

The New Zealand Genealogist

Hakihea December 2024

Vol 55 No 403



New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Te Rangapū Kaihikohiko o Aotearoa

Family history - Preserving our past for the future



**With the December 2024
update the Kiwi Collection
reaches 16 Million Records!**



**Did you know that each Kiwi Collection
update includes “creep” records?**

These are records that are now over 100
years old (or 95 years for School records).

What will you find?

NZSG Kiwi Collection



www.genealogy.org.nz/kiwi

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Produced in Canva



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 will 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
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* See pages 162-163 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

DNA

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

March 2025

Family Myths debunked

September 2025

World War II

June 2025

Amazing Women

December 2025

Where did they live?

Style Guide

A Style Guide is available on the NZSG website:

genealogy.org.nz/Writing-for-NZSG/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.



Early pohutukawa blossoms mean a long summer – fingers crossed!

The NZSG Shipping Collection Project is in Phase 2 – collating voyages. Our database now has over 36,000 voyages recorded and is growing all the time. We have recently started targeted Papers Past searching and due to the huge effort of branches, groups and individuals around the country are adding thousands more records each week. Thank you to all of you who are working on this part of the project and to our master database team for adding all the records found. The most important part of this targeted searching is that 80% of these are new voyages so the Papers Past work is very valuable.

December will see the latest update to the Kiwi Collection. This update gives us over 16 million records so far on the Kiwi Collection. A fantastic effort from all the groups, branches and the indexing team around the country, and indeed the world. With New Zealand having very few Censuses available (see a list on the Kiwi Resources), the Kiwi Collection team have been finding census substitutes. These are records that might help you locate your family in a particular place at a particular time. Included in the December update will be 11,000 additional juror's records and over 45,000 additional government employee records. And do not forget every six months records that have previously been restricted by age become available. In December there will be 107,000 records added that you have not previously been able to see. What will you find?

The Kiwi Resources continue to grow. Following Family History Month, we added resources on how to research your Chinese family in New Zealand. There are also new resources on land records and the labour movement. Have

a look in our new green previously blue pages for more information on the services and resources available to NZSG members.

Our new online Forum is slowly taking off. We will be adding new topics in early 2025. It is a great place for NZSG members to help each other. Memlist will continue to run for those that prefer an email forum.

Members have recently been asked to complete a survey on the NZSG. This was last undertaken in 2021, and many things have changed since then. The Board and our Focus Groups would like to know more about your experiences and what you would like from your Society. This will enable us to improve our services and resources for you.

Genealogists are not the only researchers affected by the changes to the Archives NZ digitisation programme. Historians, teachers, librarians and others have all felt the impact. Their professional bodies have joined with NZSG to see how we can advocate on your behalf. We have met with the Chief Archivist and National Librarian and are pleased to hear that they are working to revive the program although it is subject to the usual government processes for funding and may take some time. We will continue to work with these organisations to see where else we have common interests.

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

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Marie Isobel Perham née Craig

Marie passed away at her home on 10 September 2024. She joined the NZSG Hutt Valley Branch in 1986 and was part of the Projects Subcommittee with Jan Walker, Joy Adams, Mike Guest and others as required. Their projects included transcribing, compiling and indexing War Graves, School Inspectors Reports, Schools Admission Registers and more.

Described as a fine lady with a delightful manner, Marie contributed much to the New Zealand Society of Genealogists which we all continue to benefit from.

Helene Philpott
NZSG Hutt Valley Branch

For eight years on Saturday mornings, they were at Archives New Zealand from 8.30am to midday with half an hour for morning tea and to put the world to rights. Hard work but they really enjoyed themselves.

Monday mornings were spent at the Hutt City Council Archives where their work included indexing on to cards, building permit books, town clerks' letters, books and more.

Marie was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hutt Valley Branch in May 2011 and was presented with Life membership of the NZSG Lower North Island Irish Interest Group in June 2020, having joined in 2005 on their first day. She had also been a member of their committee for 13 years and very generously had meetings at her home. She was also a foundation member of the NZSG Scottish Interest Group, Greater Wellington and was there to cut the Celebratory Dundee cake in November 2023.

Unbelievably in her younger days Marie played the bagpipes in the Wellington Ladies Pipe Band and the Auckland Ladies Pipe Band.



Theme for March 2025 Issue — Family Myths Debunked

Every family has a family myth or three. It might have been what encouraged you to start your family history research. But how many are actually true?

Our theme for the March 2025 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* is "Family Myths Debunked". What was the family story? How did you debunk it? Did you learn something even more interesting?

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



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Jane Preshaw and the Henry Myths – family secrets revealed through DNA

Cynthia McCaughan

Setting out to research and write up about my 3x great-grandmother from Reefton I thought was going to be straightforward. After all, Jane PRESRAW née NORGATE (1839-1926), nurse, midwife, matron and well-respected stalwart of the Reefton Hospital from 1872-1901 appears on her own Wikipedia page, has an entry in the New Zealand Dictionary of Biography, is written up in the Women of Westland omnibus edition and her photograph is in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

These are the 'facts' I started with: Jane Norgate, born in Norfolk, one of eight children had just turned seventeen when her mother (Jane née SIDLE 1811-1856) died. Shortly after, Jane had a 'falling out' with her father, Henry Norgate (1816-1900) – said to be a pious sort of man. Within a couple of months Jane arrived alone in Melbourne, Victoria on the *Medway*.

Around 1868 Jane, (calling herself Mrs O'BRIEN) and her only child Alice SMITH (1860-1937) arrived in Hokitika, Jane's husband Timothy O'BRIEN 'having died or left them.'



Jane Preshaw née Norgate
Courtesy J. Mayson

By 1872 Jane and Alice were in Reefton where Jane began her life's work as the first matron of the Reefton Hospital. In 1878 she married the hospital chemist, David O. Prreshaw (1831-1903) and for thirty years they ran the hospital together.

Alice Smith was just seventeen when she married Henry EVANS (1850-1938) in Reefton in 1877. Henry was born in Brighton, Sussex, before running away to sea, arriving in New Zealand about 1869. In Reefton Henry Evans worked as a gold prospector, miner and a sawyer. There he bought 100 acres, cleared the bush and built a farm for his growing family. Jane, Henry and Alice took great delight in their family and dozens of photographs record them blossoming into adulthood.

In writing about my family, I wanted to examine not just the facts, (names and dates – so boring), but seek out something of the inner world and personalities of my forebears – their desires and emotions. What drove them to pack up and head to the other side of the world? What compelled them to hide aspects of their less-than-perfect lives? What on earth were they thinking?

I found that what I 'knew' of my family was not entirely correct; over a period of several years, I uncovered their secrets using a combination of research, detective work and DNA to reveal that Jane Preshaw, her father Henry Norgate, Alice's father Henry Smith (1831-1916) and Henry Evans all had pasts that they had hidden from family. DNA was crucial to finding more about these people, I was able to gain insight into why Jane may have had a falling out with her father Henry Norgate, what Henry Evans' real name was, who Alice Smith's real father was and to find his unexpected descendants across the globe.

In 2001 Alice's birth registration had been found in Melbourne. From this it was apparent that Jane Norgate had pretended to be married and recorded Alice's father as Lawrence GOTROW (c1834-1919). I decided Henry Smith was just a myth, a fictitious name, deleted him from my tree and set about researching Lawrence Gotrow, a sailor probably descended from the French GAUTREAU brothers who settled Nova Scotia. I soon found evidence of Lawrence and Jane in Victoria, Australia; he had married twice (in



1866 and 1874), but not to Jane. None of his three children survived to have children of their own. In 1864 Jane married Timothy O'Brien. He used an alias, David McCARTHY when they married. Two years later Jane married again – briefly, and probably bigamously – to Martin PITERSON, then within a few months she crossed the Tasman and began to use the name O'Brien.

In 2016 I tested my DNA with Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) to break down some brick walls. Maybe I could find out more about my 2x great grandparents, who Alice Smith's father was and Henry Evans' life before he arrived in New Zealand? Once my results came back, I was astonished to realise I had thousands of matches, but none seemed to be names I recognised. I gave myself time to come to grips with what DNA testing meant, a steep learning curve even though I had excelled at biology at school and thought I knew how genetics worked.

I grouped matches into family lines with colour coding. I read blogs and learned to use tools such as cM (centimorgan) charts that give the odds of someone being a particular relation. I, along with both my parents tested again with Ancestry (which I should have done first, as the majority of testers are with the company), so I could separate my matches to maternal and paternal lines. I



Alice Evans née Smith with daughter Jane c1879
Courtesy J. Mayson

uploaded our results to other websites: MyHeritage, Living DNA and the non-commercial GEDmatch site.

Soon I connected some matches through distant common ancestors, but it was much harder for those who don't have trees online. I found that accurate trees are important, both my own and others; errors in trees (mine included) are very common. Old-school research, including seeking out and purchasing registration certificates is vital: finding that elusive ancestor doesn't happen automatically! I began to add matches to my tree and follow their DNA links backwards, researching my own version of matches' trees alongside my own, using floating branches so I could easily connect them to my tree once I found a common link. I learned it is not enough to just research a pedigree line. Adding siblings, cousins and so on of grandparents and earlier generations helps. I became curious and familiarised myself with surnames in my line, their variations as well as first name patterns. I discovered when and where people lived or maybe even have just passed through on their way somewhere else. There may have only been a short window of opportunity for two sets of DNA to come together.

Learning social and economic context is also important. Various push-pull factors affected our forebears, from wars and famine to industrial changes, gold rushes, immigration inducements, as well as personal things like debt, crime, escaping a compromising domestic situation, running off with a new partner (given divorce was expensive and beyond the reach of common folk) or an unexpected pregnancy which might lead to a person leaving home or changing their name.

The first of my 'Henry Myths' was broken in 2018 when DNA led to the discovery that Henry Evans was not an Evans but a RABBITT. Never in all my years searching would I have thought of that name! Henry Evans' parents were supposedly Henry Evans and Ann (or Mary) née HOLE, and he had sisters Mary and Annie Elizabeth. His father, also named Henry had died young and his mother remarried.

Like Smith, Evans is a very common name and no matter how much I searched over the years I could find no evidence of Henry Evans' birth or baptism, his parents or his name on census records, either in Sussex or the wider UK. I tried to find Henry's mother by searching variations (HOLL, HULL, HILL, HOWELL), but found no marriage in Brighton, Sussex to an Evans. I searched three years of UK birth registrations, 1849-1851 and followed up every Henry Evans in subsequent censuses. Other family researchers who had long struck this brick wall, plumped on a Henry Evans born about the same time in Brighton. I eventually discounted after corresponding with descendants.

Even with DNA, the process was not easy. Firstly, having no Evans DNA matches suggested that there must have been a name change, however I had several matches who linked back to the Hole family of Sussex. This seemed to confirm Henry's mother's last name was correct.

I found many trees with the Hole family of Bolney, Sussex, a large family of 15 (plus cousins galore), but none seemed to have my Ann or Mary included. The difficulty lay in that many of the Hole siblings were not baptised within a month

or so of their birth. I finally found my Mary Hole (1812-1881) was baptised in 1815 together with two brothers.

I realised Henry's mother was close to forty when he was born and adjusted my search for a "Mary Evans" born c1812. I found her aged 58 in the 1871 census along with a daughter, Annie E. Rabbitt (age 19) in Brighton and Mary's brother Joseph Hole. I then found the birth registrations of Annie Rabbitt (1851) and Henry in 1850 (as Henry Rabbitt) with mother's maiden name HOAL [sic]. Within a short time, I found the death of our Henry's father Henry Rabbitt (1807-1851) and the marriage of Mary Hoal and Henry Rabbitt senior in Hove, close to Brighton. Certificates confirmed my Henry's birthdate was the same as recorded by his descendants.

Family had also documented that Henry Evans had run away to sea as a lad and served his time on some sort of training ship. My New Zealand Society of Genealogists subscription allowed free access to download documents through Discovery, the website of the British National Archives at Kew. I promptly found Henry Rabbitt's record of enlistment in the Royal Navy on his 14th birthday with his mother recorded as Mary "EVENS". Somewhere along the way, (probably when Henry jumped ship in New Zealand) he began using the name Evans – although to date I have not found a marriage of Mary to an Evans or Evens.

The second "Henry Myth" revealed the identity of Alice



*Henry Evans c. 1879
Courtesy J. Mayson*

Smith's father. My DNA matches revealed no connection to Gotrow/Gautreau lines or anyone else from Nova Scotia, nor O'Brien/McCarthy. So how could I find out who Alice's father was? Researching the name 'Smith', the most common name in the UK and the English-speaking world is a genealogist's worst nightmare. Of the possible hundreds and thousands of Smiths in Melbourne and wider Victoria, where to start? Even with DNA, where should I look?

After loading DNA results to MyHeritage in 2018, I found a DNA match in Australia who had also loaded a tree. I had previously seen a match on FTDNA with the same name who also matched my second cousin. I realised this information might point towards Alice Smith's mysterious father. Within my match's tree I saw the names PATTERSON, Smith and Evans, also names in my tree. The clincher was X-DNA, a part of DNA tested and shown by FTDNA, but not by Ancestry. X-DNA is useful as a means of pinpointing potential forebears as X is only passed through a defined set of ancestors. By using an X chart, I mapped out my maternal X inheritance and then the X line of my match. I was astonished to find X-DNA pointed to Henry Smith, a 2x great-grandfather of my match also being my 3x great-grandfather.

I contacted the Australian Smith match. His Henry Smith, a wheelwright, carpenter and builder, was born near Ashover, Derbyshire. Henry had married 18-year-old Louisa Patterson in Singleton, NSW in June 1860. Their first child was born in September that year, conceived about the time Jane Norgate was giving birth to her daughter Alice in Melbourne.

Was this the mysterious Henry Smith my family had wondered about for forty-odd years? None of the Australian Smith family had knowledge of their Henry ever being in Victoria. I then contacted our American matches in common, who descend from Ann Sarah BROWN (1852-1903), born in Clay Cross, Derbyshire and Henry SHARDLOW (1851-1908); a son William Shardlow (1878-1965) had emigrated to Canada. These American Shardlow descendants had no idea of any Australian connections. Somehow, I needed to find our common link, as I had neither Brown nor Shardlow in my tree. My heart sank as I contemplated the possible number of Browns there might be – almost as common as Smith. Then I realised Clay Cross was just 3½ miles from Ashover, so I knew I was on the heels of Henry Smith.

I built the Shardlow tree backwards, adding baptisms, burials, marriages and found that Annie must have known who her father was, as when she married in 1875, she gave her father's name as 'Henry Smith – Joiner', although her birth was registered with her father's name left blank. Shardlow descendants had long known about this Henry Smith on the marriage record but had no idea where to start looking for him - the proverbial needle in the haystack. Now I saw other matches scattered between New Zealand, Australia and USA that connected us through one common ancestor. Henry *had* to be the father of Ann Brown, my Alice Smith as well as the children of his marriage.

There was another match who showed up as in common to the Australian, American and Kiwi cousins, a man living in

Derbyshire. It wasn't until 2022 that curiosity got the better of me and I researched his lines and established he had a great-grandmother Elizabeth CUPIT (1851-1904) born to an unwed mother and found her mother, Mary Cupit was born very close to Ashover. While none of the documentation for this family line identified our Henry Smith as Elizabeth's father, the genetic evidence is that here was yet another child of Henry. Henry Smith was clearly a man of great charm and persuasion, possibly handsome (sadly no photograph appears to have survived) and definitely fleet of foot, running from his responsibilities.

Another unexpected DNA connection helped expose the final "Henry Myth" – that of Jane Norgate's father, Henry Norgate being of a strict and religious disposition. Back in 2010 I had discovered Henry Norgate had a second family after Jane's mother died in Norfolk. In 1859 Henry Norgate married Jane ELLIOTT née WALPOLE (1827-1913) in London, a soldier's widow with four children and four more Norgate children followed.

Jane Walpole had previously married Henry Elliott in 1851. They had a son (1852-1852), a daughter (1853), twin girls (1857) and another daughter (1859). I corresponded and shared information with descendants of Henry Norgate's second family as well as an Elliott descendant. In 2018 DNA showed that the younger Elliott girls (b.1857 and 1859) were actually Henry Norgate's. Henry Elliott is not able to be traced with certainty after 1852. His regiment served in Crimea 1854-1856 and it is likely he was one of

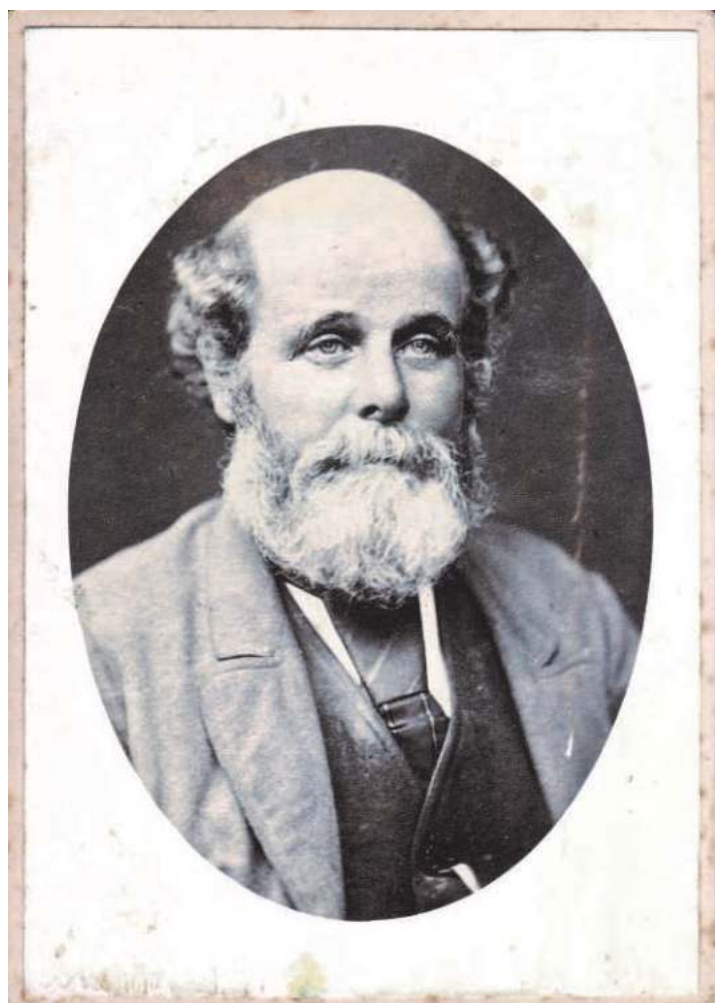
several Henry Elliotts who perished c1855. Learning that Henry Norgate was in an intimate relationship within a few months of his first wife's death was perhaps why his daughter Jane had a 'falling out' with her father and left for Australia.

These unexpected DNA discoveries, coupled with perseverance, lateral thinking and thorough research have revealed that my forebears were not who they painted themselves to be, but oh, their stories are now so much more interesting! I have now written about these secrets and myths (and further DNA discoveries) in my recent book *Work of Heart* (2024), a biography of Jane and the men in her life, as well as the previously untold history of the early Reefton Hospital. Without DNA we would be left with myths and stories, but also uncertainty. Embarking on adventures in DNA awakens the possibilities of understanding more of our ancestors, making them more relatable as people with desires and secret passions – perhaps not all too dissimilar to our own messy, complicated lives.

Cynthia McCaughan
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Henry Norgate
Courtesy J Mayson

A Theory of Relativity

Patricia Rand Liddell

When John LIDDELL had his DNA tested back in 2005, he was not surprised to receive a match to his father's cousin in Queensland, but he was very surprised to receive several results from Liddells living on the eastern seaboard of the USA. John's 2x great-grandfather James Liddell was born in 1808 in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland to James LIDDLE and Isobel DRYSDALE. The baptism recorded in the middle of a page full of "lawful" sons and daughters only described him as "son of..." leading us to think that at the time of his birth his parents were not husband and wife.

Isobel Drysdale was the daughter of Elizabeth DEMPERSTOUN and William Drysdale, a weaver and tailor in the town of Alva near the River Forth. She married Samuel BOOTHMAN in Alva in 1818, when James would have been 10 years of age. In 1845 her death is recorded in Pyrmont, Sydney NSW where an inscribed gravestone in Rookwood Cemetery can be seen. It reads "Erected by James Liddell in memory of Isabella Drysdale, his mother, who died 1st November 1845, aged 67 years. A native of Alva". It is not known whether she and Samuel had any children, nor is there any record of when she arrived in Australia, but by 1842 her son James had, as he married Catherine SPENCE BEATTIE at the Scots Church in Sydney.

We've researched and found that his family were well-known ship owners and master mariners from the Firth of Forth in Scotland, and his first cousin also called James – James Donaldson Liddell, born 1 Aug 1808 in Alloa, travelled extensively between Scotland, New Zealand and Australia. He established a large family in both countries by two wives, not at the same time I hasten to add! Information on this James was generously shared by Raymond Liddell of Auckland who has since passed away. Sadly, he was not a DNA match to John Liddell. The reason for this leaves us quite puzzled as the two families from the

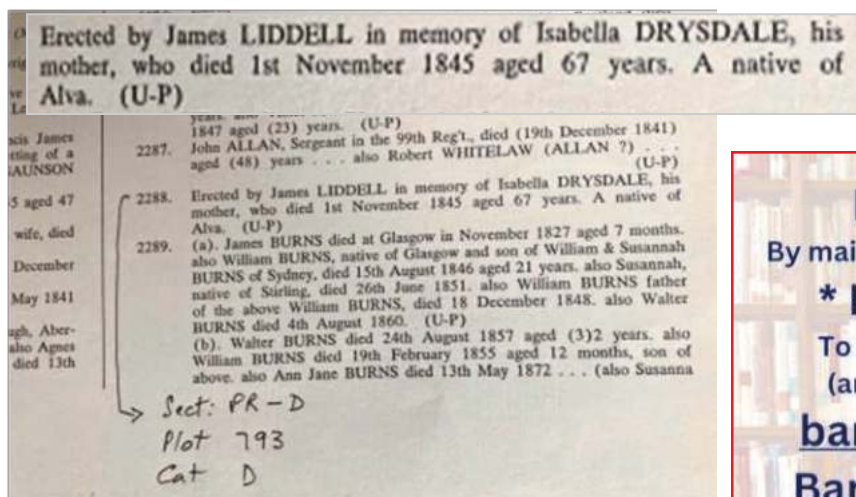
same area in Stirlingshire, Scotland were definitely connected.

Back to the mystery of the close DNA matches in USA. From correspondence with Barbara LIDDELL-THORNHILL in Tennessee and Heather Liddell in Washington DC, we know that they have also traced their line back to a James Liddell born in 1765. My hope is to prove a theory that this James, who I have recorded as being born in 1771 in Alva, is the same 3x great-grandfather of John Liddell. Bruce Liddell, also from USA, provided proof of various early census records taken in 1800 and in 1810 showing a James Liddell/Liddle with wife and children. Bruce is now deceased and his research has been taken over by another Liddell, Alan, also resident in USA, who has a family tree with MyHeritage.

My simple theory is that James senior, who was living in the USA, travelled back to Scotland after the death of his wife Rebecca VERPLANK in 1802. He sired James (1808) with Isobel Drysdale, then travelled back to USA before the next census of 1810 when he was seen living with his family, but no wife. Shipping records may help to prove that this is indeed what happened, but so far, I have been unable to find any records. Also, I must bear in mind that James was from a shipping family so could have been plying the trade between Britain and America with nothing recorded.

I have posed this theory to Alan Liddell, however he is not convinced, perhaps because of the suggestion of illegitimacy, but he has not come up with an alternative proposition, so it hangs in the air with a resounding question mark over it, perhaps never to be proved one way or the other.

Patricia Rand Liddell
E: triciandjohn@outlook.com



*Extract from Rookwood Cemetery Records for
James Liddell
Section PR-D, Plot 793, Cat D*

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How Lee fitted into my tree

Lianne Sloan

Having done my DNA test through Ancestry I regularly get updates and back in November 2020 I noticed that a Lee TWEMLOW-BLISS was coming up as a fairly close relative as we shared 329 cMs over 13 segments. However, initially I couldn't work it out, so I sent her a message via the Ancestry DNA page, but I didn't hear back from her. What did confuse me initially was the Twemlow as my 2x great-grandmother (on my Dad's side) was a BATEMAN and some of the Batemans later married into the Twemlow family.

Almost a year later I got back to looking at it not knowing whether Lee was a male or a female, but thinking perhaps if I did some more research I would learn more. By this time there were more of my cousins, second cousins, third cousins and an aunt showing too which made it easier to see that she was definitely related on Dad's side and almost certainly via the SLOAN or BRENNAN family because of shared matches and it had nothing to do with the Bateman side.

My great-grandparents were Jackson SLOAN (born as Jackson SLANE in 1867 and died as Jackson SLONE in 1906) and Sarah Jane Brennan (born c1871 and died 1950). They were married on 21 May 1889. Their first three children were born with the surname Slane, however from

then on everybody used the surname Sloan. They had 10 children – Ellen, Eliza, Robert, Sarah, Margaret, Jackson, Annie, James, Adam (my grandfather) and William. After Jackson's death Sarah had two illegitimate children, Thomas and Samuel.

Of the 12 children, I knew Robert had emigrated to Scotland from Ireland with wife Annie and had a large family. Five of them had moved to New Zealand – Margaret (Maggie), Jackson (Jack), Annie, James and my Grandad Adam. Margaret had no children. Jack had a daughter who had survived although he had two others, one stillborn and one who died at four days. Annie had two children, James had no children that I was aware of and was not married, and my grandparents had nine children. The rest of the family stayed in Ireland and there were a lot of descendants over there too.

I looked on Ancestry for Lee TWEMLOW hoping that she (I had a feeling she was female) had married a BLISS and found a marriage for a Lee Twemlow and a Daniel Bliss in Jackson, Missouri in 1993. It took me to a website and from there I printed out the marriage entry. I soon found that Christine Lee Twemlow (born 1963 in New Zealand) had married Daniel Bliss.

Image above: Sloan-Wilke marriage

Connie Wilke, Adam Sloan, Jackson Sloan, Elaine Wilke, Leonhard Wilke, Olive Wilke and James Sloan

Sloan family collection

Now I had more information and could have another look at the family trees showing for her on Ancestry. Like me, she had only put a few family names onto her tree, however while I had looked at one named Lee Twemlow-Bliss, I hadn't seen the other for Christine Twemlow-Bliss. On looking at this it all became clear. Her grandfather was listed as James Sloan who died in 1942.

Hello I thought, I didn't know he had any children. He certainly wasn't married. My great-uncle James had red hair and I had several photos of him. My aunt had a large photo of him with my grandad on her hallway wall. I knew he was born on 19 April 1902 in Prolusk, in the Parish of Ballintoy, Co. Antrim.

At some point James came to New Zealand. I believe his brother Jack came first and over the next few years two sisters (Margaret and Annie), Grandad Adam and James came. Certainly, my grandfather was here in 1925, and it is likely he arrived around 1921 as he was born in 1903 and advised he was 18 when he came. He came under someone else's name as that person could not come and he was also listed as aged 16 as it was cheaper to come as a 16-year-old. He had advised he came on the *Corinthic*. Did James come under his own name or did he travel under someone else's name? At this stage I do not know.

The family were based in Canterbury and my grandad, Jack and James all worked on various farms as labourers.



*James Sloan, Grandad's brother
Sloan family collection*

Grandad spent a long time as a farm labourer on Anama Sheep Station, near Ashburton. It is where my Dad and his siblings spent most of their childhood. Jack with his wife and daughter lived at Willowby, near Ashburton. In 1935 James was working as a farm labourer in Chertsey, near Ashburton. In 1938 he appears in the Tauranga Electoral Roll as a farm labourer. His address was c/- R. Kay, Te Puke so he had moved north.

James was recorded in the NZEF Nominal Rolls 1939-1948 Vol 3: "James Sloan, 25376, Pte 24 Auckland Battalion, Tauranga, Labourer, c/- G. D. Hynds, Gate Pa, Tauranga. Mrs Sloan, County Atrill [Antrim], Ireland (mother). The Roll of Honour death notice was in *The Press* on 27 January 1942: "SLOAN, in December 1941, in the Middle East, Private James Sloan, No. 25376, third son of the late Jackson Sloan and Mrs Sloan, Bushmills, Ireland, loved brother of Mrs S. Taylor, Rakaia, Miss M. Sloan, Willowby, Mr J. Sloan, Willowby and Mr A. G. Sloan, Mayfield. (Died of wounds)".

James appeared in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records: "In memory of James Sloan, Private 25376, 24th Bn, NZ Infantry who died on Saturday, 29th November 1941. Age 36." Additional information reveals he was the son of Jackson and Sarah Jane Sloan, of Ballinlea, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. The memorial is at Halfaya Sollum War Cemetery, Egypt (grave reference 9.H.10).

It was time to contact Lee again, this time telling her that I had connected her to my tree, and I believed she was the granddaughter of my great-uncle James. She responded straight away. He was a mystery as while they knew he was Irish and obviously in New Zealand, she wasn't aware, I believe, of the Canterbury connection. She mentioned she had a photo of him in Egypt in uniform which I didn't have. I asked if she could send it to confirm that we were talking about the same person. It duly arrived by email and yes it was definitely my great-uncle James. Her grandmother Marion WEST had indicated that they were going to get married after he returned from his WWII duties and obviously, he did not return. Their son James Sloan was born on 27 April 1941 in Wanganui, now known as Whanganui.

I discovered from Lee that Marion was born in 1914 in Makaomakao and died in 2005. Makaomakao was shown as her place of birth on her death certificate. She had been adopted by William and Annie (Twemlow) WEST who were teachers who taught at various Native Schools. She was around 12 when she was adopted. I later did some Googling and located a report for the Waitangi Tribunal and found she must have been born in Makomako as William and Annie West had been the first teachers at Makomako Native School in 1925, staying there for seven years. *The Kawhia Settler* newspaper in 1930 said the local Maori were too poor to provide sufficient food or clothing for their children. Marion was from the Ngāti Patupo and Ngāti Te Wehi Iwis.

I contacted my second cousin in Ireland, Annie-Mary (Anne) DOBBIN, and she advised she did know about James' birth. Turns out my great-grandmother Sarah (Brennan) Sloan had been told about James by her son. She received his small estate when he died, however Anne mentioned she signed over the benefit of his war pension she would have

received to Marion, to provide for her son James. While not well-known that James had a son, it appears Sarah told her daughter Mary who advised her oldest daughter Anne, so he wasn't a total surprise to that part of the family.

Marion struggled looking after James and at the age of about three or four she asked her single adopted aunt, Dorothy Gladys Twemlow, to adopt him. Marion remained in his life catching up with him occasionally throughout the rest of her life.

Dorothy changed his name to Stuart West Twemlow. She also adopted a girl, Margaret, who has recently passed away. Dorothy was a teacher and education was very important to her. She was born in 1899 and died in 1953 so she looked after James for around eight years.

Dorothy made sure her two adopted children were going to be looked after by her niece Joyce Tarlton West (1908-1985) after her death. Joyce was a novelist, a children's and young adult's author, and was the daughter of William and Annie West, so the sister of Marion. Joyce is well known for being the author of *The Drover's Road* and *The Sea Islanders*. Dorothy had left her estate to her children under the guardianship of Joyce who was to find a boarding school for them that was good, but not necessarily expensive.

Stuart and Margaret appear to have been well educated as Stuart graduated from Otago University in 1960 with a BSc. in Microbiology, Biochemistry and Chemistry and this was followed by a medical degree from the same university. After doing a rotating internship at the Dunedin Public Hospital for one year he accepted the position of Medical Superintendent of Reefton Hospital where he had a general and surgical practice from 1968-1970.

At this time, Stuart felt a deep intellectual need to study psychiatry, which was not possible in New Zealand, so he and his family emigrated to the United States of America in 1970 for his psychiatric residency at the Karl Menninger School of Psychiatry in Topeka, Kansas, where he completed his residency and was later board certified in general psychiatry. He graduated from Topeka Institute for Psychoanalysis at the Menninger Clinic and held various offices there, including faculty member and president. Stuart had a private psychoanalytic and psychiatric practice, with a special interest in problems in organisations and social systems, for more than 30 years. He held a large number of offices in the US and also overseas. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on the Academic Advisory Council of the United States Presidential Campaign Against Youth Violence and he consulted with Michael Manley, Prime Minister of Jamaica on problems of peace and violence to name a couple. He also wrote books and dozens of articles over a wide range of fields.

He married Christine Robyn MILNE (Robyn) and had four children, Stephen (Steve), Christine (Lee), Megan and Nicholas (Nick). His marriage with Robyn Milne ended in divorce and he had another daughter, Sarah, from his marriage to Susan BREAZEAL. They later also divorced.

Stuart practised meditation and also martial arts for over 50 years. He enjoyed travelling all over the world including places like the Amazon River and Tibet. He moved back to

New Zealand and was living in care in Christchurch when I confirmed his father's details. He had advanced dementia however his daughter Megan did manage to tell him a little about his father that I had passed on to Lee and also shared some of the photos I had sent to them before he passed.

Sadly Stuart Twemlow (formerly James Sloan) passed away in Christchurch on 1 May 2022. A celebration of his life took place on 12 June 2022 at the School of Martial and Meditative Arts in Topeka, Kansas. A lengthy obituary is shown on the Bowser-Johnson Funeral Chapel online tribute archive showing many of his achievements and also interests. His was a life well-lived.

I continue to keep in touch with my second cousin Lee by email and Facebook and it has been great getting to know another member of our family and to share photos and stories – all because of DNA.

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- Basic family tree for Christine Lee Twemlow-Bliss on Ancestry.
- Electoral Rolls from 1925-1938 for James, Adam and Jackson Sloan.
- A taped conversation my grandfather had with a daughter and some of his grandchildren.
- NZEF Nominal Rolls for WWI for James Sloan.
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission record for James Sloan.
- Death Notice for James Sloan in *The Press* on 27 January 1942.
- Family photos that Lee and I had.
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- Lengthy Obituary for Dr Stuart West Twemlow on Bowser-Johnson Funeral Home's online memorial site.

Two stories within the Munday family of A.I.D: Artificial Insemination by Donor

Deborah Williams

On 23 April 2013 I was asked to show a fellow English-born Quaker from Western Australia around the city of Christchurch. She wanted to see what changes had happened since the devastating earthquake of 22 February 2011, and in particular the container shops in Cashel Mall, a pedestrian precinct.

We walked past the well-known department store, Ballantynes, and on to Colombo Street which was open for the first time since the dark day in February when 185 people lost their lives.¹ Julia said that next time she came to Christchurch she would look up her relatives. I replied that I knew lots of families and asked who she was looking for. Julia said the family name was MUNDAY. I held my breath for a moment and asked if it was spelt M-U-N-D-A-Y. Then Julia said that the family owned a draper's shop on Colombo Street.² I was so excited and hugged her and screamed out: "My maternal grandmother was a Munday. I'm your relative!" Her paternal grandmother was a Munday.

Julia and particularly her younger son, had done a lot of research on the family tree. She sent me photocopies of old

handwritten letters from members of the family, photos of gravestones and information from the family tree. Eventually I created her branch of the Munday family tree on my Ancestry tree and could see that we were third cousins.

My great-grandfather Walter Edward Munday (1847-1937) was born in Warminster, Wiltshire in England. His mother, Mary Munday née HILL (1809-1879) grew up in a large house in Paulton, Wiltshire which is now a Grade II heritage house known as Hill House. His father, William Munday (1800-1886) was born in Bishopstrow, Wiltshire about 40 minutes away today by car. William was a wine merchant, but at some stage had apparently stood guarantor for one of his sisters and lost so much money that he had to sell his business.

By the time of the 1861 census, Walter, aged 13, was recorded as being a junior clerk to a solicitor and was the only child (of ten) living with his parents in London. Walter eventually arrived in New Zealand around 1865 at the age of 18. Six years later at St John's Church in Christchurch he married Sarah Elizabeth OXSPRING (1846-1894) who was



*Mundays Ltd
With electric lighting
Williams family collection*

the only one of her family to be born in Kralingen, Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. Her father George Oxspring was an ironworker. A Rotterdam archivist told me that "the industrial revolution started late in Holland and in the 1840's skilled labour apparently had to be contracted from England".

Papers Past allowed me to trace the founding by Walter of "The Reliable Drapers" business back to 1882. From Wiltshire House, his first shop, Walter sold men's and women's clothing, millinery, bedding, curtains, sewing machines and linoleum. His two sons, George William Munday (1872-1950) and James Walter Munday (1876-1962) became involved in W.E. Munday & Sons. By 1950 there were 33 employees and in December 1955 the business was sold to Hay's Department Store. Walter, the founder, had died in 1937.

On 1 September 2017, out of the blue, I received a message through the Ancestry website from Christine who was unknown to me and who lives in, Devon, England. Christine's father had died when she was only six years old of complications from diabetes. Her mother finally told her when she was in her early 40's that he was not her biological father. She had been conceived through A.I.D. (Artificial Insemination by Donor).

Christine went searching for her biological father's identity and did a DNA test of the CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) type.³ The CODIS DNA profile consists of only 26 short, repeating sections of DNA. Our current genetic genealogy testing companies test about 700,000 single DNA

markers. CODIS can show direct or parental identity but cannot reveal very much about relationships such as siblings. Christine was led to believe by the testing company that she had found a half-sibling. She formed a good friendship with this match only to find out later, through an autosomal DNA test, which compared many more markers, that in fact, they were not related at all.

Christine wrote:

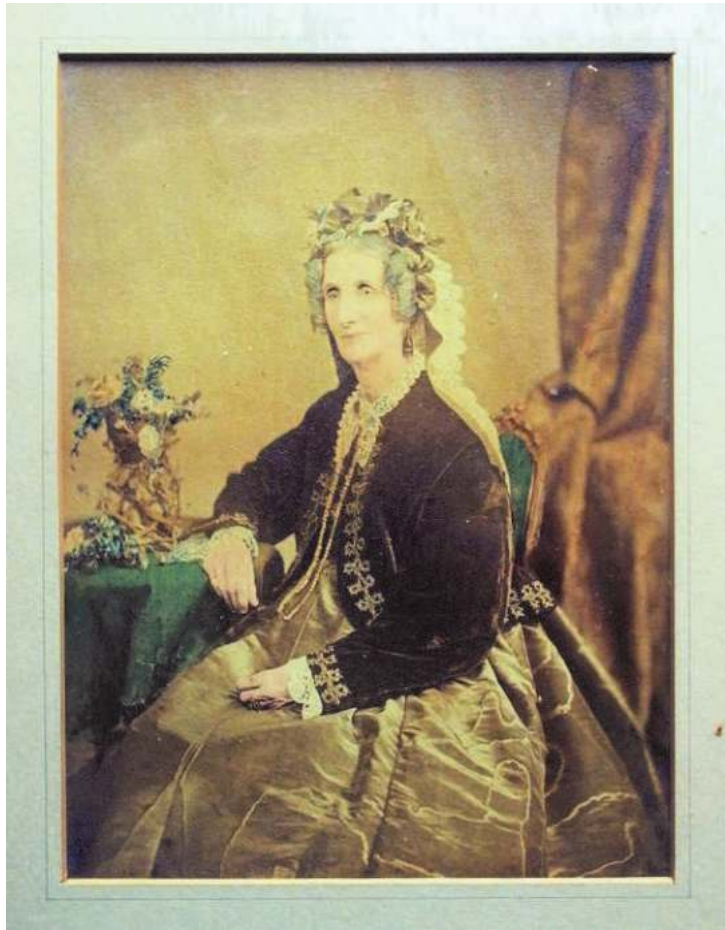
"I just wanted to say thank you to you for testing your DNA and providing a family tree. I believe we are third cousins. Your ancestor Walter Edward Munday is a brother to my Munday great-grandfather, whose daughter married a Scotsman. Ancestry matches helped me to establish a link to his family by identifying a set of Gt-Gt grandparents from Aberdeen. One of their descendants, viewed on an Ancestry tree, was living in Devon in the summer of 1954, working in the hospital. It seemed highly likely that he was the biological father I have been seeking. To confirm the match, I needed to find a DNA link to somebody in his maternal line family tree, which is where you came in."

I was delighted that I had unknowingly helped Christine to fulfil her dream. Sadly, her biological father, who was a medical doctor, was no longer alive.

Julia, my visitor from Western Australia, had visited the childhood Hill family home of Mary Munday née HILL (1809-1879) my 2x great-grandmother, the house which is now the heritage listed Grade II Hill House in Paulton, Somerset.⁴ I was heading to England in 2018 and Julia recommended I contact the present owners. Dr Charles MIALI is a now retired third generation doctor in GP Practice in Paulton and his wife Dr Anne Miall, is also a doctor and a local history enthusiast. This couple have restored and maintained this large house and the garden which is somewhat smaller than in its heyday. At that time members of the Hill family made their fortunes as brewers and owners of collieries.

Through Ancestry I had made contact with others who shared DNA with me or who had a tree with common Munday ancestors. Anne and Charles graciously hosted seven of us, including Christine and her husband, for a whole day in their glorious Hill House in May 2018. We started a conversation with a circle where each person shared something about their background. All documents, portraits and photos were laid out on tables so that everyone could take photos.

We were then taken on a tour of the large Hill House and garden and in the afternoon of the town and in particular the church and the graveyard. The next day my husband, David MINIFIE, and I visited the Radstock Museum⁵ which



Mary Munday nee Hill (1808-1879)
Hugh Best collection



Hill House 2013
Taken by Caroline
Blagg
Used with
permission

has a particular emphasis on coal mining. There we met Anne Miall again in a volunteer role in promoting the history of the area. Anne had published this story to that point in the Journal of the Radstock, Midsomer Norton & District Museum Society magazine *Five Arches* under the title "Great-Great Grandma was born here"⁶ referring to a remark I had made.

The story does not end there. One Sunday evening in June 2020 I was surprised to receive a call from my cousin Julia in Western Australia. She had recently received the results of her DNA test, gifted to her by a friend. At first, she thought she had the wrong results as they designated her as Ashkenazi and therefore Jewish. After contacting one of the many close cousins, who were actually paternal half-siblings, whom she was connected to on Ancestry through DNA, she discovered to her amazement that she had been born as a result of A.I.D. sperm donation. What was more shocking was the fact that she found out that she probably had at least 600 half-siblings. In fact, she had recently met a half-sibling male who lived only two streets away from her.

Julia's biological father was Austrian-born physiologist Bertold Paul WIESNER (1901-1972).⁷ He and his second wife, Mary BARTON, set up a fertility clinic in London which promised sperm donors from 'intelligent stock'.⁸ It is believed that Mary had about 1,500 successful pregnancies from her insemination programme. It seems that husband Berthold was the main donor, but a few other men provided sperm. However, Mary later destroyed the medical records, so DNA testing is the only certain way to discover who one's father is. Luckily, even if the sperm donor is dead, autosomal DNA allows a person to match to siblings or cousins. It is usually then possible to deduce who is the shared ancestor.

Bertold Wiesner
(1910-1972)



This story has made me aware that one way to help those who wish to learn their parentage is to have an accurate family tree. I have become more discerning since doing a free course online from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, which emphasised going to primary sources if possible⁹. Reading the whole page of a census sometimes shows another branch of the same family on the same page. I like to note any trades or professions given and the ages of working children. Recently, through detailed reading of a baptismal record where the father's profession was

given, I was able to point out that the designated father on an Ancestry tree was not the father of the boy.

By expanding another branch of the same Munday line in New Zealand, I was able to help a gentleman in England who contacted me earlier this year. In February, I met his granddaughter who was travelling around New Zealand and introduced her to another relative.

Testing one's DNA is also a help to others especially in conjunction with having that accurate family tree. Ancestry has the largest database, and one can transfer the results elsewhere free-of-charge to find even more matches. The presentation of results has become much more sophisticated with more accurate predictions of ethnicity. Now it is possible to designate which are the paternal and maternal sides of the family.

The facility to cross check the matches shared "in common" with both close designated and more distant cousins provides further clues as to which branch of the family the first person belongs to. Recently Pro Tools has been added to Ancestry to enhance information about shared matches, but at an extra cost. GEDmatch provides further tools for comparing DNA test results with even more people.¹⁰

So here we have two women of similar age with two different stories who were as a result of A.I.D. DNA allowed Christine to find the family she had long been seeking. Sadly, Julia lost her biological connection to the same family which she had so proudly valued and researched. The chances of this happening to anyone would be low. This true story probably belongs to the category of "you really couldn't make it up"!

P.S. Julia remains my cousin. Names and some surnames have purposely been omitted to protect the identity of both women at their request.

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DNA: I am a Grimwood or am I?

Bobby Aymes

In 1855 Civil Registration was introduced in Scotland, although English Civil Registration had been introduced in 1837. The joy for Scottish researchers meant that marriage records were no longer minimal one-liners in a parish register. Some parishes were more thoughtful with names of witnesses or references to where the couple came from.

My great grandparents were married after 1855, so, joy of joy their parents were there. James GRIMWOOD married Margaret MILNE in 1867. Her father was Alexander Milne, and my sister and I spent some enjoyable years post millennium uncovering Alexander's family. His father was Peter Milne, mother Mary GORDON and Alexander had two wives and ten children. He was either married to or was in a de facto relationship with Margaret's mother, so hypothetically three wives, ten children and a family that became spread across three continents. Margaret's side sorted!

James Grimwood was a little more difficult. He was born in England and the only Scottish census he featured in, in 1881 stated that fact...nothing more. Okay he was a sailor, so did that help? Yes, there he was in the 1871 census on the *Nonsuch* which being in English waters, meant he was in the 1871 census, but he was from Aberdeen as were the rest of the crew. The 1861 census had a James Grimwood on the *Echo*. Was he ours or was he one of the other young James Grimwoods at sea?

We knew that he died while the children were young as the family was split up. Finding James Grimwood killed in a railway accident in October 1881 did not help us with establishing anything about where he was born. My sister applied for James' death certificate. She diligently checked where James was buried, whether there was any information written about the accident or any leads that might help us understand why he was working in a railway and why the family were even in Newcastle upon Tyne. Most led us to a dead end. The best we could confirm was that James of the railway incident was ours because every other James of the 1881 census was alive after 1881. The 1891 census established that Ann McRAE, James' second wife and daughter Margaret Grimwood were living in Poplar, by Canary Wharf and the London docks. All this made sense, as my grandfather James Alexander Milne Grimwood of that relevant family worked for Wigram and Money close to Canary Wharf.

Horror of horrors, 2010 saw us out of our house, being one of Auckland's leaky homes; it needed a total re-clad. Having spent from 2002 till then engrossed in larger genealogical research projects linked to Applecross, in Ross-shire, Scotland (McLEAYs), Aberdeenshire, (HOWIEs) Scotland (Howies) and Ontario, Canada (Gordon-Milne-Howie) as part of a team, I thought my time out of our house would be better just concentrating on a short project – something little, individual.... sorting out James Grimwood!

Why was there a problem? James Grimwood married twice, and he married both wives in Scotland after 1855. So, who did his marriage certificates state were his parents?

1867 James Grimwood's father was John Grimwood ploughman deceased

1879 James Grimwood's father was John Grimwood farm servant deceased

So, his dad was John Grimwood, farm servant employed as a ploughman and was dead by 1867.

1867 James Grimwood's mother was Sarah FORSTER deceased

1879 James Grimwood's mother was Sarah FOSTER deceased

Mum was Sarah Foster/Forster deceased by 1867.

Both certificates indicated James was born around 1844. It should be simple. John and Sarah would be in the 1841 census. They would have a son around 1844. They would be in the 1851 census and probably the 1861 census as though the parents were dead by 1867, they may have died between 1861-67. Census data from 1851 into the 1900s would establish the various James Grimwoods born c1844.

This simple little, short project suddenly wasn't so simple or so short. Grimwood families had lived around East Anglia for centuries. John, it turns out was a very common name. Having sons called James also turned out to be very common. I started sorting the family histories of the James Grimwoods. Starting with A, I allocated a letter to each family right through to Z. There was the odd double-up as with X&Y's that were GRIMWADE. Finally, I called our James US. Some of the James' fathers weren't John but fitted the timeframe. Maggie Driver's One Name Study "Grimwood" helped with the family trees, so they were copied under the correct family. I must have printed off more than the 26 letters of the alphabet in census pages. I then went on to maps. Each little James Grimwood family had its history, its census results and many had maps of where they lived. By now there were two large folders called "Sorting John Grimwood", "Sorting James Grimwood". My supposed simple individual project soon involved other NZSG Volunteers who after our library duty sessions went home and hunted for "my James".

Though we were out of our house longer than expected and the financial settlement was still a year away, the two big files returned to their home study where they sat and sat.

An unexpected turn of events saw us exploring East Anglia in 2015. The Grimwood mystery was still unsolved, but we knew that most of the Grimwood families lived in Suffolk and Norfolk, so as we drove through villages near Needham Market, Stowmarket, Bury St Edmunds, and Great Finborough we wondered if this was where James grew up. Two days before the official beginning of the English summer saw us in 7°C struggling down the flooded path to view the strata cliff rocks at Hunstanton. Was this freezing wet county James' homeland? Later in more sunny climes we sailed down the Broads, enclosed by trees and limited views, the Norfolk fens hidden behind greenery. The gentler amble through Constable country fitted our idea of a beautiful place to be James' home. By the end of 2015, there was still no resolution. Who was our James

Grimwood? Maggie Driver’s Grimwood One Name Study had produced no immediate answer. Tree 39 had produced no matches.

DNA would be the answer. We took our tests with Family Tree DNA in 2015. There were lots of good matches with Applecross families McLeay, KENNEDY and Aberdeenshire Howies and my dad’s CROWS, but nothing to help with Grimwood. 2017 put us in touch with our Irish WOODMAN cousins. James Grimwood and Margaret Milne’s eldest daughter Askin Hutcheon Grimwood had married George Woodman. They knew James Grimwood had been born in Essex. Those two big folders of work were now semi-useless, but all the backs of those Suffolk and Norfolk pages would later become useful for working out the daily word puzzles such as Octordle.

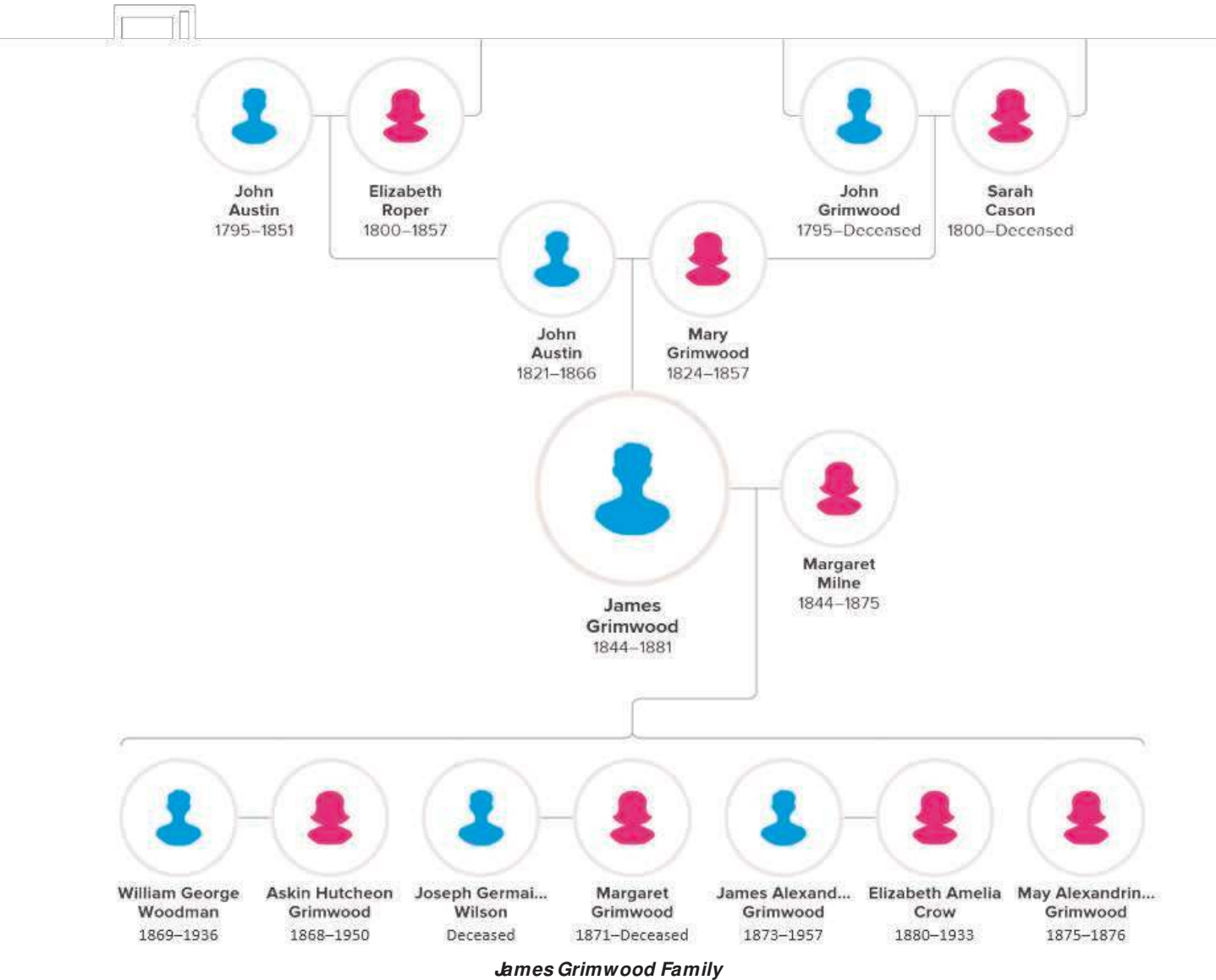
Another look at my now Warehouse-bound copy of “Sorting James Grimwood” saw me adding another set of stickers. The first being those of sailors. With an Essex birth and seaman as an occupation at least we were getting closer. But the breakthrough was still to come.

In 2019 we did a DNA test on Ancestry. All my mother’s side featured again, McLeays and other Applecross family, the Howies, the LOURIEs and even my 2x great grandmother’s Gordon descendants in Canada. Dad’s

CROWS also were dominant, but Grimwood? Yes, I had unknown matches. Back to James Grimwood and his stickers. Could James be the one person I had not been able to trace after 1851? James Grimwood, son of John AUSTIN of Thorpe-Le-Soken, wife Mary and two siblings Emily Austin and Anna Maria Austin. Were these matches Austin matches?

Like the John and James Grimwoods, some sorting needed to be done, before jumping into family trees. Out came the large sheet of paper and the coloured felt pens. From the 1841 census the different Austin families could be listed. The Kirby Austins, the St Osyth Austins, the Frinton Road Austins, then various Thorpe Austin families. A very colourful sheet evolved as families were proved through censuses, parish records and civil registration. While “quick” trees or the sometimes called “dirty” trees could help me follow through the various Austin family trees, I found myself using two tools I had never really explored before: FreeREG – UK Parish Registers and GRO birth registration looking at the mothers’ surnames.

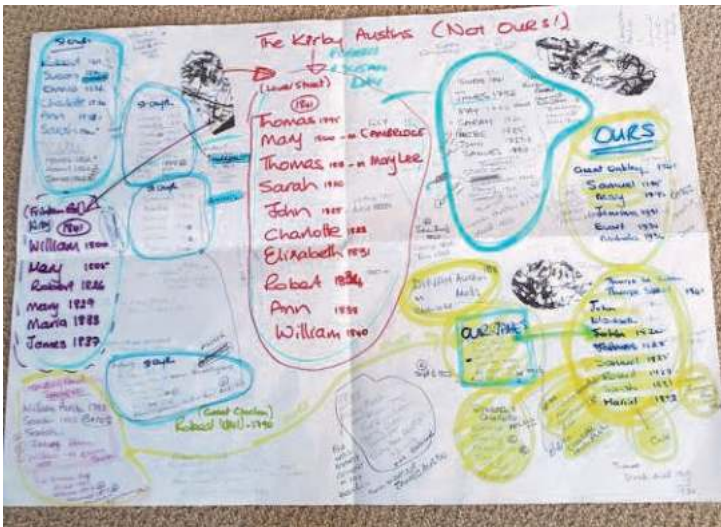
The FreeREG not only gave the couple’s names with the marriage, but also the father’s names, the witnesses and place of marriage, all easily accessible without cost. Baptisms named the child, the mother, the father and his occupation, plus, of course, the church where the child was



baptised. This was easy to then copy into the relevant family lines.

Having never really traced unknown English families, the new easier access to the GRO proved a boon. Those St Osyth wives were ANNISS, TURNER, MARRINGTON, Kirby LEE, Thorpe Grimwood. Confirmation that Mary Grimwood of the 1851 census was the mother of Emma, Anna Maria, John and William. James Grimwood was there under Grimwood born in 1844.

Of course me being me, I then proceeded to sort out the various Austin family of that coastal area of Essex. The printed censuses, the maps, the mini family histories, but that is another story. How was I going to prove my theory? Beside all these tools I mentioned above that I had learnt from other genealogists, there was another one known to be very useful.



Sorting the Austin families

I made up a "Possible Grimwood tree" with son Grimwood, father Grimwood, grandfather Grimwood then added all the Grimwood Austin family tree. If John Austin who married Maria Grimwood was my family, I would get Austin matches. I moved my DNA to the tree. Immediately up popped the Austin DNA matches.

Now I had the DNA proof. I am Bobbie Grimwood, great granddaughter of James Grimwood born in 1844 before his parents John Austin and Mary Grimwood married. The records all line up. In the 1851 census James Grimwood is listed as the son of John and Mary Austin, who by then had married, and had two more children Emma and Anna Marie. Their next two children were born after the 1851 census. John Austin's parents, my 2x great grandparents, were John Austin and Elizabeth Roper. I have lots of DNA matches linked to these Austins. Of interest, because of the

two false parental entries on Scottish marriage certificates, Mary Grimwood's parents, my 2x great grandparents were in fact John and Sarah Grimwood, so James had named his grandparents as his parents. Both were dead by the time of his first marriage, so misnaming Sarah's maiden name may have been accidental. Again, good DNA matches for the Grimwood side. So, while I had my father's surname Grimwood, DNA-wise I am an Austin.

Moral of this story. You can have fun going up the various garden paths. We enjoyed northern East Anglia and a trip to Great Clacton and Thorpe Le Soken is a future must. DNA does not always throw up the results you expect and for some a huge shock to find their parent, grandparent or great grandparent wasn't who they thought they were. Copying other folks' trees also is not foolproof. Useful, but not foolproof. John and Mary's son John Grimwood who married Ann MULLISS is often muddled for John Grimwood, son of Thomas and Mary Lee, who married Sarah Elizabeth BOX, complicated by the fact that both marriages took place in 1877. Enjoy using DNA to help prove your genetic heritage. Expect to still do the leg work and undertake proper genealogical research. You just don't need to be as obsessive as me.

A final aside, James may have chosen to name his parents as John and Sarah Grimwood, the names of his grandparents, for under English law he was "filius nullis" - son of nobody - and not entitled to use his father's name, an English law apparently not changed till 1926.

Bobbie Amyes
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References

- GRO –General Registration Office, UK
- FreeREG – website for transcribed Parish registers
- Scotland's People – website for Scottish Civil Registration, Wills, and Parish records, etc
- Censuses – Both English and Scottish – available through paid and free websites
- DNA testing – Autosomal - available through Ancestry and Family Tree DNA as mentioned in article but also available through other organisations
- Grimwade and Grimwood One Name Study Maggie Driver - grimwood-onenamestudy.co.uk/
- "Filius Nullius" – an article in Lost Cousins September 2024 discusses this issue



Inspired by what you've read?
Have a story to share?
Send it to:
editor@genealogy.org.nz

DNA—The icing on the cake

Jennifer Clark

I am fortunate that I have been able to encourage my four siblings and many known first, second and third cousins to do a DNA test. This has been of enormous benefit as we all have so many additional and different matches from each other. Many cousins have given me access to their DNA results, so that I can view the matches and names we share. My siblings and I have at least 50% different matches from each other and even at 3rd cousin level, I will have a match that one or more of my siblings does not share. DNA does not replace many years of old-fashioned paper research, but it has certainly helped to confirm my research and in some cases break longstanding brick walls. DUNSTAN, MARTIN, KNUCKEY, THOMAS, PETERS, ANDREWS, VINCENT, ODGERS, TRELOAR, JENKIN, BATH, REED, are just some of the very common names in and around Stithians, Cornwall associated with my paternal grandmother's Dunstan ancestors. Many of the children have the same Christian names, so trying to prove my correct ancestral line has been a nightmare. Over the years I have added many unlinked families to my Legacy program on my home computer where I can check and alter information, in the hope that I will eventually have the evidence to link them into my family.

My 3x great-grandparents William Dunstan and Jenefer (Jane) Martin, married in Stithians, Cornwall, England in 1811. It has taken many years of research to confirm that I have the correct family. I believe William was born in 1790 in Stithians but there were other William Dunstans born about that time, so I still have a slight element of doubt that I have the right William. Finding his wife, Jenefer (Jane) Martin born 1787 Stithians has also been challenging. On my Legacy index I have 44 Jenefer/Jane/Jenepher/Jenny Martins born in and around Stithians

between 1670 and 1845. Many were born in the same year and had parents with the same Christian names. I also have 38 John Martins, 10 Nicholas Martins and numerous other duplicate names and surnames.

Fortunately, the baptism of Thomas Dunstan, a son of William Dunstan and Jenefer (Jane) Martin, was in a non-conformist chapel. It said "Thomas the son of Wm DUNSTONE of the parish of Stethens County of Cornwall, labourer and of Jane his wife (who was the daughter of John and Avice MARTON) was born on the 6th day of April 1827". What an amazing clue. Avice Marton was Avis (née Knuckey).

John Martin/Marten/Marton (1759-1790) and Avis Knuckey (1760-1841) married in Stithians, Cornwall in 1784. They had four children with the last child being born after John had died.

1. Mary Martin born 1784. Many possible marriages for a Mary Martin so research is on hold.
2. Jenefer (Jane) Martin born 1787 – my direct line. Descendants confirmed through research and many DNA matches.
3. Elizabeth Martin born 1787. Again, many possible marriages so research is on hold.
4. Jackey Martin born 1791. Baptisms in the parish of Stithians in the County of Cornwall in the year 1791 – "Jackey, the son of John Marten deceased and Avis his wife, July 4th"

The baptism below is the only record I could find for a Jackey Martin. I found the marriage of a John Martin to Mary KEMPE in Stithians in 1811, but it gave no other identifying information. However, the 1841 and 1851 census returns showed that a John Martin, his wife Mary

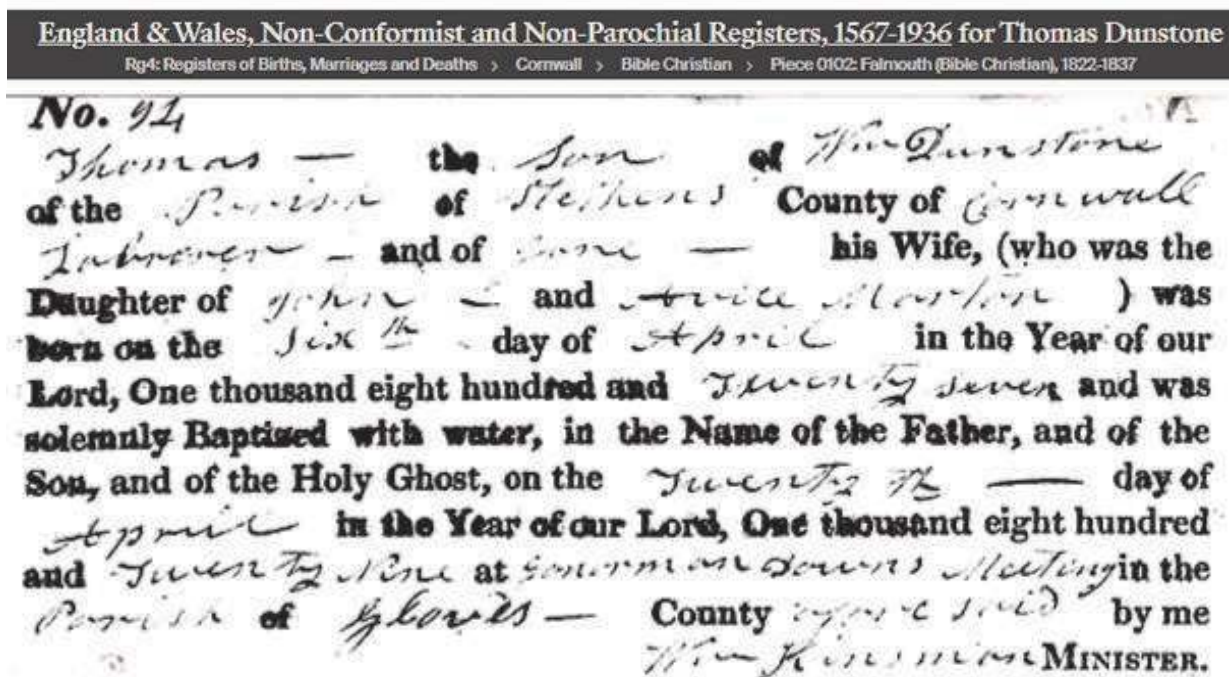


Image above: Non-Conformist birth record for Thomas Dunston

Ancestry.co.uk

50	Ponsanooth	John & Martin	58	58	59	Agricultural Salina	do Stithians
		Mary do	58	58		do do	
		Caroline do	58	58		do do	
		John Sanders	58	58	25	Copper Mines	do do
		Avis do	58	58		do do	
		Jane do	58	58		do do	

Image above: 1851 Census for John Martin and family
Ponsanooth, St Gluvias, Cornwall, England (Ancestry.co.uk)

and children, including a daughter Avis, were living in Ponsanooth, St Gluvias, Cornwall, England. His age was correct and the fact he had a daughter named Avis looked promising. I added this fact to my Ancestry tree with a note that Jackey may have been known as John, but had no proof.

The 1851 census was the last record I had for Jackey, possibly John Martin. The evidence was circumstantial and since he was not my direct ancestor, I did not investigate further. Then out of the blue at the end of September 2024 I had an unexpected and tantalising email which I could not ignore. It led me to discover a whole new branch of my Martin family and confirm absolutely that Jackey was indeed known as John. Many family trees had a John born about 1791 in Stithians, with a number of different parents. No one had linked him to Jackey Martin. The email was from Ron Sisson who is researching burials in the Burra Cemetery, South Australia. He said "I have a comment re John Martin 1791 of Ponsanooth, Cornwall in your tree. I am researching the Burra Cemetery in South Australia, and I have both Nicholas Martin c1823-1874 and a John Martin c1791-1877 in the same cemetery plot (no headstone). I initially assumed the John was Nicholas' father. I see on your tree you have John Martin dying in Cornwall in 1854 but some uncertainty in your comments re age disparity to 1851 Census. Wondering if John actually came out to Australia as well as Nicholas???"

Also, a newspaper death notice for the John Martin here: *Express and Telegraph* (Adelaide, SA: 1867-1922), Thursday 15 February 1877, page 1. "MARTIN. - On the 9th February, at his residence, Koorunga, John Martin, formerly of Ponsanooth, Cornwall, aged 86 years. West Briton please copy".

This email caused me to review the information I had added to my tree on the death of a John Martin (possibly Jackey) who died in Ponsanooth, Stithians in 1854, age 52. I had noted the discrepancy in his age from that shown on the 1851 census.

Further research revealed that John Martin aged 59 and his wife Mary aged 58, arrived into Port Adelaide, South Australia on the *Oregon* on 30 Oct 1851. I also found that their daughters Avis SANDERS, her husband John and daughter Mary (shown on the census above), Caroline and her newlywed husband James JENKINS, as well as their daughter Mary, her husband Charles RAWLING and three children, arrived into Port Adelaide three months earlier on the ship *Omega*. What about their son Nicholas, said to be buried in the same plot? A passenger list for the *Atalanta* showed Nicholas Marton age 44, his wife Mary and two children, arrived into Port Adelaide 15 years later.

Fortunately, on familysearch.org I found that John (Jackey) Martin, late of Koorunga, South Australia, who was buried in the Burra Cemetery, had left a will which was proved on 15 June 1877. He left legacies to his stepdaughter, so I then found the death of his wife Mary (née KEMPE) in Koorunga, South Australia in 1852. I also found his second marriage in 1853 to Elizabeth WILLIAMS. His will also mentioned his daughters Mary RAWLINGS, Caroline JENKINS, Avis SAUNDERS and Jane HUMPHRIES - the latter I have yet to find.

Evidence was certainly pointing to the fact that John Martin was born Jackey and that he was the brother of my 3x great-grandmother Jane Martin, born 1787 in Stithians. The absolute proof came with many DNA matches various family members have with descendants of John and Mary Martin.

The ThruLines tool on Ancestry can provide amazing clues but it does have to be used with caution. It shows that one of my sisters has six DNA matches with descendants of Jackey (John) Martin and his wife Mary Kempe, ranging from 17 cMs to 8 cMs, whilst a Dunstan second cousin has a 32 cMs match with one of them. Various family members have additional matches with descendants who are our fifth cousins.

ThruLines is automatically generated by Ancestry. It shows people who have the same ancestors in their family trees, the amount of DNA they share and the line of descent from a common ancestor. However, as we know, many trees are incorrect, so the potential matches on ThruLines need to be checked generation by generation. It is all too easy for a person to click a button and add the wrong ancestor to their tree. An example is shown below with my brother's ThruLines matches. It shows that he has four DNA matches with descendants of Jackey (John) Martin's three daughters. I have clicked on the matches with Mary Martin's son and

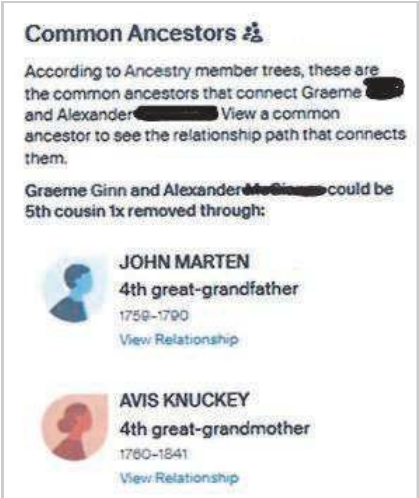


daughter – Charles and Louisa Rawling - and have confirmed each line of descent is correct. The same applies to his DNA match with a descendant of Caroline Jenkins (née Martin). Once I have confirmed the match, the dotted line becomes solid. You will see from the dotted lines that I have not done so with the descendants of Maria Smith Martin (second from right).

When I clicked on “evaluate” the screen below came up. I clicked on the tree, and it showed Maria SMITH was the daughter of a John Martin born about 1797 Cornwall and Elizabeth Warren Smith. There was nothing on that tree to show any connection with Jackey (John) Martin. Who was Maria Smith Martin descended from and how did Ancestry link her to John Martin? Yes, we do have a DNA match with her descendant and that tree does have the names TOZER and REED, as I do in my Dunstan tree, so it is possible our match is through them or perhaps through a completely different non-Cornish line.



When I clicked on the blue symbol beside the match's name on ThruLines, it took me to my brother's DNA page, which shows the common ancestors he and my brother share are John Marten and Avis Knuckey. That is incorrect. Maria Smith Martin is definitely NOT descended from them!



It is just far too easy to click the button and hey presto, Maria Smith Martin would have been added to my tree.



The examples shown are from my Ancestry DNA. I initially tested with FTDNA and was then able to upload my DNA at no cost to MyHeritage and Gedmatch.com. I have additional matches on those sites with people who have not tested with Ancestry, so it is an advantage to upload to them as well as they have additional tools. These sites allow you to view shared matches below 20cMs and have a chromosome browser tool, useful in helping to confirm shared ancestral lines. MyHeritage also has the triangulation tool which enables people to easily view matches who share on the same chromosome and segment, as well as other tools that Ancestry does not have.

Ancestry does not allow free transfers of DNA to its site, but because it has the largest database, I also tested with them, and it is the site I use most. I have also been adding to my Ancestry tree, in the hope that my research can be shared and saved for future generations. To gain the most benefit from having your DNA on any of the sites, I feel it is important to upload a public family tree linked to your DNA, even if it just shows your direct ancestors. Without a tree, it is often impossible for a match to determine who your likely common ancestor might be.

I am looking forward to using Ancestry Pro Tools, which I understand from the very good NZSG Online DNA Interest Group's monthly presentation, is worth subscribing to, if only for a month or two. Since my article "How DNA and digitised records can help with your family research" published in *The New Zealand Genealogist* in April 2019, I now have many more DNA matches on Ancestry thru-lines with my Dunstan-Perrow and associated Cornish ancestral lines. This very useful tool was not available at that time. I still need to check each match carefully to ensure Ancestry trees are correct. It all takes time. My husband would say I am addicted to genealogy and DNA. He would be right!

Jennifer Clark
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References

- Email 1 Sep 2024 from Ron Sisson who is researching burials at Burra Cemetery, South Australia
- www.ancestry.co.uk
- FamilySearch - www.familysearch.org
- Genealogy SA - www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search
- Cornish Parish Records - www.cornwall-opc-database.org/





Untold Stories – World War II Displaced Persons who settled in Palmerston North

Dr Tania Kopytko, Mychelle Mihailof, Bruno Petrenas, Susie Tsacalis and Mary Zambazos

The Untold Stories project grew out of the respect we hold for our parents and family friends who endured so much in their lives and who gave us great gifts of knowledge and encouragement. Encouragement also came from New Zealand friends or our children who wanted us to write our family stories because they are different from many other New Zealanders' stories.

We are all descendants of Displaced Persons (DPs). Born in New Zealand, we were brought up and educated in Palmerston North and knew each other through family friendships, school or university. We experienced our "foreignness" in common, growing up in a New Zealand which still had an assimilation policy.

At the end of the Second World War, at least forty million people had been displaced from their home countries, with about eleven million in Allied-occupied Germany. Around 1.5 million people refused to return to their countries of origin as it would be too dangerous for them to do so. These included former prisoners of war, released slave labourers and forced labourers, and both Jewish and non-Jewish concentration camp survivors. The Allies categorised the refugees as Displaced Persons (also called DPs) and

assigned the responsibility for their care to the United Nations Relief and Administration Scheme (UNRRA). New Zealand worked with UNRRA and the IRO (International Refugee Organisation) to select DPs to settle here.

Between June 1949 and early 1952, up to 5,000 Displaced Persons from Central, Eastern and Southern Europe, came to New Zealand to make new lives. This is one of the largest quotas of refugees to come to New Zealand within one immigration programme. The majority came on three IRO ships in association with the New Zealand Government: the *Dundalk Bay*, the *Hellenic Prince* and the *SS Goya*, which made three sailings. Our research has shown that some DPs came as passengers on other immigrant ships as well and that a few flew onwards from Australia. They did not come under a humanitarian scheme (as the Polish Children had), but came because the government wanted skilled labourers to fill post-war losses and help stimulate economic development. The DPs' backgrounds were varied; they included musicians, artists, engineers, architects, woodworkers, electricians, shoemakers, farmers, and health, hospitality, and textile workers. There were counts and countesses and more ordinary folk. Despite many suffering trauma from their war experiences, which largely

*Image above: Displaced Persons arriving at Pahiatua camp
Holland family collection*

went untreated, they contributed greatly to New Zealand's skills, economy, arts, cuisine and cultural diversity.

We began the Untold Stories project in early 2023 and agreed that the project had three aspects – an exhibition at Square Edge Arts Centre gallery (scheduled for July 2024), and an accompanying book and film. We were very fortunate to receive a substantial Earle Creativity Trust grant for the project plus a Palmerston North City Council grant for the film. This allowed us to expand the book and film into something more substantial. We wanted the three aspects of the project to complement each other in order to provide an attractive visual, written and oral presentation for the public. The old photographs were reproduced on textured hot press paper and hung using bulldog clips. This gave a contemporary feel to the old photos and united it visually. In the exhibition, to create public interest, we included artifacts relating to our parents' lives, such as icons or work objects. We wanted to draw people into the stories and make this history interesting. In addition, we provided a simple exhibition catalogue which told the story behind each photograph. These proved very popular as people took them away and we had to replace them several times. We hoped that we might be able to reach descendants of Displaced Persons through the project but had no idea what the size of the immigration and descendant population was at the beginning, because of a paucity of information.

The project plan included a promotion strategy whereby we created written stories, a Facebook page and spoke at

events as the project developed, therefore developing interest and spreading the word before the July exhibition and film opening. There was a book launch in September 2024. All events were well attended. The exhibition had a formal evening opening and a community opening the following morning, to accommodate all the potential guests.

We saw the project as more than a family history research journey. It uncovers a part of New Zealand history that is largely unknown. The aim was not only to tell our six family stories, but also to fill that historical gap. By presenting the fascinating and vital stories of these people who settled in Palmerston North, we also wanted to reveal the complicated and true history of war-time Europe; the New Zealand immigration policies of the time; and the role of the Pahiatua camp when it was used for Displaced Persons.

From our childhood we each knew parts of our family's stories, and with age, we began to understand the complicated historical contexts more clearly. However, on embarking on the research for this project we uncovered much more than we realised, including a greater understanding of the family life we lived through.

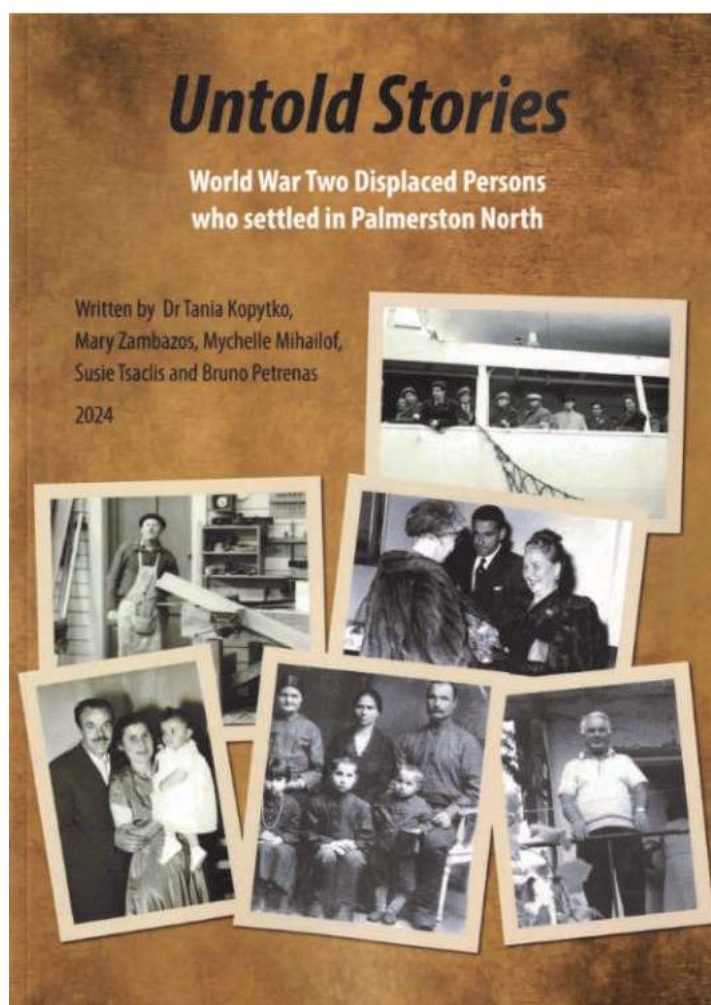
During the one and a half years of research and writing we worked as a team helping each other. We dug deep into our family albums and papers and had to apply for New Zealand archival, immigration and employment documents, many of which are still held under restrictions. Researching the history of our parents' European regions also entailed reading papers in different languages. The final chapter of the book covers the many research challenges and gives some advice for this area of research.

In the process of the project many kind people came forward with information. They had heard of the project through word of mouth, particularly through the Pahiatua Museum, talks given as part of Manawātū History and Heritage months and articles written for the Manawātū Standard. Virtually nothing had been written about the Pahiatua camp when it was used for the Displaced Persons immigration programme. However, we were put in touch with the daughter of the Camp Commander who shared many memories, and we were also given letters and photographs belonging to two teachers who taught English at the camp. This enabled us to include specific information on the camp in this era and brought the camp life and its purpose alive.

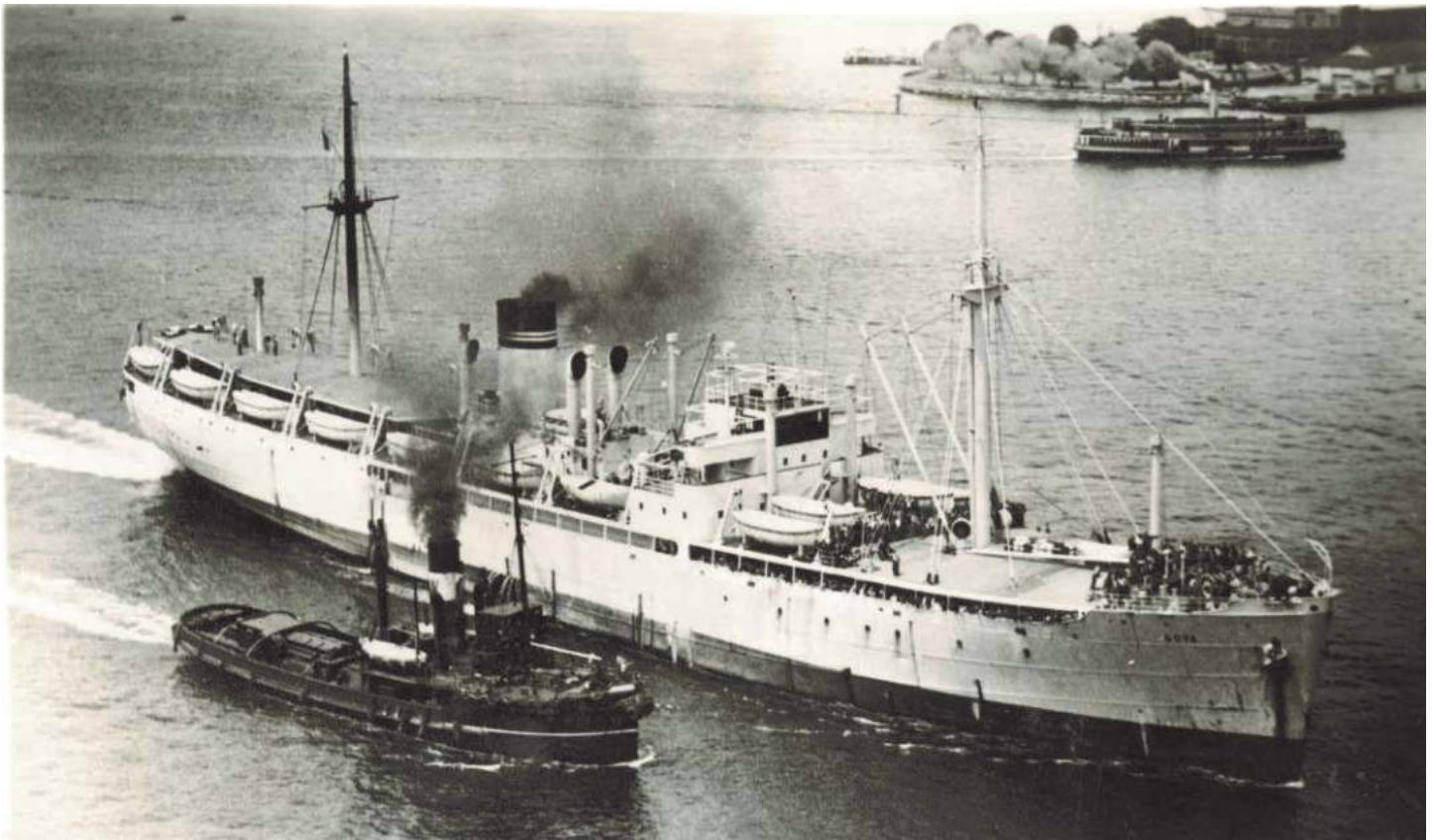
Jack and Beverley Holland were young teachers at the camp in 1951 and regularly wrote letters to their parents. Here is an excerpt from their letters:

'Today (this afternoon) was Reception Day. It was amazing. At ¼ to 4 the first bus arrived and by ¼ to 5, 900 people had been told where they were mealing and taken to their beds. This is apparently a very good draft and a lot of them speak English and there are some very good-looking types. Of course, there are all types – from our Counts and Princesses to a family Jack got who couldn't believe that the five of them had a room to themselves.'

On the whole our parents did not talk about their experiences at the camp, so again we created a specific chapter on the camp in the book. History books do not do justice to these peoples' lives or what they experienced.



Cover of the book that came from the Untold Stories project



The refugee transport ship the SS Goya, which made three voyages to New Zealand in 1951

History books provide the big picture not the thousands of different versions of how government regimes, regional authorities and local people affected their lives within the turbulence, destruction and after effects of World War II and the various civil wars that followed. There are few good records in the English language about the war-time history of our parents' countries of origin. In many respects these stories represent alternative histories of the war period, histories that were dangerous to talk about in our parents' countries of origin. We hope that these stories will assist historians and those interested in World War Two to understand how complicated the history of Europe was in our parents' time. Because we have first-hand knowledge, our generation is in a strong position to undertake focussed wider research to place the stories into their complicated contexts.

We feel it is our duty to tell these stories as after us there will be no one who will have directly heard our parents' stories. They will remain untold. We hope that in writing these stories that it will encourage others to ask questions, research and write before it is too late. The more of us in this generation who come forward with this desire, then the less alone we are in our research and writing and the more we can help and advise each other. That would be a most satisfying broader outcome of our Untold Stories project – that it continues to grow and thrive.

The response to the project has been wonderful. In particular it has struck a chord with other descendants of Displaced Persons and also people who live in the Pahiatua area who remember this time. The wider public have also enjoyed it and are often astonished that all these people came to New Zealand, though many can remember being at school with someone with a foreign name. In general, they had not thought about why these people came to New

Zealand. The film is on YouTube and has been spread by people sharing it nationally and internationally. To date it has received over 700 views. The film is now also up on the Manawātū Heritage website for posterity.

The exhibition, which was on show for a month, had many visitors each day. Apart from the general public, we had visitors from Pahiatua who remembered the DP Camp and many descendants of DPs, and those DPs still living who had come as children. People came from Auckland, Christchurch, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Whanganui and Wellington, as well as locally. For some the exhibition provided an opportunity for the family to start talking about their own parents. A few families attended with three generations represented, with the grandchildren first spotting the information via social media. We found the grandchildren generation were particularly interested in their surname and family origin.

The responses from the descendants were particularly poignant:

"Although we do not know each other we feel like we are a whānau because of our shared experiences."

"This is a wonderful tribute to the hard-working, brave people from Europe who were instrumental in building this country."

"So amazing, things I didn't know. I knew your dad (through work). What a wonderful story to read."

"Beautiful exhibition and needed to be told. Our parents struggled and made a life for themselves in Whanganui. They always thought New Zealand was a paradise."

"I've watched the doco a few times, and take my hat off to the way it was done, and the intelligent, compassionate, but powerful voices that you all gave to your parents."

Since the project started, we have received regular emails from descendants of Displaced Persons seeking advice on how to gain access to their parents' records and how to begin to write their parents' stories. This is a welcome outcome for our project, which we have always seen as a catalyst. The project will continue to grow, find new permutations, and embrace more stories. If you know people who are descendants of Displaced Persons from this era, please encourage them to contact the project.

Next year is the 75th anniversary of the *Hellenic Prince* arriving in Wellington in October 1950, so I will be giving a talk about it for Manawatū Heritage Month. I will also be creating a mini exhibition on that theme in the central library. We will also continue to give research advice to the DP-related public. We are planning a first gathering of descendants of DPs in Palmerston North and Pahiatua in late 2026 and, longer term, developing a website that will provide them with a space to tell their family's stories.

We believe our parents stories can teach us much about accepting people from different cultures and the value and cultural richness they bring to our country. If the aim of

New Zealand's policy was to gain valuable skilled workers, then it fulfilled that aim. In offering jobs to the 5,000 Displaced Persons after WWII we believe the New Zealand Government not only highly achieved its goal of welcoming skilled labour but received much more in broader ways – such as contributions to broader arts and culture, cuisine, a vibrant cultural diversity and continued generations of determined and spirited New Zealanders.

Links to further Untold Stories project articles and the film

- The Untold Stories project email: untolds626@gmail.com
- You Tube Untold Stories Full film youtu.be/ZgbGneFehho
- Untold Stories Film Trailer youtu.be/ArN4e_9r3Mg
- Manawatū Heritage website – [film](#)
- [Manawatū Standard](#), Back Issues, 17 Feb 2024, Pahiatua Camp as used for Displaced Persons. 1949-1952
- [Manawatū Standard](#), Back Issues, Saturday 8 June, Lucija Ozolins Story (Latvia)
- [The Exhibition](#), Manawatū Standard, Sat 29 June



*English language class 1951
Pahiatua camp Holland family
collection*

*Lucija Ozolins (born in Latvia)
receiving her NZ Naturalisa-
tion Certificate from May-
oress Rennie, Palmerston
North 1965*



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 138.

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 of 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.

See our website for more information on progress.

What is my name?

Gordy Collingwood

I have been told since childhood that we are direct descendants of Admiral Lord COLLINGWOOD. Lord Collingwood was the second in command to Lord NELSON at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and took command after the death of Lord Nelson. My family have dined out on this for decades.

Lord Collingwood had only daughters, Sarah and Mary Patience. Sarah married George NEWNHAM, and the surname became NEWNHAM COLLINGWOOD. Sarah and George also had only two daughters. These grandchildren of Lord Collingwood had no issue. Lord Collingwood's line died out with the marriage of Sarah to George in 1816. Some historical references state that the Newnham Collingwood surname was dropped in favour of Collingwood. This being the case then Lord Collingwood's line died out with the death of Lord Collingwood's granddaughter Sarah in 1872.

Lord Collingwood's second daughter, Mary Patience, married Anthony DENNY. They had two daughters and two sons with the surname Denny. There are descendants of this line alive today. I have been in contact with Heather MCKINLAY a 3x great-granddaughter of Lord Collingwood and she confirmed that my great-grandfather is not connected to her family.²

If we did not descend from Lord Collingwood, then perhaps we descended from Lord Collingwood's younger brother

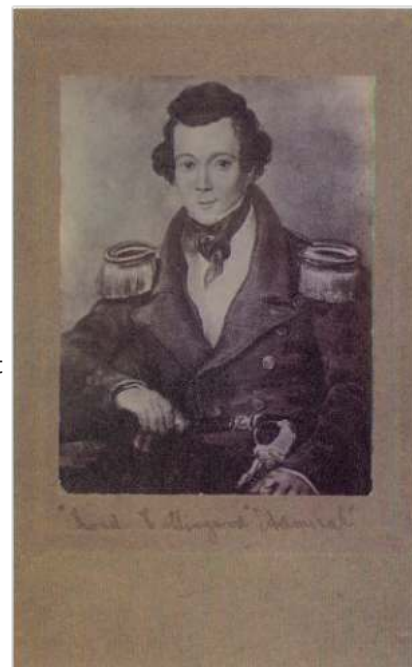


Admiral Lord Collingwood¹

John? John had three wives and there are direct female descendants of his alive today with the surname Collingwood. I have been in contact with Susan Collingwood, Victoria Collingwood and Judith Collingwood, all 2x great-granddaughters of John Collingwood. No connection here. Lord Collingwood had nine siblings, two brothers, John and Wilfred and seven sisters. John is mentioned above, Wilfred was killed at sea having no issue.

Knowing that my great-grandfather, William Frederick De Vere Collingwood, was South African born, I looked for descendants of Lord Collingwood in South Africa. The only South African connection I could find in either Lord Collingwood's or John's tree was Arthur Burdett Collingwood. Arthur was John's grandson and was born in England in 1847, about the same time as my great-grandfather. Arthur married a South African lass, Sally HARE, and they returned to the UK where they remained. They also had no issue.

There are a number of copies of a portrait of a young naval officer (supposedly young Lord Collingwood) floating around my family.³ I sent copies of this to the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich and the National Portrait Gallery in London. They both confirmed that the portrait is of a Post-Captain in the 1830s but couldn't identify who it was. Lord Collingwood made the rank of Post-Captain in 1789 and died in 1810.



Therefore, the portrait is 50 years too recent to be Lord Collingwood. Great-uncle Fred donated a copy of this portrait to the Nelson Museum, New Zealand, in 1964. I had it removed as it clearly was not Lord Collingwood as per many published photos.

A locket⁴ (33mm including the bow (25mm excluding) long x 20mm wide) that was supposedly worn by Lord Collingwood at Trafalgar has been handed down through the generations via the eldest son. The locket looks more like a lady's than a man's. It could, however, have been worn as a fob on a man's pocket watch chain as it is about the size of a sovereign case. I had it dated by two experts in the UK, one a member of the Antiques Road Show, and a local antique jeweller. They all agree that it was made in the late 19th century, was mass produced and low quality. One of the UK chaps went on to say that the engraving type was called 'Birmingham Fireworks' because it was flashy and made in Birmingham. Therefore, the locket is 80-90 years too recent. The locket contained a piece of blue cloth

which was supposedly part of a Mason's regalia worn by Lord Collingwood. I have seen it and photographed it, but it has since gone missing. It is mentioned in a newspaper article.⁵ The articles below were the result of interviews given by my great-uncle Fred about our connection to Lord Collingwood.



From my readings on Lord Collingwood's life, he was never posted to nor stopped over in South Africa. I concluded my family being direct descendants of Lord Collingwood was a cock and bull story. And so, it proved to be ...

William Frederick de Vere Collingwood details

The only details available about my great-grandfather prior to my DNA test were from his Intentions to Marry form, his Marriage Certificate and Death Certificate (the informant was the undertaker, John Stringer, who would have been supplied with the information probably by my great-grandmother who outlived William) and family recollections.

He was born c1850 in the Cape of Good Hope (probably Cape Town). His father - unknown Collingwood, a Mariner. I have checked baptism records in Cape Town (birth registrations began in the Cape in 1892 - too late for our William Frederick) and outlying areas, in churches of all denominations without success. I have also been unable to find a marriage record for potential parents either. His mother was Maria (pronounced Mariah) unknown maiden name. She was South African born - Maria DE VERE, Maria DE VILLIERS, Marie VERE or Marie VILLIERS? I know the pronunciation is Mariah because granddad's elder sister Maria Christina was called Auntie Ri by dad and his siblings. Cousins of my father remember our great-uncle Fred talking of his relations the de Villiers in South Africa. Granddad mentioned that his grandmother (my 2x great-grandmother) was a Spanish dancer. Was this Maria?

TRAFALGAR HEIRLOOM

Christchurch Man Has Locket

A gold locket worn by Admiral Collingwood when he sailed with Lord Nelson in the days of the Napoleonic wars, is in the possession of Mr E. Collingwood, of Ruskin street, Christchurch.

Mr Collingwood is a great-great-grandson of Admiral Lord Collingwood, after whom Collingwood, in Nelson province, was named.

Inside the locket there is a little bit of blue ribbon from the lodge regalia of Admiral Lord Collingwood. The locket had been passed on to members of the family in each generation since Lord Collingwood died, said Mr Collingwood.

Mr Collingwood said his father, William De Vere Collingwood, settled in Port Chalmers when he came out of the Royal Navy, in which he held a commission. Mr Collingwood's uncles and aunts settled in Cape Town. One uncle was a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and another uncle was a doctor in the same ship. Mr Collingwood went to sea in Union Steam Ship Company ships for a number of years.

ChCh Press 24 Aug 1963⁵

Mr Collingwood At Collingwood

A recent visitor to Golden Bay was Mr F. G. Collingwood, a direct descendant of Admiral Collingwood after whom the township was named. Mr Collingwood brought with him a gold locket which has been handed down over the years and which was worn by his ancestral forebear during his naval career.

Mr K. E. Wadsworth, president of the Golden Bay Lions Club drove Mr and Mrs Collingwood to Collingwood and back to Takaka.

Mr Collingwood was born at Port Chalmers. He is now retired and lives in Christchurch. He spent a considerable part of his life in merchant ships.—4071.

Nelson Mail 1964⁶

Some of my early thoughts were that William Frederick tacked on the name Collingwood, but I haven't been able to prove it. I have posted on Spanish lists for Collingwood / de Vere connections but have had no response. In *de Villiers Family History* and *de Vere family in South Africa* there are no de Villiers / Collingwood marriages, no de Vere / Collingwood marriages and no de Vere / de Villiers marriages. In the book *British Residents at the Cape 1795-1819* there are no Collingwoods. In fact, there are no Collingwoods in South Africa before 1850. There are no Collingwood Death Notices in South Africa in the nineteenth century.

The de Veres originated in France and came to England with William the Conqueror. As a reward for helping William, the de Vere family were granted lands and the title Earl of Oxford. This line continued until the 1700s when it became extinct. However, a family member changed his name to de Vere and the

line lived on. I have corresponded with a woman in Australia who is linked to this family, but unfortunately no Collingwoods appear in it. The family apparently grew grapes (Stellenbosch, Franschhoek?) and citrus (Citrusdal?) in the Cape.

William Frederick held a commission in the navy in South Africa. I presume because this would have been in the period, 1860s to early 1870s; he would have been in the Royal Navy based in South Africa. One of his brothers was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy and another brother was a doctor on the same ship. His brothers lived with their wives in Cape Town. This information came from a newspaper article written by great uncle Fred⁵. I have checked Royal Navy records at the PRO, Kew in England, but there was no mention of William Frederick or his brothers. I also checked with the museum in Simonstown, the Royal Navy base near Cape Town, without luck. The South African Navy came into existence in 1922. The Royal Navy left Simonstown in 1957, taking many of the records back to England.

The only interesting find when searching Navy Records at Kew, was that I stumbled across a Captain William C de Vere, but his middle name was Cecil not Collingwood. He would have been the right age for William Frederick's father. William Cecil de Vere served on HMS Collingwood from 1844 -1848. However, William Cecil had no children.

On leaving the navy (resigned his commission or jumped ship?), William Frederick (c1850-1935) arrived in New Zealand in 1870 (according to his death certificate) and settled in Port Chalmers. William Frederick Collingwood does not appear in the Deserters List for Australia and New Zealand 1812-1900. The first record of him in New Zealand is in Port Chalmers in 1875. He married Jessie Auld MASON (1859-1947) in 1877 in Port Chalmers^{7,8} and started our Collingwood line. Jessie's parents were from the parish of Queensferry, 10km west of Edinburgh. Her parents and family emigrated to Australia in 1857. Jessie was born in Melbourne and four years later the family moved to New Zealand. Sometime later Jessie's parents and some of her siblings returned to Melbourne, leaving Jessie and two of her brothers here in New Zealand. William and Jessie had 11 children. William Frederick's Marriage Certificate⁸ has a number of errors / untruths. It stated that he and Jessie were of full age. Jessie was only 18, not 21. His spouse's name is recorded as Amelia Jessie when in fact it is Jessie Auld.

I have discussed the possibility with South African researchers that our surname of Collingwood may have been Anglicised from an Afrikaans word. This proved to be a dead end also.

William Frederick had the following Occupations:

In 1875, 1876 - Fisherman,
On 20/4/1877 - Fisherman,
On 29/4/1887 - Labourer,
On 19/9/1910 - Railway Employee,
1914 & 1922 - Railway Signalman,
1931 - Retired.

My theory then was that William Frederick or generations before him changed their name, by deed poll or not. It seems more likely that William Frederick woke up one morning and decided to change his name or changed it to

hide something. Although if you were trying to disappear, it would be unlikely you would choose a name like Collingwood, more likely something common like Smith.

There are a number of other Collingwood families in New Zealand. There is a large Collingwood family in the Waitara, Inglewood area of Taranaki in the North Island. William, Jane and family arrived from Lincolnshire, England in 1875. They are not connected to us and have no connection to Lord Collingwood. There are also the odd Collingwoods in the North Island that come from London (another William). They live in Wanganui and are not connected to us. The majority of South Island Collingwoods are our lot except for a small family in Christchurch that came from London at the end of WWI.

I have corresponded with a Jim Collingwood in Canada. His parents emigrated there from the UK after WWII. He is connected to the Waitara Collingwood family. Another theory is that the Collingwood family split in the UK, with some going to the US and some to South Africa. I have not taken this further. So far, no photos have surfaced of William Frederick or his wife Jessie.

DNA Journey

Shortly after the results came in from Ancestry of my first DNA test in 2015, I was contacted by Kristy in the USA. Her husband was a 64cM match of mine and she was interested how we were connected. Paul and Kristy live in New York, but Paul was born in Cape Town. I looked through Paul's tree but could not see any familiar names. While looking through our common matches and building a tree I was able to see how Heather (59cM), Paul (64cM), Ryan (27cM) and Wayne (62cM) were connected. The surname in common was AURET. The Aurets had come from Nantes in France through the Netherlands to Cape Town in South Africa. However, I couldn't see how I fitted in. My DNA in common with these four suggested we were third to fourth cousins. I uploaded my DNA from Ancestry to FTDNA, MyHeritage, Living DNA, GEDmatch and took a 23andMe test but found no helpful matches.

Through FTDNA I contacted my namesake Gordon Collingwood who was undertaking a Collingwood one name study. His requirement to join the group was a Y37 test, which I took. When the results were in, I did not fit into any of the Collingwood groups. We could not determine if any of the participants were direct descendants of Lord Collingwood as we were unable to find a male of that line to test. Some possibles were put up by Gordon but I was able to refute these. As far as I can determine, the last male direct descendant of Lord Collingwood's brother John (Sir Edward Foyle Collingwood) died in 1970.

I spoke to Paul about a Y-DNA test which coincidentally his wife was buying him for his birthday. The results of the Y111 test came in and we were not a match at any level. This suggested that we matched not on the male side but the female side. I then set about drawing up a list of males who had married a female Auret, in the trees of my matches. Months later I was advised by MyHeritage of a match in the UK to a Felicity Hope (née METELERKAMP) at 94cM, suggesting third cousin level. Her Metelerkamps came from South Africa. I corresponded with her but she knew little of her ancestors, so I built a tree. Her 2x great-grandparents were Frederick Johannes Alexander

Metelerkamp (a navy captain) and Maria Anna Auret. The Auret name came up again on the female line. Interestingly Frederick Johannes was not in the Royal Navy but the Royal Dutch Navy. Frederick Johannes was born in Cape Town in 1806 to parents who had arrived in the Cape from Holland in 1802.

Frederick and Maria were at my 2x great-grandparents' level. This was starting to make some sense. On my great-grandfather's death certificate⁹ his mother was recorded as Maria and his father a Mariner. I had suspected that my 2x great-grandfather would be Frederick as my great-grandfather had named his children using an Irish-like naming pattern. The first-born son was named Frederick George (Frederick possibly his paternal grandfather) and George after his maternal grandfather. The first-born daughter was named Maria Christina, Maria after her paternal grandmother and Christina after her maternal grandmother.

I now began filling in details of the children of Frederick and Maria and surprise surprise - their youngest child was Willem Frederik. He was born in the right period and near Cape Town. Were William Frederick de Vere Collingwood and Willem Frederik Metelerkamp one and the same person? After more research I came across Tracey on Geni whose husband Rodger was a Metelerkamp. He had not shown up as a match anywhere as he had not done a DNA test. She had a tree and my great grandfather, William Frederick, was on it. She had also been told by her husband's family that William Frederick Metelerkamp took his wife's name of Collingwood, and they lived in New Zealand. There is no record of a marriage of him to a woman with the name Collingwood in NZ, Australia, South Africa or England. He presumably had just changed his name. Interestingly she had a photo of William Frederick's father, Frederick Johannes Alexander Metelerkamp. This is the very portrait of a young Lord Collingwood³ that has circulated through my family for generations.

Still not happy that I had the ultimate proof I looked around for a male Metelerkamp to Y-DNA test. There was only one Metelerkamp in the New Zealand White Pages. My partner, Jan, tracked him down on Facebook and we began corresponding. Bruce was indeed connected to the same Metelerkamp family from South Africa I was investigating and on paper a 4th cousin. He agreed to take a Y-DNA test and so I sent him a Family Tree DNA Y111 kit. Some six weeks later the results were in, and we matched by all but one marker. QED. Until now I had thousands of matches but none beyond Y25.

My research now turned to finding more out about my great grandfather. He was born in 1848 in Humansdorp, Eastern Cape, South Africa,¹⁰ left school in 1868¹¹ and was apprenticed in the Merchant Navy in London in 1869¹². I found a voyage of the ship with him on the crew list from Hong Kong to Cleveland Bay, Queensland in 1871¹³. The ship dropped cargo there and continued down the Australian coast to Sydney. This is where he disappeared. Did he jump ship? I also checked the Deserters List for Australia and NZ 1812-1900 for the name Metelerkamp but didn't find him.

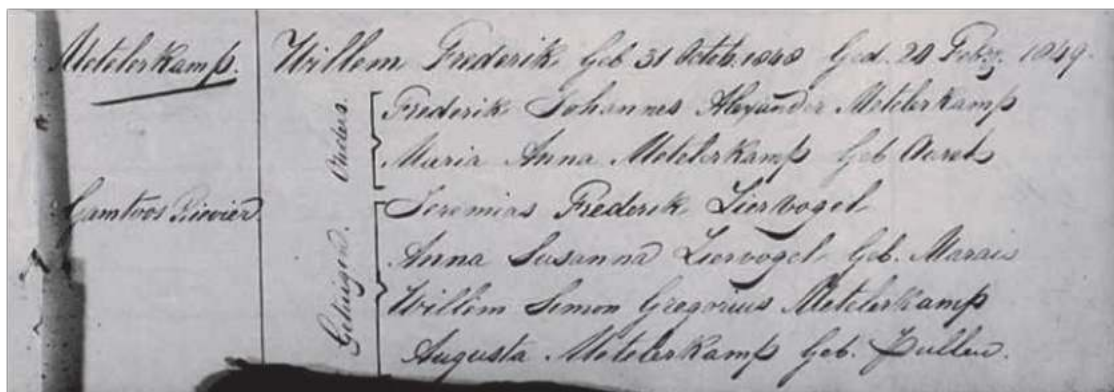
Further Research

It would be interesting to find out what happened to him in the period 1871-1875 and why he disappeared. Why did he change his name and where does his third Christian name, de Vere, come from? All things to research at a future date.

Gordy Collingwood
E: gdc@xtra.co.nz

References

- ¹ A painting by Henry Howard (1828) after a painting by Guiseppe Politi (1807) in Syracuse. Hangs in the Portrait Gallery in London.
- ² "Brett's Landed Gentry"
- ³ My great grandfather, William Frederick Collingwood had copies made for his children. This turned out to be my 2nd great grandfather, Frederick Johannes Alexander Metelerkamp
- ⁴ The Trafalgar Locket handed down from my great grandfather, William Frederick Collingwood. This was photographed by Gordy Collingwood when in the possession of William Frederick's grandson, Ivan Collingwood. This is now in the possession of Ivan's son, Noel Collingwood, my 2nd cousin
- ⁵ ChCh Press Sat 24/8/1963 pg 13
- ⁶ Nelson Mail 1964 - Collingwood to Collingwood image - no further newspaper reference
- ⁷ Intention to Marry - William Frederick Collingwood to Jessie Mason, 11 Apr 1877
- ⁸ Marriage certificate - William Frederick Collingwood to Jessie Mason, 20 Apr 1877
- ⁹ Death Certificate of William Frederick Collingwood, 22 Feb 1935
- ¹⁰ Dutch Reformed Church Registers (Cape Town Archives), 1660-1970 " on Family Search
- ¹¹ Ancestry - The History of the South African College vol 2 by Prof W.Ritchie
- ¹² Ancestry - UK Apprentices Indentured in Merchant Navy, 1824-1910
- ¹³ Ancestry - NSW, Australia, Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1826-1922



Willem Frederick
Metelerkamp's baptism
record¹⁰

Book Review

Von Mecklenburg nach Neuseeland: Emigration from Mecklenburg in the Nineteenth Century

Written by James N Bade and others

Published 2002

This book is written in German with a translation (page by page) in English. The first chapter gives a detailed description of the various reasons and motivations why a sizable group from Northwest-Mecklenburg decided to emigrate to New Zealand in the mid-nineteenth century.

This is followed by a passenger list of that journey on board the Danish sailing ship *Skjold* and their new life in the upper South Island (around Nelson). Furthermore, there is some mention of earlier and later immigrants and other well-known persons mainly from Germany that spent time in New Zealand. It has a detailed topographical description and travel reports of the lower North Island (around Wellington) and upper South Island (around Nelson).

The KRULL family and their descendants feature prominently in the latter chapters of this very interesting bilingual book.

You can find this book in the NZSG Library.

Note: Carsten has provided a list of all the names mentioned in the book, which will be added to the Kiwi Collection

Review by Carsten Begunk



A benefit of NZSG membership for those who need help with understanding the ins and outs of DNA is our Online DNA Interest Group—ODIG for short.

The aim of the Online DNA Interest group is to build and nurture an online community that supports the effective use of DNA-related information to better inform family history research. To this end, they have a monthly presentation via Teams on the last Wednesday of the month and have put together an extensive Google Classroom of resources which you can access anytime.

If you would like to know more, login to the NZSG website and look under *DNA*.

It should be noted that the focus of ODIG is to support members to learn how to work with their DNA-related information so that they can solve their own puzzles into the future. ODIG Facilitators are NOT 'Search Angels' and solving personal DNA-related puzzles for ODIG members is NOT the intention of the group.

Once registered with ODIG, you do not need to register again.



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Finding Eugene

John Saywell

I met my wife Katherine Mary CONAGHAN on 12 April 1972 at a school dance. After going out a few times I met her family. Her father's name was Eugene, not a name I had heard before.

The most interesting thing about Eugene was that he was an orphan. He grew up in St Joseph's orphanage in Upper Hutt, New Zealand. I certainly had not met an orphan before. Not only was he an orphan but absolutely no information on who his parents were could be found. Many of the family had already done a lot of work manually over the decades and it was established that there seemed to be three Conaghan branches in NZ. There was one in Whangarei, another on the West Coast of the South Island and finally one in Southland. At one stage I wrote to every Conaghan in New Zealand phone books. I received some very good information. A family tree from Southland was very useful. I was getting a little further but not very fast.

Then along came DNA. I attended a seminar in Auckland that improved my understanding of the subject. It seemed that YDNA was the easiest way to go initially. Eugene was dead by then, but I got one of his sons to test through FamilyTreeDNA as they seem to be the only ones testing for the Y chromosome. YDNA has allowed me to trace my

wife's ancestry back to her great-grandparents on the male (Y) line. They were James Conaghan and Mary née TANGNEY. Several different matches of other descendants seem to indicate this. Eugene's father was either William Conaghan or David Conaghan. I can't separate these two because they don't have any known descendants to DNA test. Their three brothers have been eliminated by testing their male descendants and they proved to be Eugene's uncles.

When studying the Ancestry DNA matches for Kath and sorting for those matching on the paternal side, virtually all went back to James Conaghan and Mary Tangney. There was one puzzling match that suggested there was a liaison between William or David, with a lady whose granddaughter had tested. She was adamant her prim and proper grandmother would not have done such a thing. So, I have let sleeping dogs lie there, it does not affect the main purpose of my research.

At this stage I have a second cousin of Kath's with 194 cMs matching. A niece of hers shows second cousin once removed matches 131 cMs. The second cousin's daughter shows her as a second cousin once removed. There is a possibility that the surname HYNES may be involved but I have been unable to verify this.

John Saywell
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Eugene Conaghan
Saywell family collection

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A job well done

Alan James Martin

The presence of an unusual trophy on the family mantelpiece prompted a search for the background story.

At the beginning of the twentieth century James MARTIN was working in the sawmilling industry as a millhand at Mokai, and then as a bushman at Ongarue. This was a period of rapid expansion of the King Country as the Main Trunk Railway Line was being constructed south towards Taumarunui. Ongarue was a small settlement on the railway line about 15 miles to the north of Taumarunui, servicing the railway and developing industries such as the timber felling and sawmilling. In 1906, at the age of 29, James was appointed to a temporary position as a telegraph lineman at Ongarue.

The Post and Telegraph (P & T) Department was expanding its network of telephone lines in the area in order to service the communication needs of this fledgling community. While there had been a postal service as early as 1894, it was not until 1908 that the first full-time Post Office appointment was made. Elsie Alice SLYFIELD was appointed Postmistress on a temporary basis at Ongarue. This must have been challenging in what was essentially a frontier settlement of about 20 residents. At this time the Post Office was run from a room in the boarding house.

Working in the same P & T Department meant James and Elsie would have had frequent contact. As the railway progressed south, so did the P & T development. In 1909 Elsie obtained a permanent position as Postmistress at Manunui. Within a short period, James had relocated to Taumarunui. James and Elsie married at Wanganui on 10 October 1910.

It was almost a year before James gained a permanent appointment as a linesman in September 1911. Elsie resigned from the Post Office several weeks later, and their first child, Roy James, was born at Te Kuiti on 8 April 1912. The move to Te Kuiti was a result of James' employment in the P & T. Like all public servants, it was necessary to move to where the work was or for advancement. There followed a number of moves which must have been quite disruptive for the family.

In June 1913 the family moved to Whangarei and lived in Wolfe Street, where Alwyn Robert and Wilfred John were born. This was a relatively settled period for the family for several years. The family, now with three children, moved to Grey Lynn, Auckland, and soon after to Hamilton, as James was appointed as an Engineering Officer on 5 November 1918. The fourth and fifth children, Muriel

Image above:

James and Elsie with their family after the birth of twins

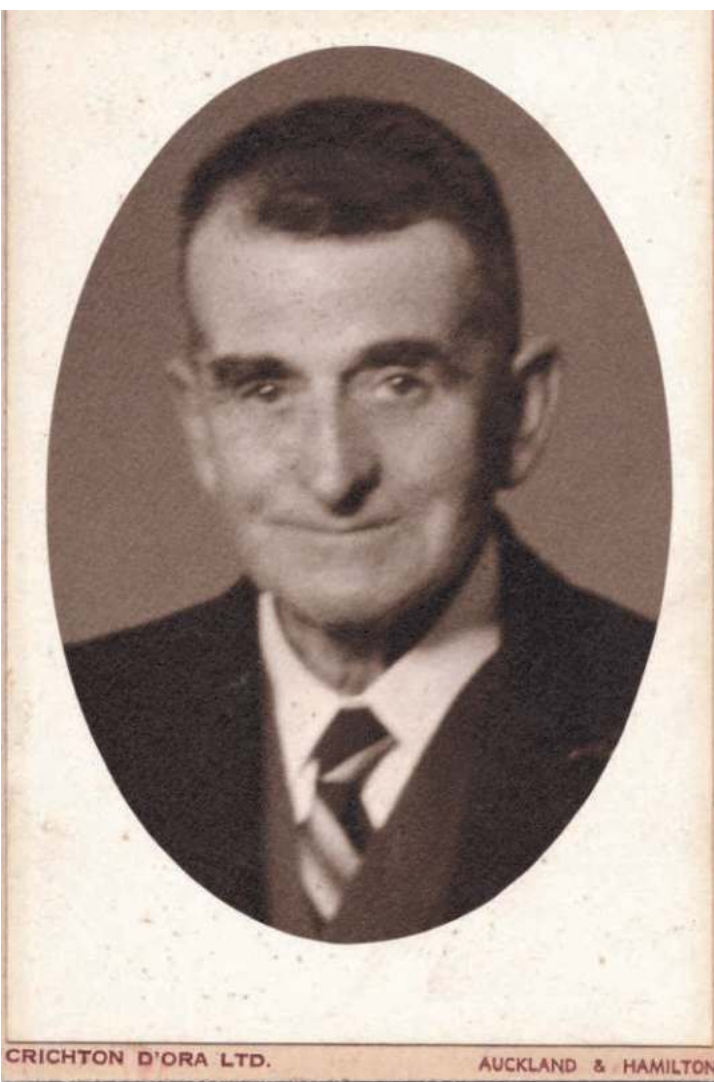
Martin family collection

Augusta and Dulcie Louisa (twins) were born at Hamilton six months later.

Under the Reduced Salary Adjustment Act 1921-1922 all public servants were faced with a pay cut because of the state of the Government finances. It was in two parts, and the reduction for James from £325 to £295 was about nine per cent. This may have been ameliorated somewhat by James' appointment as a line foreman, Auckland on 30 April 1921. The sixth child, Colin Lincoln was born in 1922, while the family was living in Grey Lynn.

The next move happened within the year with the appointment of James as line foreman, Te Awamutu on 18 April 1923. The family lived in Teasdale Street and this was another relatively settled period of five years with the children attending Teasdale School. In March 1928 the family moved back to Hamilton, with James being appointed as an Assistant Overseer, P & T. They lived in the back of the Hamilton East Post Office.

The Depression affected everyone, and The Reduced Salary Finance Act 1931 was used to reduce the salaries of public servants. In 1931 and 1932 James had two salary reductions that took him from £325 to £263/5/-. This amounted to a nineteen percent reduction, indicating the dire state of the economy. However, by 1935 and 1936 the



*Image above:
James at retirement
Martin family collection*

situation had improved, and James had two increases under The Increased Salary Finance Act that brought him back to £325 on 1 July 1936. James was appointed as a Senior Overseer (City) on 1 June 1940, at £400, and on 1 June 1941 he had a salary increase to the maximum of £425. A residence at Anglesea Street was purchased about this time and was the final move for James and Elsie, together with Dulcie. It had taken James almost the whole of his working life to get to the point of owning a property.

James retired from the P & T on 20 April 1942, on superannuation, and was granted three months' retiring leave on full pay. He was presented with a trophy inscribed:

To Jim, Happy memories of a job well done. P & T Dept. 1906-1942



The trophy is a unique object. The top is a bell from a telephone. The upright consists of a telephone handle and associated telephone parts. The base has been turned from part of a telephone pole. While it would have had significant meaning for James, it also represents the inventiveness of the staff as anything metal would have been destined for the war effort. The engraving is oddly spaced and can be interpreted as being built by his workmates.

Four years after his retirement, James passed away on 27 December 1946 at the Waikato Hospital, aged 69.

Alan James Martin
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References:

Ancestry: New Zealand Electoral Rolls 1853-2010
Archives New Zealand: P & T pay records
Archives New Zealand: Auckland Education Board School records
McMillan, Lyndsay and Walker, Audrey. *Ongarue: a place of the heart*. Taumarunui & Districts Historical Society Inc, 2022.

An update on Martha Addington Mumford

Jenny Robertson

Further to my account in the June 2024 *New Zealand Genealogist* Vol 55 No 401, I was contacted by a person experienced in working closely with Birth, Death and Marriage (BDM) records. It was suggested that Martha's children (born in 1895 and 1897) were unlikely to have been adopted out if their original birth names appeared in the BDM online database with their birth mother's (then) surname. This would not have been the case had an adoption taken place, as only their new names would have been shown and access to their original birth details closed off, making it difficult/impossible to have identified them. It was also pointed out that prior to 1972, surnames or family names were not required to register a birth in New Zealand and parents could specify only first names as indeed had taken place for the foundling Martha ADDINGTON in June 1876. It was assumed that following tradition, a child's surname would be the same as their parents.

So, armed with this knowledge and using the surname MATHIESON from their mother's 1900 marriage in Dunedin, I renewed my hunt in New Zealand records for these children. First, their birth records in the surname Addington showed their mother to have been aged 19 and 21 and not 20 and 22 as suggested in my June 2024 account. Iris's birth took place in Peterborough Street, Christchurch on 16 November 1895 while her brother, Rex, was born on 5 August 1897 in Great King Street, Dunedin. While no father is given for either child, the residence of their mother's future husband's parents in Christchurch and the use of Alexander in Rex's name makes it possible Alexander Mathieson may have been the biological parent of either or both of Martha's children.

I then looked again for school records for both children. There were several for Iris and Rex Mathieson, one in Christchurch and others in Dunedin showing their time at Union Street and George Street schools between 1902 and 1911. Over this period the family resided at 208 Castle Street in 1902, Leith St North in 1905, 410 Great King or King Street, in 1905, 1906, 1908, and at 58 Dundas Street and Queen Street in 1911. Alexander Mathieson thus continued to occupy housing in this general area of Dunedin later in life, the same area where Rex was born.

Martha appeared to be calling herself Maude from the time she married.¹ Her labourer husband, Alexander, moved from labouring into a job as a baker 1905–1908 according to electoral rolls and then as a greaser for the cement works in Dunedin when he attested early in WWI. By then, however, Maude had taken the children and returned in 1911 to Melbourne where she went earlier when she left Alexander in 1908. His evidence to the Timaru court in 1933 seeking a divorce on the grounds of desertion referred to her earlier departure, and to the fact he had sent money to St Kilda, Melbourne at her request but that it had not been claimed. Alexander's evidence to the court claims the earlier desertion took place in 1910 though this contradicts school records for 1908, which are probably more reliable and independent.² In 1914 Maude wrote to Alexander saying she would not return to New Zealand according to

his account so possibly she was in a new relationship by then, though there is, so far, no evidence of this.

It would seem that relatively quickly Maude found work running a boarding house at 21 Regent St, Fitzroy, Melbourne as it was from here in May 1912 that the *Victoria Police Gazette* gave notice of Maude's 'missing friend's enquiry' for her daughter Iris, who had been working in the Alfred Hospital laundry in Melbourne. She was believed to have gone to the country.³ The Gazette entry helps us learn that Iris was 5'5" tall, 16 years old, with fair hair and grey eyes. The Victoria electoral roll for 1914 shows that Maude was still supporting herself keeping a boarding house at the same address by when she was using the names 'Maude Priestly Addington Mathieson'.

Over time both Maude and her children seem then to have moved to Sydney, New South Wales, perhaps separately? A July 1919 entry in the *NSW Police Gazette* indicates that Maude was then living at 2 Hastings Street, Marrickville and likely working in Pyrmont in inner Sydney where two typewriters were stolen from an iron foundry office along with her small, named, emerald green, knitted sports coat.

The first of her children to marry was Rex, in August 1919 while working as a mechanic. He was 22 and his wife, Helena Teresa GRAY, a saleswoman, was 21. They were both living in Paddington, Sydney and married in the Roman Catholic Church of St Francis. Rex seems to have abandoned the use of Alexander and Maitland as first names and to have been known as Rex LLEWELLYN as he had been from early school days. At marriage, he declared his father to be Alexander Mathieson with the occupation of 'electrician' and his mother to be Maude EAST.

Two children were born to this marriage, first a daughter, Norma Dorothea, born in 1921, in Paddington. She became a 'typiste', who at 22 married Robert HART a 23-year-old taxi driver. They married in June 1943 in St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Robert was Irish, born in Portrush, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. Norma's brother, Philip Llewellyn Mathieson was born in June 1923 and graduated from Sydney Medical School in 1961. He married Judith Rosemary COSGROVE in 1962 and died in 1999.

Iris, 25, married James Henry RAYNER, a 33-year-old railway porter (born in the Isle of Wight) in Petersham (an inner-city western Sydney suburb close to Marrickville). The wedding took place in the All Saints Church of England church on 30 July 1921. Iris gave her father as Alexander Mathieson. James outlived Iris who died in 1948 from uterine cancer, at only 52. The couple had no children. It does not seem contact with her mother was frequent as her husband was unable to report his mother-in-law's first name in providing registration details of his wife's death.

And what of Alexander Mathieson who remained in New Zealand? His birth took place on 8 September 1875 while his parents were living on Hamilton's Land, Langloan some 18 miles from Glasgow. The birth was registered in the

Middle District of Old Monkland, Lanarkshire by his father, Alexander Mathieson, a joiner journeyman who had married Susan DONALDSON on 20 August 1875 just before son Alexander's birth. Sometime after the 1881 census, the family migrated to Christchurch, New Zealand with Alexander of school age, his brother Thomas and sister Ellen. Their parents extended their family between 1882 and 1890 with the births of four further daughters.⁴

Alexander seems to have remained in Dunedin after his discharge from the New Zealand Army in March 1916 having received gunshot wounds in his arm and shoulder at Gallipoli in WWI. He was paid £1 a week army pension. His army file shows he had reduced his age by four years at the time he attested early in the war. This is further claimed on his 1938 death record (colon cancer) which shows he died at 60 after 58 years in New Zealand which does not tie up with his appearance as a five-year-old in the 1881 Scottish census.

As already noted, Alexander had several changes of electoral roll occupation from labourer to baker and greaser at the cement works (army record), and by 1919 Rex was giving his father's occupation as 'electrician', while in 1923, Iris listed her father as an 'engineer'. Perhaps the children shared their mother's taste for reinvention, or these were different roles he was able to undertake back at the cement works in years when training requirements were very different from now. But at death on 6 May 1938 at 171 King Street, Dunedin, Alexander's occupation was again listed as 'labourer'. By then he had a 15-year-old daughter with Mary Ann (Minnie) MUNRO née SUHOMSKI or SCHUMSKI, a widow who brought older children to the relationship. Minnie died in March 1931 at just 49 and was buried in the Anderson's Bay Cemetery, Dunedin where Alexander joined her.

The *NZ Police Gazette* for 29 August 1900 (just a few weeks after his marriage to Maude East) has an intriguing entry for an Alexander Mathieson arrested in Wellington by a Dunedin Chief Detective and 'charged with being about to leave the colony without making provision for his illegitimate child'. His physical description as Scottish, 25 years old, about 5' 6" tall, with dark hair and eyes matches the army file 1914 description for Alexander except for him

having a fair complexion compared with the horse groom being sought in 1900 who is listed as having a dark complexion. The presence of several men named Alexander Mathieson in the Dunedin area does not make it simple to separate them out though a person with this name does seem to have remained living in the general part of Dunedin in which Rex was born.

The irony so far in this exploration has been that the founding Martha/Maude has proved less easy to trace in Australia as an adult than her children. I have yet to locate her death record. Next steps will be to trace descendants to see if they know more of Maude East or Mathieson. Possibly DNA could help resolve who might have fathered Iris and Rex?

And what have I learnt in this? First, to listen carefully to what others are telling you about the records and to get to know their scope, limits and changes over time. Secondly, it pays to look afresh and to keep looking as new information does come up. Note each record set used and which names you search for to avoid having to repeat this, though it is important to recognise that new record sets become available over time warranting a fresh search. Thirdly, it also pays to start with the obvious like a stepfather's surname as both first and surnames changed a hundred years ago, sometime much more often than they do now. Once a person starts changing parts of their name, some can keep doing it over time.

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References

1. Union Street school record for Alexander RML Mathieson in 1902? And 1905, 1908, 1911 electoral rolls for Dunedin North.
2. *Timaru Herald* 27 April 1933
3. *NSW Police Gazette*, 16 July 1919, page 328
4. Alexander Mathieson's eponymous father died on 6 February 1935 at 86 and was buried in Addington Cemetery from 500 Gloucester Street, Christchurch while his mother Susan died on 15 July 1944 at 300 Gloucester Street and was cremated.



Just because something is in print, does not make it true!

Jeannette Grant

I have copies of newspaper items about my husband's 2x great-grandmother - Sarah Walton GRIFFEN née BULL. One is an account of her 100th birthday celebration. The other is her obituary which says she died on the 4th of February 1932 at Hill Farm, Thaxted, Essex. They both give her birth as 5 August 1821.

HOWEVER, I have now been able to view her christening record dated 29 July 1821 which clearly states that she had been born the previous year on 5 August 1820, so she was actually a year older than her family believed.

Jeanette Grant
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Papers Past: Present and Correct

Jason Murphy

It is said there are two certainties in life: death and taxes. When it comes to Papers Past satisfaction surveys, you can add two more: requests for more content and being able to correct the searchable text.

While a cure for death and taxes remains elusive, the National Library was thrilled to launch user text corrections for the Papers Past Newspapers collection in September this year.

So why is such a feature needed in the first place? The answer lies in OCR, and it has nothing to do with official cash rate. Optical Character Recognition (OCR) is a process for automatically extracting text from scanned pages. This enables the searching of large quantities of full-text data, but it is not 100% accurate. The level of accuracy depends on the print quality of the original newspaper and its condition at the time of microfilming. Newspapers with poor quality paper, small print, mixed fonts, multiple column layouts or damaged pages may have poor OCR accuracy, resulting in transcription errors.

Left uncorrected, names, places and other research topics can be practically invisible to standard keyword searches. For example, instances of Mosley transcribed as 'Mushy', Potaka as 'Potato', Porirua as 'Polilua' etc.

With over 97 million articles in the Newspapers collection alone, searching can be a case of locating the proverbial needle in a haystack; in the case of mis-transcribed text, that needle might just be a noodle—see example below.

The good news is now anyone can correct errors as they find them, provided they have created and are logged in with a Papers Past account. This on-the-spot correction

improves future searches for both the corrector and the wider Papers Past research community.

To encourage accurate and good faith corrections, we are relying largely on community moderation, with the [latest corrections](#) visible to all users. If someone spots a mistake by another user, unintentional or otherwise, they can correct the correction. This model has been successfully implemented by similar sites, such as Trove, hosted by the National Library of Australia.

Since the launch, uptake has been enthusiastic with over 146,000 lines corrected by 292 Papers Past users at the time of writing. About a third of all corrections to date are concentrated on five publications which, in order of lines corrected, are the: *Press*, *New Zealand Herald*, *Evening Post*, *Taranaki Herald*, and *Auckland Star*. Beyond that, there is a long tail of corrections, with around 80% of all our newspaper titles having had at least one correction made.

If you would like to get started with text corrections, or get tips on using Papers Past more generally, we have updated and expanded our help pages. These can be accessed at paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/help, and there's a page there dedicated to the what, why and how of text corrections.

To everyone that has contributed so far, thank you! For the uninitiated but curious — have a go and let us know what you think at paperspast@natlib.govt.nz.

Jason Murphy

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A friend was asking him if he had ever looked for a needle in a haystack. "Oh, yes!" said he. "And I found it. It was a knitting needle, in one of those knitting bags, belonging to my wife, and it was as big as a haystack!"

A friend was asking him if he had ever looked for a noodle in a haystack. "Oh, yes!" said he. "And I found it. It was a knitting needle, in one of those knitting bags, belonging to my wife, and it was as big m a haystack!"-

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.

Early Scottish Immigrants to New Zealand

I am a postdoctoral researcher investigating the original letters and diaries of early Scottish immigrants to New Zealand (1840s-1900). If you have any relevant material in your possession, that you would be willing to let me view, or could photograph and email to me, that would be much appreciated.

Sarah van Eynhoven

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Errata—*The New Zealand Genealogist*—September 2024

A Sangster Family Travels to the Southern Hemisphere

Could you please notify members of two errors in my article published in September 2024 of *The New Zealand Genealogist*. Firstly, Alexander SANGSTER travelled to New Zealand in 1873 on the vessel *Wild Deer*, not on the *St Vincent* as I had supposed. Secondly there is a misspelling in the husband of Ann SANGSTER – she married William McGLASHAN in March 1860.

Alan Baldwin

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Information Wanted

Gordon THOMAS and Jean HAMILTON

I am writing a book and am seeking information and photos on Gordon THOMAS (1824-1896), his wife Jean HAMILTON (1822-1883) and children:

Robert (1851-1889)

Douglas (1853-1908)

Thomas (1856-1928)

Samuel (1858-1921)

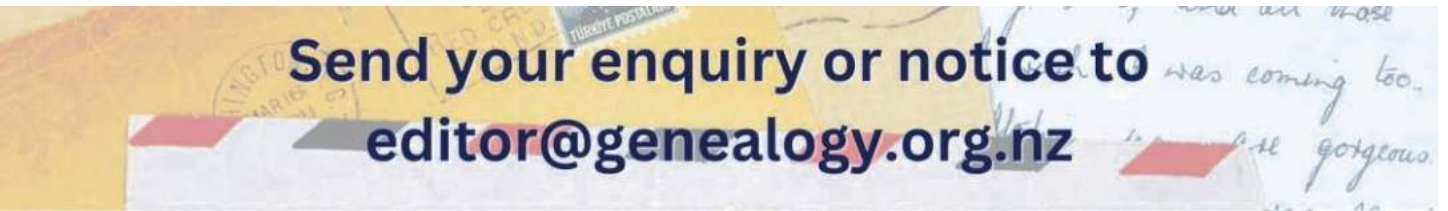
Jane (1862-1954)

Mary (1866-1932)

The family came to New Zealand on 22 December 1864 from Scotland on the *Helenslee* and settled at Pokeno.

Bryan Jackson, Snells Beach.

E: kbsretreat@xtra.co.nz



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



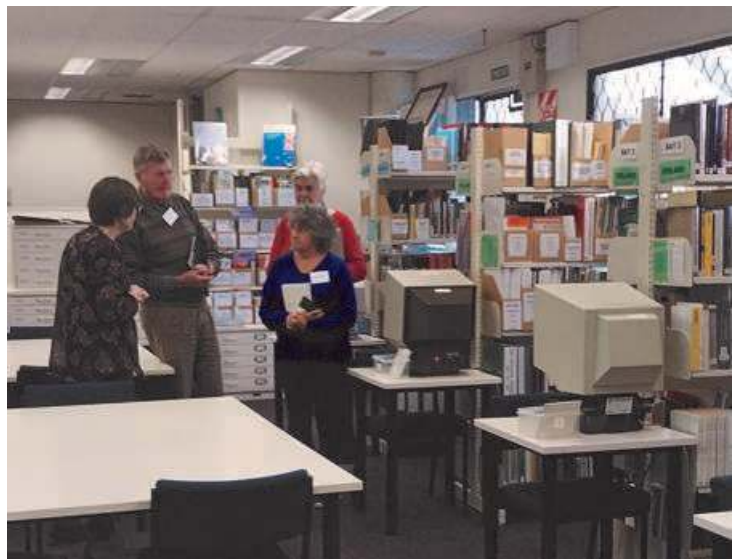
Need help with your sources?
Check out Resources/
Research Skills
www.genealogy.org.nz

Branch News



Papakura Branch visit to Family Research Centre

NZSG Papakura Branch had a successful trip to the Family Research Centre on 3 September 2024. Eight members were welcomed with morning tea and a tour of the library. Volunteers were on hand to help with their research. Members appreciated the assistance, and it was an eye opener for those new to the branch.



NZSG Papakura Branch members on their way to the FRC and enjoying their time there.

NZSG Dunedin Branch 55th Birthday

The first formal meeting of the NZSG Dunedin Branch was held on 25 September 1969 in the Council Rooms, of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints, in Dunedin. There were six people present. This meeting was just two years after the New Zealand Society of Genealogists was formed in Auckland. In 1969 the Dunedin Branch was known as the Dunedin Group and continued to be referred to as a group until changed to a branch in 1993.

In 2019, the NZSG Dunedin Branch celebrated its 50th Anniversary with past and present members attending the celebrations. It was a wonderful occasion, and it was decided that, in the future, the branch would celebrate our anniversary with an event every five years.

Therefore, in September 2024 the NZSG Dunedin Branch once again invited past and present members to an afternoon tea and celebration to mark our 55th Anniversary. Forty-four members attended the event and wonderful memories of the branch and its activities, were shared that day.

At the May 2024 Annual General meeting and Special General Meeting, the Dunedin Branch adopted new Branch rules. For the first time these new rules allowed the branch to honour members with a Dunedin Branch Life Membership. Heather Bray was honoured as the first recipient of the Life membership award for 38 years' service to the Branch. Following the AGM, the Dunedin Branch committee decided to acknowledge a further six branch members with Branch Life Membership. So, at the 55th Anniversary celebration the following NZSG Dunedin Branch members were each presented with a Branch Life Membership, a badge and a certificate – Ngaire Ockwell, Eleanor Leckie, Russell Chirnside, Margaret Chirnside, Jenepher Read and Mabel Jowsey.

The 55th celebration was also an opportunity to honour members of the current NZSG Dunedin Branch committee for long and loyal service – Robyn Thorburn who has been Branch Convenor for ten years, and Newsletter Editor, with her husband Graeme, for the past 12 years, Margaret Dyett who has served as Branch Treasurer for fourteen years and Fraser Watson who has been Branch Librarian for twelve years. Each of these members were presented with a "Certificate of Appreciation" and a gift.



A certificate and gift were also given to two special husbands who support their wives in so much of the NZSG Dunedin Branch activities with technology, photography, editing and general help in all genealogy activities. Graeme Thorburn (husband of Robyn) and Kevin Bray (husband of Heather) got certificates worded as "The Strong, Handsome Husband behind a Great Woman". The humour was well received on the day by those who know the support these men give to their wives.

The NZSG Dunedin Branch continues to thrive as we now move towards our diamond anniversary in 2029.

Heather Bray
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Image above:

Cutting the cake is longest serving member in attendance, Eleanor Leckie with branch convenor, Robyn Thorburn.

Image left:

*NZSG Dunedin Branch members in attendance at the 55th celebrations
L to R—Mabel Jowsey, Heather Bray, Russell Chirnside, Margaret Chirnside and Eleanor Leckie.*

NZSG Te Awamutu Branch 40th Birthday Presentation to Sandra Metcalfe

The Te Awamutu Branch 40th birthday celebrations were held on 19 October 2024. Twenty-seven present and past members attended and were entertained by a presentation showing how research has changed over the years. This was followed by a luncheon and a chance for members to mix, share old memories and be present for the awarding of NZSG Service Awards.

Sandra Metcalfe was awarded Life Membership for her outstanding service to our branch over the past 36 years including serving as Convenor (7 years), Treasurer (11 years), Secretary (3 years) and Committee members (3 years). Sandra was also awarded the NZSG Service award for multiple services to the branch and to NZSG.



*Image below: Sandra and present TANZSG committee
L to R – Linda Howarth, Christine Ball, Karina Kirk, Sandra
Metcalfe, Ann Roberts*



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

Irish Interest Group



Ulster Historical Foundation

The UHF is pleased to share the third issue of *The Kiltonga Bugle*, the mid-year digital publication for the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild. This issue contains the latest news from Ulster Historical Foundation, reports on recent activities, articles of historic interest and much more. It can be viewed in a flip book format here:

online.flipbuilder.com/UlsterHistoricalFoundation/ivod/

OS200: Mapping Ireland

Digitally Re-Mapping Ireland's Ordnance Survey Heritage
A Digital Archive of Ireland's Ordnance Survey dri.ie/os200
Begun in June 1824 Ireland was the first entire country in the world to be surveyed and mapped at the large scale of six-inches-to-one mile. The Irish Research Council and Arts and Humanities Research Council co-funded project.

Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF)

'RootsIreland have the most complete and most accurate set of Roman Catholic Church records online, as well as millions of Protestant records, civil records, census records, headstone inscriptions and census substitutes. Our index is easily searchable and has features such as standardised surname and forename searches which make your searches even more user-friendly.

We hold over 23 million records, and our database is being added to continually. Since 2020, we have added over one million records to our database from Limerick, Clare, Sligo, Kerry, Wicklow, Westmeath, Kilkenny, South Dublin, South Tipperary, Monaghan, Armagh, North Mayo, Cork, Laois, Offaly and East Galway. New records are continually being added to our database throughout the year, which will be announced in due course.

Together, our 34 genealogy centres have an unparalleled amount of local knowledge which can be invaluable to those tracing their ancestors, a service which no other website or company can provide to such a high standard. By taking out a subscription with RootsIreland, you are helping these centres to continue to provide a world-class service and securing many Irish jobs.'

If you have any questions, check their Help section.
www.rootsireland.ie Purchase a 1-day subscription and the amount will be deducted from the purchase of a 1, 6 or 12 month subscription option if you upgrade within 30 days. Terms & conditions apply.

Mystery and history combined in best-seller, *Secrets of the Land*

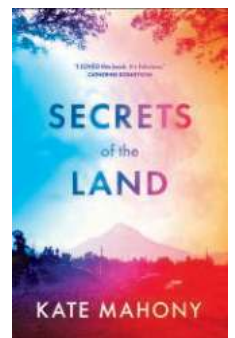
Two young Irish men sign up to the English army in Taranaki, New Zealand in 1864. Michael is desperate to find a way to return to all he loves in Ireland, while his friend Denis is happy to escape the poverty of his home land and is enticed by the reward offered for his service in the army

– 50 acres of land confiscated from Māori tribes by the New Zealand Government of the time. The New Zealand Wars form a strong backdrop in this novel which takes place in Ireland, New Zealand and Australia.

This story is told through two other time periods: In 1976 young Aoife Maguire hates the new land her parents have brought her to. What has her father done to cause them to flee and who is the stranger she meets hiding in a shelter on a Taranaki farm? In 2018, Imogen Maguire learns from a stranger in a Melbourne Street she has a grandfather in Taranaki who desperately needs her help. She had thought he was dead – or that is what she has been told. The former newspaper reporter sets out to discover who is trying to frighten her grandfather off his land. She learns ghosts from the past haunt the present, and the land is determined to hold its secrets close. Some, however, will not stay hidden.

Author of *Secrets of the Land*, Kate Mahony, is a New Zealander with dual Irish citizenship. She grew up on a farm in Hawera. Her father emigrated from Castleisland, Co. Kerry, as a young man. Her maternal grandfather came to New Zealand from Ireland as a child after his mother inherited land in Ōkato, Taranaki, from her brother who had fought in the militia in Taranaki in the 1860s. Kate's great-grandmother's brother, Michael Begley, from Dingle, Co. Kerry, was the inspiration for the novel but the story and the character of the soldier are fictional.

www.katemahonyauthor.com/



Irish Lives Remembered

Irish Lives Remembered is a FREE e-magazine dedicated to helping you trace your Irish ancestors. Packed with up to 76 colour pages of Irish Genealogy resources, there is something for everyone! Access to all back issues is available. View Editorial Issue 45 2019 which highlights County Registration Districts and Patrick Roycroft's guide page 48. www.irishlivesremembered.ie

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. This magazine offers valuable content for everyone from the budding family history enthusiast to the more experienced genealogist.' Irish Roots magazine is also available in digital format. www.irishrootsmedia.com

NZ Ancestor Search Helper

This search tool is designed to assist with NZ-focused genealogical research, by collating results from numerous

genealogy related websites (listed) and many other online history resources. ash.howison.co.nz/

Irish Genealogical Research Society

One of the oldest Irish genealogical societies in existence, the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) continues to look to the future of Irish genealogy by seeking to welcome new members. Its annual journal *The Irish Genealogist* has been published since 1937. There is an extensive Names Index for this publication free to access on the website www.irishancestors.ie from which relevant articles may be purchased. Annual IGRS membership of £26 commences January.

Cork Genealogical Society

The Cork Genealogical Society (CGS) came into being at an inaugural meeting in March 1994. Its annual membership

fee is €20 which allows entry to all meetings, newsletters, journals and access to 'Members only' webpage. If you are interested in joining e-mail inquiry to

apcoleman@eircom.net Annual membership commences January. View the website www.corkgenealogicalsociety.com

Family Search – Irish Records added.

www.familysearch.org expanded its online archives in May with over 19 million new indexed family history records, including 44,144 in its Ireland Catholic Parish Registers 1740-1900. A further 43,615 entries from the latter were added in June.

Geraldene O'Reilly Convenor

[Irish Interest Group website](http://IrishInterestGroup.website)

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Update from Auckland City Libraries

Welcome to the new(ish) Research and Heritage services at Auckland Libraries

It has been over a year now since our last restructure. Now that things have settled down a bit and we are embedded in our teams, I thought it was about time to update you all. The first day of the new structure in Auckland Libraries was 1 October 2023. It meant loads of changes for Research and Heritage teams, with reduction of duplications of roles across the teams.

I am in a new team now, called Research Engagement. This means I am officially meant to be out and about engaging in our communities – in our libraries and also in our sister organisations and our community groups. As I am no longer required to be tied to a library roster, I am able to say yes to many invitations now, it is lovely being able to get out in the community again, talking family history with people.

As well as myself, on my team we have Annette Keogh, team leader; Sue Berman, curator - oral history and sound; Nia Vavao, Pasifika librarian; Brent Giblin, research librarian; Barbara Novelli, community archivist; Anna Varghese, senior library assistant; and Isabella McDermott, production coordinator. At the time of writing, we are recruiting for an AV technician and then our team will be complete.

We have been kept busy either organising or assisting with exhibitions, events, workshops, and activations so far. My colleagues and I are still happy to do free one-hour book a librarian appointments. We are currently planning what we will be doing next year.

The Heritage Collections Reading Room on level 2 at Central Library (formerly Sir George Grey Special Collections) is

available by appointment for individuals and groups. Appointments are available from Wednesday to Saturday, 10am – 5pm. The hours have been reduced to allow the teams more time to take care of the collections and create new ways of connecting with them.

You can fill out the [Research enquiry form](#) to book an appointment. If an urgent appointment is needed, you can check at the Research Services desk across the floor.

[Research Central](#) on level 2 at Central Library is open Monday to Friday 10am – 6pm and on Saturdays 10am – 5pm. The Research Central team can assist you with queries related to our international family history collection, New Zealand fiction and non-fiction, local history collections, Te Kohinga Matua Māori collection, and our Pasifika collection.

[Research South](#) on level 1 at Manukau Library is open Tuesday to Friday 12pm – 5pm. The Research South team can help with queries related to New Zealand family history, whakapapa, local history, New Zealand history and Pasifika.

The Research Centres in Takapuna Library and Waitakere Central Library are now unstaffed. At the time of writing, the collections are still there – but if you need assistance with research, you may have to [book an appointment](#).

Seonaid (Shona) Harvey

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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 PAKAKURA 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

WELLINGTON ARCHIVES RECORDS REQUESTS

While Archives New Zealand have suspended their digitisation program, NZSG Kilbirnie Branch is available to do look-ups for the Wellington Reading Rooms. Please provide the R reference from Archives NZ's Collections Search. A small koha is appreciated. Enquiries to Kilbirnie@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



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