spelling and grammar, which was awarded to him by the local Bishop.⁷

James was 11 when his six-year-old brother, Michael, died. The following year, the final member of the family, Elizabeth, was born in 1893. It is likely that, after leaving school around the age of 14, James worked as a labourer to support his parents and their other seven children.

Tragedy hit the family again when, in 1899, Eliza died, aged only 39. James, the eldest of the surviving three boys and five girls, was only 19 years old. His father died just four years later. Life must have been challenging, and no doubt James learned the meaning of "hard work."

Auckland in the early 1900s was a rapidly growing town. Major train routes north and south had been established and satellite settlements were popping up along the rail lines.⁸ This ongoing expansion would have required plenty of labourers, which hopefully meant work for the members of the Roach family.

I can next locate James when he was 34 years old, working as a mill hand. He and his brother Patrick were living together on Franklin Road in central Auckland. Two years later in 1916, James had moved to Northland and was now working in a sawmill in the tiny town of Waiotū, near Hukerenui. World War I was raging overseas, and, on 17 October 1916, James enlisted in the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces in Whangarei (the closest available registration office).

The next of kin details James provided to the records officer were that of his sister, Annie, who was three years younger than him. The record states that he was 5ft 3 1/2 inches tall with fair hair, blue eyes, and a fair complexion. He was seemingly in good health.

With the war ongoing, it did not take long for James to be sent to fight in Europe, onboard *S.S. Navua*. He arrived in England in May 1917, and a month later was journeying to fight in France. Transferred to the B Company Rifle Brigade, James was sent to the field, where he was wounded within a week. After treatment, he was returned to the Front. Like so many others battling in and around Belgium at the time, James went missing. He was believed to have been wounded on 12 October 1917, but his service record does not state the presumed location of his disappearance. Following his release from capture, James was sent to England and interviewed at the New Zealand Expeditionary Forces headquarters in Bloomsbury Square, London. His statement was taken by Senior Sargent Hugh Fraser of the New Zealand War Records Office and was one of many taken from former prisoners of war for the New Zealand War Office. These incredibly informative statements are stored in Archives New Zealand, and we are able to read James' own words about his experience.

The following section is a transcription of James' statement to the NZ War Records Section explaining what happened when he went missing on the battlefield at Passchendaele.

Statement by 38598 Rifleman J. Roach 4th battalion New Zealand Rifle Brigade
Circumstances of Capture

I was taken prisoner on October the 12th 1917 during the Passchendaele operations. We attacked at 5:30 am. We

went forward in sectional rushes covering about 80 yards at a time, and after our third advance in this way we got orders to dig in where we were. A lot were killed and wounded and we all got broken up. I was isolated in a shell hole, and the only other New Zealanders I saw were two of my battalion in a shell hole about 10 yards away from me. I saw men going back, but they all seemed to be sniped before they got far. I decided to wait in the shell hole until it was dark, and then try to get back. I remained here until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when the Germans counter attacked. Anything from 50 to 50 (sic) hunks came over where I was. Two of them fired at me but did not hit me. They took me prisoner and just as we were going back I was wounded in the head.

What Happened After Capture

I was taken into a shell hole while a German Red Cross man bandaged my wound, and then I was taken back to a dressing station. I was eventually taken to COUTRAI, and early in December I was sent to DULMEN in Germany. All this time I had received good attention to my wound. I was here for a month, receiving treatment and doing no work. I was now fit for light work and I was sent to Lager in WESTPHALIA. I forget the name of the place. We were issued with potatoes, cabbages and bread, and in addition I got parcels here. I was then sent to MUNSTER and after about 3 weeks here I was sent to work in coal mine in BAROP. I was here about eight months, being here when the Armistice was signed. The work was not very hard, only lasting for about 6 hours a day. We lived in barracks which were rough and dirty, and in addition to the rations issued by the Germans we received parcels. After the Armistice was signed I was sent to Holland, and then to England.

James was repatriated to New Zealand in December 1918. Following rehabilitation, he was deemed unfit for service and discharged on 23 May 1919. His service records show that due to stress, weight loss, and weakness, he was at one stage under consideration to receive a war pension. However, as he regained weight after his release (reportedly eight stone, close to that of his pre-war weight of eight stone, ten pound), he was considered to have recovered, and thus no pension was awarded. For his

contribution, James was awarded the British War Medal (1914-1920).

Shortly after his return to New Zealand, James was living with his sister, Elizabeth. Later, in his 70s, he shared a home with his sister, Bridget, a spinster. James never married. He lived the remainder of his life in Auckland and worked predominantly as a labourer.

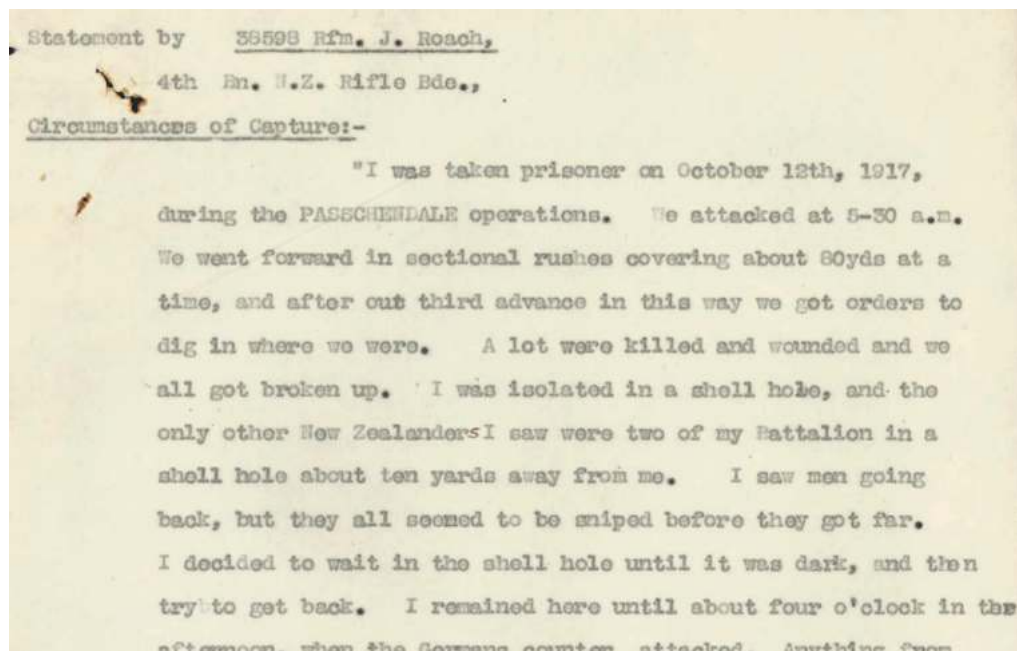
Prior to locating James' prisoner of war statement, I had known he had fought in World War I. He was a name on an electronic page in my family history. Now, having spent time piecing together the time frame of events in his and his family members' lives, I better understand why his account of his time as a prisoner of war seems almost benign on the surface. I suspect that the difficult times James experienced in his own childhood made him appreciate the positives in life. Despite having been taken prisoner of war, James, unlike so many of his compatriots, had survived, had his wounds tended, and had been housed and fed. I suspect surviving was James' goal. That, and getting home to his family.

James was living in Mt Albert⁹ when he died in 1966 aged 85. He is buried in Waikumete Cemetery, close to members of his family.

Kathleen Atkins
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References

1. Archives NZ, R24428203 Prisoner of War – Statements Collected 7 December 1918.
2. Michael Roach/Roche 1864-1909; Bartholomew Roach/Roche(1841-1915)
3. Patrick Power (1851-1926); www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-DR5F-TZ?view=index&action=view.
4. In sharing memories with a Roach cousin, Ivy, in 1981, my father recalled that Michael, his great uncle, was a hardnosed Irishman in contrast to Michael's wife, Eliza, and his brother Bartholomew who were deemed to be gentler people. Lawrence Michael Roach (1914-1998) and Ivy WICKY nee Roach (1909-2001); Elizabeth (Eliza) Kennedy (1960-1999)?
5. *Auckland Star*, 15 December 1899, Accessed on Papers Past.
6. In the 1880s, the Catholic Mercy Sisters ran St Patrick's Convent Schools in Hobson St, Auckland which included the infant school, St Aloysius, and St Joseph's the primary school.
7. *Auckland Star*, 20 December 1888, p2.
8. [A History of Auckland's urban form - Greater Auckland](#).
9. NZSG Kiwi Collection.

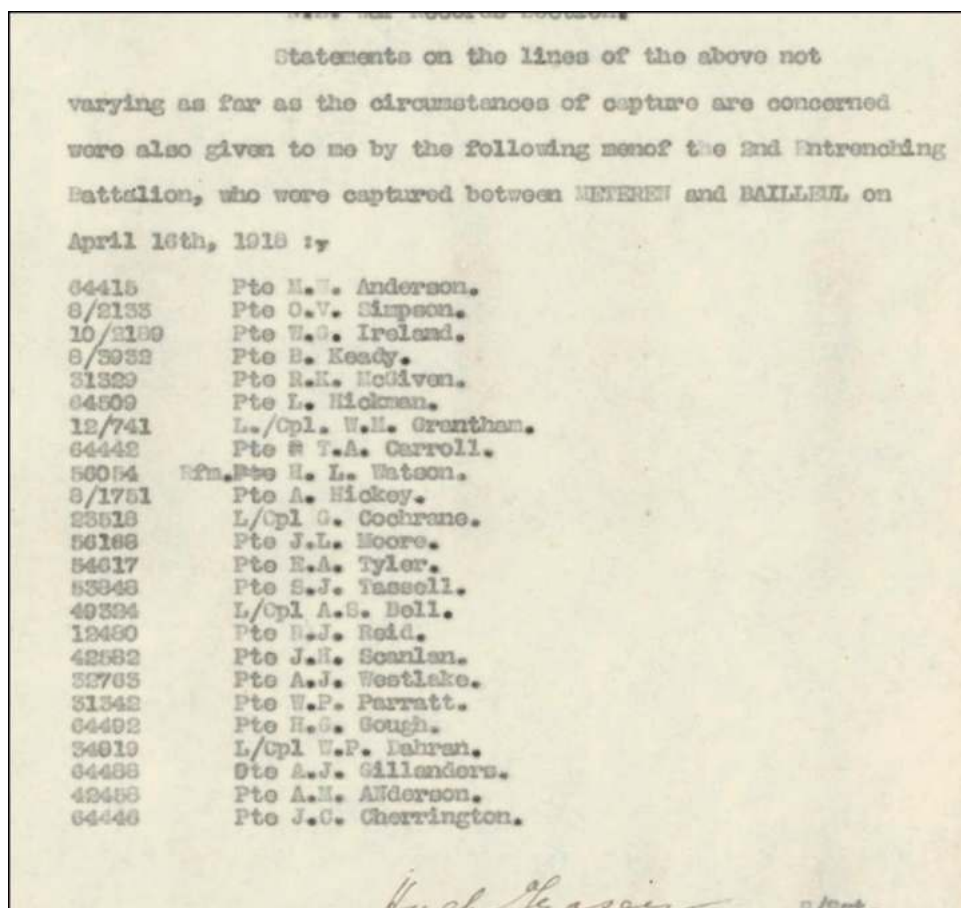


Excerpt of James' statement to the NZ War Records Section regarding his experiences

The following soldiers are also mentioned in the document. Kathleen is happy to share a copy of the information with anyone searching these names.

ANDERSON, Private A.M.
ANDERSON, Private N.W.
AVERY, Corporal A.W.
BELL, Lance Corporal A.S.
CARROLL, Private T.a
CHERRINGTON, Private J.C.
COCHRANE, Lance Corporal G.
DAHRAN, Lance Corporal W.P.
DUCKWORTH, Sergeant F.S.
FAYEN, Private J.R.
FURNESS, Gunner J.
GIBSON, Private A.H.
GILLANDERS, Private A.J.
GOUGH, Private H.G.
GRANTHAM, Lance Corporal W.M.
HARREX, Private H.D.
HARRIS, Lieutenant Corporal A.
HICKEY, Private A.
HICKMAN, Private L.
HILLS, Private W.
HOLDAWAY, Private I.J.
HUGHES, Private C.J.
HUNT, Private H.G.

IRELAND, Private W.G.
JOY, Rifleman E.J.
KEADY, Private G.
LEE, Private R.G.
LITTLE, Private S.A.
MCGIVEN, Private R.K.
MOORE, Private J.L.
MURPHY, Private R.
NICHOLSON, Private E.
PARRATT, Private W.P.
RAINBOW, Private A.H.
REID, Private R.J.
ROACH, Rifleman J.
SCANLAN, Private J.H.
SIMPSON, Private O.V.
SOUNNESS, Sergeant T.
TASSELL, Private S.J.
TAYLOR, Private R.
TYLER, Private E.A.
WALSCHLEGER, Private W.T.
WATSON, Rifleman H.L.
WESTLAKE, Private A.J.
YOUNG, Sergeant P.I.R.



Have you had a look at our Overseas Resources? They're to help you when your research takes you out of New Zealand. Look under Resources on our website

Members' enquiries and notices

This section is free to members for inquiries of a genealogical nature but is not available to non-members. Please be precise and state clearly what you want to know. For submission guidelines see the front of this magazine. Where no details of a query are given it is presumed that the inquirer would be grateful for any information. When someone has taken the trouble to write to you with reference to your request for information, please acknowledge their letter whether the information they have shared is of use or not. It is customary to repay their postage.

MYSTERY PHOTOS



WHO AM I?

Information wanted as to the identity of a photo in the family collection. Labelled as 'Mamie', she likely lived in Christchurch and knew the Langdon family of Papanui. Also, an indication from her clothing of the time period in which the photograph was taken to determine her age.

Heather Pearson

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Send your enquiry or notice to
editor@genealogy.org.nz

Need help with your sources?
Check out Resources/
Research Skills
www.genealogy.org.nz

Branch News



Thank you!

NZSG Far North and Whakatane Branches

The NZSG would like to thank both the Far North and Whakatane branches for their recent submissions of Funeral Service Sheets, to be added to the Kiwi Collection. Between the two branches there are an estimated 3,500 additional sheets which are currently being indexed and will be added to the December 2024 update of Kiwi.

If your branch is collecting Funeral Service Sheets and would like to add to the collection also, please email nzsg.projects@genealogy.org.nz. Branches can choose whether to provide the images or original copies to NZSG, or to retain these themselves to answer requests from

members. We can provide a template for your branch to index yourselves, or you can provide the scanned images and our projects indexing team will do the work for you.

This is a fantastic resource for our members, which is growing all the time. Have you searched the Kiwi Collection to see how many members of your extended family you can find a service sheet for? These are a great way to find out details about a person that you wouldn't normally purchase a certificate for and as a bonus get a photograph of them and in many cases members of their family



Left: Far North Branch secretary Leoni Carter travelled all the way to Auckland to present a large box containing the branch's Funeral Service Sheets, along with a few other treasures. Pictured here with our National Manager Julian Pinfold and board member Melanie Middleton

Right: Whakatane committee members showcasing just a few of the 19 folders they hold of Funeral Service Sheets. Taken at the Whakatāne Museum and Research Centre – Te Whare Taonga ō Taketake - where the Whakatane branch are lucky to hold their resources and have space allocated for research and meetings. L to R: Barbara James, Raewyn Fitton, Mark Dodman, Heather Pearson, Chris Cuter



NZSG Morrinsville Branch Awards Evening

An awards evening was held on 24 April 2024 where three members were acknowledged for their service to the Morrinsville Genealogy Branch. The committee organised a celebration time with floral presentations and gifts for the recipients.

Rosemary Boyd (left, below) was thanked for 10 years' service, one year on the committee and nine years as secretary to the branch. She described her years of service as rewarding: gaining knowledge, sharing stories and the camaraderie of members.

Glenys Petry (centre, below) was awarded the NZSG Branch Service Award for her achievement of 23 years on the branch committee, including committee member, treasurer, secretary, and convenor. Glenys has a wealth of knowledge and along with the late Helen Stone assisted in developing and implementing of the Matching Brides and Grooms database. She also contributed to local school indexing and cemetery databases.

Glenys said, "I love sharing knowledge, stories of ancestors and helping members." She has been a member of Morrinsville Branch for 33 years.

Pam Mitchell (right, below) was awarded the NZSG Branch Service Award for her dedication as treasurer from 2001 – 2020 and assistance in local school indexing, cemetery databases and fundraising. Pam is known for quietly working in the background on projects to aid the benefit of the branch.

Rosemary, Glenys, and Pam are all current members of the Morrinsville Genealogy Branch and were presented their awards by the convenor Barbara Dalziel.

Barbara Dalziel
E: morrinsville@genealogy.org.nz



Find your nearest Branch
under *Get Involved* on our
website
www.genealogy.org.nz



Ireland Census Returns 1926

The island of Ireland was not included in the 1921 Census because of the Irish Civil War. The Irish Free State was formed in 1922, and a census of both the Irish Free State and Northern Ireland was carried out on 18 April 1926. The records for the Republic of Ireland, consisting of 630,048 household return sheets with the details of 2,971,992 people, are being digitised by the National Archives of Ireland (NAI) in partnership with the Central Statistics Office for releases in 2026. The 1926 Census returns for Northern Ireland have not survived.

Gleanings from the Censuses of Ireland, 1813-1851

The loss of the pre-Famine Irish census records was a tragedy, personal details of millions of people went up in smoke. But now, careful detective work is uncovering some of these lost lives. Before the fire of 1922, family historians had copied details of many individuals and families, and sometimes even of entire districts, from the original records. These transcripts – often just scribbled notes and jumbled jottings – are turning up in archives and libraries. While they are only a tiny fraction of what was lost, each transcript is one more piece of the jigsaw. Dr Brian Gurrin, Research Fellow in Census and Population Records, is busy hunting down these copies (he has gathered 50,000 names so far!). Every name that can be deciphered and placed in a precise location will be made public in 2025 – but for this year, to whet the appetite, we are making 4,000 names from the census of 1821 available. Browse this collection, with sample households from every province, and stay tuned for many more names (over 200,000 according to current research) coming online in 2025.

www.virtualtreasury.ie/curated-collections/census-gleanings

Co. Cavan

Michael McShane and Catherine Kerr are delighted to be back online making available numerous Co. Cavan records on their Cavan Townlands website.

Please note the change to their new domain

cavantownlands.ie

This website contains links to civil records, maps, land records, guides and more. To members who have made good use of the website, Michael and Catherine thank you for your support, as they continue to upload records to their new website.



Irish Roots

Irish Roots 'provides readers with high quality informative content to assist them to overcome the many hurdles so often encountered in Irish genealogy. Working with an accomplished team of genealogists the Editor prides themselves in providing a publication that has become an imperative and powerful resource tool for all those who endeavour to discover more about their individual family history. This magazine offers valuable content for everyone from the budding family history enthusiast to the more experienced genealogist.' In recent issues 129-130 the regular feature *Tracing Your Ancestor* by James G. Ryan covers Counties Mayo and Waterford. *Irish Roots* magazine is also available in digital format, www.irishrootsmedia.com

Family History Conference – Connections 2025

Australasian Family History Conference – Connections 2025 – will be held in Brisbane from March 21-24, 2025. Hosted by the Genealogical Society of Queensland, the conference combines the 17th Australian Conference on Genealogy and Heraldry and 5th History Queensland State Conference. Connections 2025 is Australasia's premier event for local and family historians, ancestry researchers and genealogists to uncover the past, celebrate the present and tap into the future.

Highlights: Three keynote speakers, Six Master Classes, 42 specialist speakers, Exhibitions.

Full details and registration > www.connections2025.org.au

Ireland Maps

A Digital Archive of Ireland's Ordnance Survey dri.ie/os200 'This digital platform will reconnect the First Edition Six-Inch Maps with the OS Memoirs, Letters and Name Books. In doing so it will enable a team of researchers from across Ireland to uncover otherwise hidden and forgotten aspects of the life and work of those employed by the OS and to explore the complex histories associated with the survey and its legacies and impacts still witnessed in the landscape today.'

Civil Registration District Maps

This website www.swilson.info/regdistmap.php provides a map with the Civil Registration Districts of Ireland. You can drill down from County to Registration District, and then click on the Registration District and get a list of all the townlands. Useful to see 'who is next door' in a manner of speaking.

Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF)

The IFHF newsletter *Irish Genealogy Matters* Vol. 7 No. 2 June 2024, FREE to view online, or download, contains 11 pages and available to [read online or download the pdf](#).

Irish Lives Remembered

Irish Lives Remembered is a FREE e-magazine dedicated to helping you to trace your Irish ancestors. Issue 61 recently released is packed with 84 pages of Irish genealogy resources, there is something for everyone! Back issues are free to view, check for individual Counties featured.

[Irish Lives Remembered Issue 61 - Irish Family History Centre](#)

Research Request for Samuel McWilliams (1807-1877) Descendants

Heber MacWilliams from Ohio is researching his family's N.Z. connections.

The Will of Samuel McWilliams (1807-1877) lists his living children and spouses, including the fact that his son Samuel was living in New Zealand, when he made his Will in 1876. After exhausting all other descendants of the four known sons of David McWilliams (1776-1848) I am looking for another living male descendant. Samuel's family was buried at Dundonald. I would like to know more specifically where they lived before they appear at Craigantlet in 1863. Son Samuel who immigrated to New Zealand was born in Dundonald in 1846.

My Great Great-grandfather, William McWilliams (1801-1880) married three times. In the records for his second and third marriages, he said that his father was David McWilliams, a farmer. This was the same David McWilliams

(1776-1848) who was the father of Samuel McWilliams (and also the father of James and David). I have written biographies of William McWilliams (1801-1880), and his son, William, as well as of my grandfather and father.

I have compiled several other McWilliams families who lived in and around Newtownards, Dundonald, Donaghadee and Bangor to 'fit' all the individuals mentioned in a record into one of the families. There was also a large family with the surname McWilliam (without the 's') living around Banbridge but, as near as I can determine, they are not connected.'

If you have a connection to this McWILLIAMS family in New Zealand or Ireland, Heber MacWilliams has made his email address available for contact. Please email your interest to the Irish Interest Group IrishSIG@genealogy.org.nz and we will direct your email to Heber.

Next Auckland Genealogy Meeting

Our next Irish genealogy meeting will be held at the NZSG FRC Panmure on Sunday 24 November commencing at the earlier time of 10am. Access to NZSG Irish library holdings will be available, with the meeting to close at 4.00pm.

Keep up to date with our meeting notices and events announcements on our webpage genealogy.org.nz/Branch-details/11084-s1100100/ View the Irish research websites listed under Resources.

Geraldene O'Reilly
Convenor



Update from Auckland City Libraries

Auckland Family History Expo 2024

Auckland Council Libraries and the Genealogical Computing Group (aka "the GCG" – an interest group of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists) were very proud to have been able to hold the 10th annual Expo this year, at the Fickling Convention Centre in Auckland.

Although the Expo has Auckland in its name, it is called that because this is where it is held – we are privileged to have many people attend from around New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific. And sometimes even further afield.

AncestryAU was our platinum sponsor as usual, and we are grateful to them for supporting us for the last 10 years, with finances and raffle prizes. Gold sponsors were Family Tree Maker, FamilySearch, the Genealogical Computing Group and Auckland Council. Other sponsors were

FamilyTreeDNA, New Zealand Society of Genealogists, FamilyTree UK magazine, MyHeritage and IHGS The School of Family History. As well as financial support, raffle prizes were donated. Many other organisations donated raffle prizes too – website subscriptions, DNA kits, memberships, magazine subscriptions, research tools and research services, admission vouchers – and much more.

We could not run the Expo without the financial support of the sponsors and the raffle donations. The Friday night opening event carries a cost for attendees to cover the catering and a requirement to register, but Saturday and Sunday are free with no need for registration.

This year over 1,000 people attended, with more than 20 exhibitors, 10 overseas speakers and 15 local speakers. We had three streams of seminars, plus workshops and

research assistance. It was gratifying to see more younger people attend again this year and know that there are many younger people coming through.

Highlights this year were Dr Sophie Kay (Khronicle UK), Ancestry's PetDNA reveal and the Auckland Libraries' Te Tiriti Waitangi Augmented Reality (AR) experience. As well as running her family history research company Khronicle, Dr Kay is the genealogist/geneticist on the UK archaeology programme "The Time Team."

Jason Reeve (AncestryAU) opened the Expo on the Friday evening updating us on recent happenings in Ancestry and Dr Kay delivered a wonderful presentation about her experience working on *The Time Team*, focusing on the Modbury Community Dig. It intrigued us so much that Marie Hickey and I went back to my place afterwards and watched the three episodes on the "Time Team Official" channel on YouTube. The partnership between archaeology and family history is very enticing to history lovers such as us! Other talks Dr Kay gave were about occupations, maps, DNA and alcoholism and the Victorian family.

My colleague Brent Giblin led a popular two-hour engagement session using AR to allow people to interact with Auckland Libraries' Te Tiriti o Waitangi experience.



A relatively new product by Ancestry – "Know Your PetDNA by Ancestry" was also showcased at the Expo. Several dogs belonging to library staff had their PetDNA revealed. The test is legitimate and works in the same way that the human DNA test works – instead of "ethnicities" we have breeds. General information about each breed is provided, as well as personality and physical traits about that dog in question. Apart from being very interesting, it was also entertaining – the dogs were so cute (and very well behaved).

There were plenty of other highlights over the weekend, with talks from representatives from Ancestry, Findmypast, MyHeritage, FamilySearch, Auckland Council Libraries, Family Tree Maker, FamilyTreeDNA, National Library of New

Zealand and our own NZSG. Local favourites included Fiona Brooker, Michelle Patient, Maggie Gaffney and Australian favourite Helen Smith. At seventeen years old Bradley Greer has been presenting for Family Tree Maker since he was 11 and his sessions are very popular. It's terrific to have such a young but seasoned presenter in the programme. It was wonderful to catch up with so many of you over the weekend. Fabulous so many of you travelled to Auckland to attend.



From top:
NZSG Chair Sarah Hewitt presenting on the NZSG
NZSG volunteers on the NZSG stall
The Exhibition Hall

Next year's Auckland Family History Expo will be on 8-10 August 2025.

Branch and Interest Group Services

HĀWERA

The SOUTH TARANAKI BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX consists of school admission records; newspaper birth, death and marriages; Anderson's memorialist records; funeral sheets. Request by surname. Send SAE and donation to: Jill Williams, Fairfield Road, Hāwera 4610 or email peter.williams@xtra.co.nz or julesmar@xtra.co.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

HAWKE'S BAY BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX. Request by surname. Mail service only. Include contact telephone and/or email address. Send SAE and donation to Branch Secretary, c/o 200 Pakowhai Road, Frimley, Hastings 4120.

IRISH INTEREST GROUP – LOWER NORTH ISLAND

We hold education and research days locally, and across the Lower North Island region on request by branches and groups, and can also provide presentations and a helpdesk at genealogy events. Enquiries to Irish.LowerNI@genealogy.org

NELSON

A database of half a million entries covering the wider Nelson area, from indexes and books in our library, Ancestors Attic. Includes pre-1856 marriage index, including Māori, passenger shipping lists 1840–1914 to and from Nelson and from the UK and Australia. E: nelson@genealogy.org.nz or PO Box 1879, Nelson 7040.

NORTH SHORE

Lookups for births and deaths c1940 to date from *The New Zealand Herald*. Email request to northshore@genealogy.org.nz, or to Dennise Cook, Research Officer, North Shore Branch NZSG, PO Box 89045, Torbay, Auckland 0742. A small donation to the branch will be welcome, depending on results.

OAMARU

Oamaru Cemeteries CD Headstone Transcriptions. For both the Old and New Cemeteries. The Old Cemetery records have been updated. Cost \$25 including p&p. Enquiries to Oamaru@genealogy.org.nz

PALMERSTON NORTH

Our SETTLERS DATABASE 1870–1900 contains 3,000 names or family groups. Headstone transcriptions – ask for lookups or buy the CD. BDM newspaper clippings; school admissions transcriptions – 20,000 and growing; funeral cards. Enquiries to: palmerstonnorth@genealogy.org.nz. Include what you already know. A small donation will be welcome, depending on results.

PAPAKURA

The PAPAKURA AND DISTRICTS BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX includes Alfriston, Ardmore, Ararimu, Clevedon, Drury, Karaka, Kawakawa Bay, Maketu, Ramarama, Slippery Creek, Springfield and Wairoa South. Enquiries welcome, mail service only with SAE and donation to NZSG Papakura Branch, PO Box 72–993, Papakura 2244. papakura@genealogy.org.nz

TE AWAMUTU

Booklets of MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS FOR ST JOHN'S and ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCHES including full transcriptions from cemetery and church interiors, plans, histories and index. Also digital images of inscriptions from both cemeteries, lookups for local school admission registers (varying dates) and local newspaper family notices (1911–1974). Enquiries to teawamutu@genealogy.org.nz

Contributions from branches and interest groups are always welcome in the magazine – especially if you can pass on useful information from your area that may assist other members. Events, projects, new repositories and services, ways you have engaged in the community and given something back. Contact the Editor. editor@genealogy.org.nz

Lost your family? Follow the children!



Oamaru North School - 1874 - Culture Waitaki

Education became compulsory and free in 1877 but many schools existed before then. School records can help find your family when other records can't.

Now updated!

Find school records on the
Kiwi Collection!

www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi

NZSG Kiwi Collection

