



Coming up at Porirua Branch

No meetings from April onwards until further notice.

Evening meetings are usually every second Wednesday.

Knocking down Brick walls

Now scheduled for the June meeting so let

dickwards@xtra.co.nz have your questions by 14 April.

Include in the query an outline of your problem, where you have researched and copies of any supporting documents, detailing what you already know and what you want to know. Please include your name, and contact details.

Irish Interest Group Lower North Island Workshop 22 Feb 2020

A fun and interesting day was held for the local Irish family historians hosted by Jenny Martin at Johnsonville. There were 2 presentations one on Griffiths Valuation, and one on Wills and Headstones, Irish dancing, food and hot drinks provided, the Irish ambassador attended and it was a grand craic. It was a time to see old friends from around the area. Many thanks Jenny.



Convenor's comments

As we work our way through this new experience of Covid-19 lockdown we have our moments of joy and those of frustration, and maybe loneliness too. I hope you are finding pleasure in many of the new experiences and are managing the not so good parts. If you need help, there's lots of information on the www.covid19.govt.nz website and do feel free to contact me or any of the committee. Committee contact details are at the end of each newsletter. Hopefully NZ is now moving towards a less restrictive

time for everyone.

With the wonderful opportunities provided for our research by Ancestry and Find My Past and, of course those available on the NZSG website, we can at least get immersed in our family history.

The committee took the decision to postpone the AGM, meantime there is no certainty as to how or when that will be held. However when it is, we will be looking for members to step up and take a turn on the committee. So please think about it and let me or one of the current committee members know if you are interested or have questions.

Take care and I hope it won't be too long before we can have Branch meetings again.

Mary Beckett
Convenor

Website Update

There's been quite a few new **useful links** added to our branch website. In particular there's new links to various newspapers and to New Zealand shipping and passenger lists.

<http://www.poriruagenealogy.org.nz/useful-links.html>

Coming up at other local Branches

As with our branch, all the other branches are uncertain about when branch meetings will return and their AGMs may also be affected.

NZSG Kilbirnie

Closed for at least two months including the monthly meetings of May 7th and the research mornings scheduled for 15th April and 20th May. They will review at the end of May.

Meets 9am, first Thursday of each month at Matairangi Room, ASB Sports Centre, 72 Kemp Street.

Their AGM is planned for 4th June, their normal monthly meeting.

<https://nzsgkilbirnie.org.nz/>

NZSG Wellington

Meets fourth Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm, at Connolly Hall, Guildford Terrace, Thorndon.

It is Wellingtons turn to host the Family History month in August and they will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary in October 2020. Their AGM is currently planned for 27th May at 6.30.

[Wellington Branch Website](#)

NZSG Hutt Valley

7.30pm, second Thursday of every month at the Hutt Bowling Club, Myrtle Street, Lower Hutt.

The morning tour on 23rd April probably cancelled.

14 May - **Guest speaker Sarah Hewitt** Convenor of Kilbirnie Branch

[Hutt Valley Genealogy](#)

NZSG Kapiti

Meets at 7.30pm fourth Tues, Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina St, Paraparaumu AND

Meets 2pm third Wed, Waikanae Baptist Church Cafe, 286 Te Moana Road, Waikanae

[Kapiti Genealogy](#)

[Website: poriruagenealogy.org.nz](http://poriruagenealogy.org.nz)

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Ancestry at Home

Many libraries are now providing free access to Ancestry at home during this lockdown period including Porirua, Wellington City and Hutt Libraries.

Findmypast / British Newspaper Archive also have a 14-day free trial. One can do a lot of research within 14 days! 264,000 Liverpool and Lancashire parish records have been added to Findmypast.co.uk. Use the Findmypast free trial while 'lock down' and spend that time researching databases that Ancestry does not have.

Ancestry and Findmypast have digital copies of a lot of County parish records but check both as only one website may have your county.

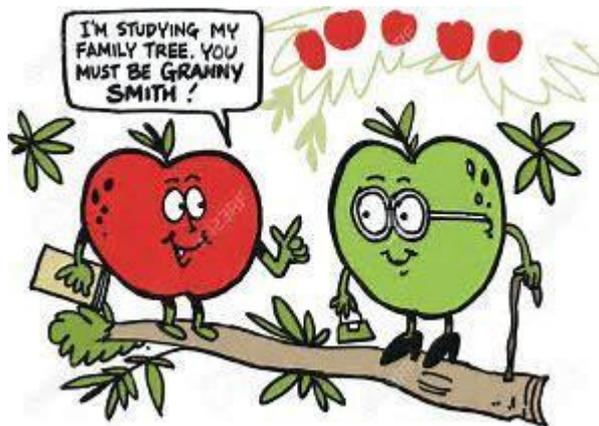
And of course, the Family Search website is always free. Having the flexibility to search all three main family history websites provides different accuracies with their search engines and different interpretations or transcriptions.

Go to [Porirua Online Genealogy Resources Page](#) and download the guide to find out how to access these online resources.

Or if you're a member of Wellington City Library, you can read their blog about Ancestry's availability at home with instructions on how to access it at <http://www.wcl.govt.nz/blog/index.php/2020/04/01/ancestry-database-now-available-at-home/>

Perhaps this is also a good time to review the digital resources your local library has to offer too! Wellington Library has Master Mariners database, Evening Post clipping database from 1927 to 1977 which goes past the Papers Past dates of transcribing. Check out too their NZ Local history databases which is an index but no database.

Here is a list of 20 items that you can do during the lockdown period



(Pinched from North Shore Branch April Newsletter)

Trying to keep your distance from everyone else while we wait out COVID-19? Stuck at home as you self-quarantine? Now is a great time to focus on genealogy. Here are 20 ideas for you to consider as you fill your days with indoor activities.

1. Establish Your Personal Learning Plan. I know you love Legacy webinars so why not think about a personal learning plan for the next 2 weeks or month. Choose webinars based on a theme such as:

- The country/countries you are researching
- DNA
- Researching female ancestors
- Technology
- Every webinar in the Webinar Library by a specific category or presenter

Identify your webinars of preference, watch them, and then study the handouts. Really study the handouts by exploring the suggested websites, seeking out the books in the bibliographies, and jot down notes for future reference.

2. Scan! It's a good time to pull out some of those photos you have been meaning to scan and start. You could even watch webinars while you do it!

3. Upload photos to the Cloud. Use this time to share and store your photos (especially those that you just scanned). Upload them to whatever makes the most sense to you, an online tree attached to specific ancestors, Facebook album tagged with descendants, FamilySearch Memories collection, or a cloud storage website like Dropbox or Sugar Sync.

4. Download your photos from your phone. Are you guilty of this? I go to a library or archive and take a bunch of photos and then think I'll download them later. But really later never comes. So, now's a good time to download them to your computer or a

cloud storage website. You could even attach them to your online trees. Some cloud storage website feature a way to automatically download them to your cloud storage (such as Dropbox).

5. Take a 2nd look at the census. I know, I know, you've already looked at the census. But what about exploring the pages before and after your

ancestor's listing. Or really looking at the columns and making sure you have recorded/analysed everything. Or if you are using the U.S. Census, learning more about the enumerator instructions.

6. Search WorldCat. Have you used the world's library catalogue? Take some time to enter a keyword that is meaningful for your family history such as Quakers or Coal Mining. Take some time to search by your ancestor's place to find local history books. To learn more about using WorldCat, see the Legacy TechZone.

7. Search ArchiveGrid to become familiar with manuscript collections in the place your ancestor lived.

8. Search the FamilySearch Catalogue for the place your ancestor lived. Go through each listing to see what resources you haven't used and then make a list of what you need to check.

9. Update your family tree. Take some time to update your family tree whether it's on your computer or online. Have you made any new discoveries? Have new documents to add?

10. Take a new look at your DNA results. New matches? New ethnicity estimates? Take some time to watch a webinar and learn something new you can do as you review those results.

11. Timelines. Create a timeline for an ancestor you are researching now or an ancestor you want to research.

12. Revisit your grandparents. Have you researched your grandparents? What records are you missing? What social history can you add to their lives? Work on writing some short narratives/stories about their lives.

13. Create a timeline for your life. For many of us, someday we will be an ancestor. Do your future family genealogist a favour and create a timeline for your own life. Add vital record events, milestones, and historical events that had meaning for you.

14. Start a journal. We are living in a unique historical period, document it now by starting a

journal. Then look at how you can add to your journal with newspapers, photos, and emails from family.

15. Digitize! Have old photocopies from library visits when you first started your family history? Digitize those, organize them on your computer and then throw them away. You should never throw away original or hard to replace records but digitized copies from records like the census, which is found only could be saved to your computer.

16. Take your genealogy to Facebook. Have you identified Facebook genealogy groups to join? Now is the time to do that.

17. Identify blog articles to read. Bloggers do such a great job of reporting on methodology, new record sets, and case studies. You can learn more about blog posts to read by using Randy Seaver's "Best of..." weekly list or other similar lists. Randy has links to other blogger lists at the end of each weekly "Best of" blog post.

18. Work on a Research Plan. Now's a good time to consult library and archival catalogues and your family tree and come up with a research plan. One of my favourite explanations on creating a genealogical research plan is the online article, "Creating a Genealogy Research Plan Like a Detective" by Kimberly Powell.

19. Document an heirloom. Have a family heirloom or something you hope will become an heirloom? How about taking some time to photograph it and explain its provenance? Explain what it is, what its importance is to your family, its history and where it should end up when you are no longer around. Consider long term solutions including family members willing to inherit it or a possible donation plan.

20. Take a virtual trip to your ancestral home. Sure, you might not be able to travel right now but we are so lucky to be able to access places virtually. How about using Google Maps or Google Earth, HistoryPin or even What Was There? To access historical maps and images.

World War 1 records

More than 2 million have been added to Ancestry from the collection of the pension cards held by the Western front Association (WFA). It covers 'Other Ranks Died' and can be found in the collection 'UK, WW1 Pension ledgers and Index cards 1914-1923'

A new collection of WW 1 weekly casualty lists has been listed for free on the National Library of Scotland's website - [Weekly Casualty Lists](#)

Find a UK Probate

The cost of UK probate records was reduced last year in July to £1.50 and the price will be in place for 12 months (until mid-June this year). While we are all at home in our bubbles this is a wonderful time to do extra research on the non-BDMs. Most know how useful probates can be and can confirm family first names and surnames of daughters, their properties and learn how wealthy they were.

probatesearch.service.gov.uk. Users of Ancestry will find its searchable National Probate calendar more useful than the one provided by GOV.UK.



"I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN LOCATING WEALTHY RELATIVES."

UK General Register Office records

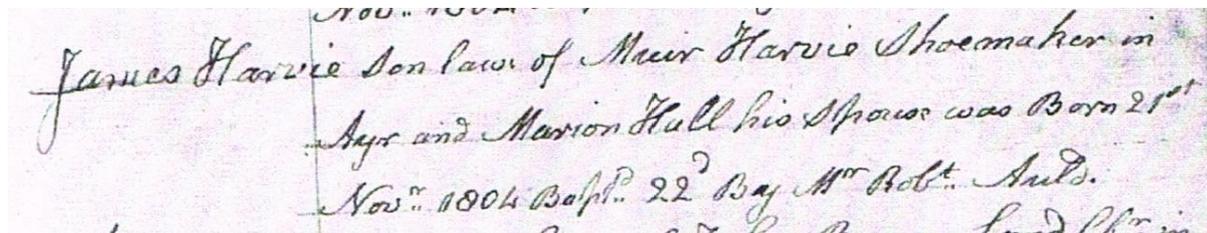
Did you know before 1911 birth certificates can be searched by the maiden name as well as the fathers surname and then to ensure you have the right family the records can be cross checked with census returns? Births had to be registered within 42 days or a fine was imposed so to avoid the fine the actual date of a birth may not always be exact or forgotten. Don't always assume that all the facts in official records are correct. Mistakes can be made accidentally or purposefully.

Statistical Accounts of Scotland

Historical surveys of Scotland are now available for free, detailing life in 18th & 19th century. Surveys took place from 1791 to 1799 and from 1834 to 1845 in all parishes. Images of the original records arranged on the map of the parishes will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh library for a period of 2 years stataccscot.edina.ac.uk

ScotlandsPeople

More early Presbyterian baptism records dating from 1752 to 1855 from congregations in Aberdeenshire, Ayrshire, Dundee, Fife, Midlothian and Renfrewshire are now available. Useful to bridge that gap before civil registration which started in 1855. For instance my ancestor born in 1804 below:



1939 Register

73000 more names have been added to the database via Findmypast so keep on checking that database for your English ancestors. You can find your grandparents or great grandparents if they were still in the UK. Most of mine had left by then. NOTE - FindmyPast is the only database that has this.

60	1	Goodchild Fred Thomas	M 13 April 1877	M Mechanical Engineer Draughts
	2	Goodchild Alice	F 6 Mar 1883	M Unpaid Domestic Duties
	3	Goodchild Margaret WINKLEY	F 24 Aug 1917	S Hand Sewer & Launderess
	4	Goodchild Agnes PRESTON	F 24 May 1921	S Clerk Typist Shoe Machinery

I attach my great aunt Alice Ward Goodchild record. By this time my grandfather Frank WARD had left England and was settled in Fiji where my father was born. Her date of birth is included ie 6 March 1883 which can be a very useful piece of information. It always amuses me the description of 'unpaid domestic duties' as women's personal occupation. The added surnames above Margaret and Agnes surnames are their married names. Margaret got married in 1941 and Agnes date of marriage I cannot find. Even that piece of information can be helpful if your ancestors had common surnames.

Burials in London

As quoted in 'Who do you think you are' magazine Nov 2019, the churchyards had become badly overcrowded in the London area after many years of use with consequences of corpses being shifted before being fully decayed etc. It was essential to sort out the problem and the 1850 and 1852 Burial acts outlawed further burials inside church yards. Large public cemeteries were opened generally on the perimeters/outskirts of suburbs of London, including Highgate, Nunhead, Brompton and Kensal Green. Most of the larger cities and towns created the same law and adopted the same practise creating municipal cemeteries within their city boundaries.

My great grandmother died in 1888 in Stockport after her husband had left for NZ. It has always being a question whether he did know she was unwell and left anyway or whether there was a plan for her to follow with their 4 children. When I visited Stockport they had the local burial records and found her last address before dying was the Stockport workhouse and I'm assuming the 4 children were there too. I have the number of the plot and the approximate site but sadly and obviously no stone/memorial. It is a large grassed area. She was buried on 15th June 1881 and there were recorded 10 burials on 15th and 16th in Stockport. I don't know if that was a normal number of burials of a city of nearly 97,000?

Branch Committee

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Reminder

No meetings until further notice. We are still seeking nominations for the committee. Anyone interested in filling these positions should contact any committee member. It is hoped that the country is some ways back to normal soon and we can hold our AGM in July. Newsletters will still be produced and distributed during this lockdown. If you have anything to contribute please send by email to ruthot@xtra.co.nz

NZSG Cemetery Month - March

As our newsletter printed bi monthly March being the NZSG Cemetery month the local cemeteries need to be acknowledged.

Porirua area has some old /early cemeteries including the 3 at Pauatahunui, one on the west side of the St Albans Anglican, started in 1860 and now closed. Many members of the district pioneer families are buried there. But there are also the small graveyards, one up the hill beside the St Albans church (1930-1979) and at St Joseph's Catholic Church (1855-1978)

The Porirua cemetery, now closed for burials (1895 -1980) is off Kenepuru Drive, between Porirua and Tawa with approx. 4000 graves unmarked and more than 2000 are the resting place of the patients of the former Porirua mental hospital. My ancestors, James and Louisa NAIRN who lived nearer to Khandallah than Tawa on the Old Porirua Road were buried there in 1921 and 1923. Perhaps more of their family lived in the Porirua area at that time.

Porirua Council has cemetery records online for all of the local cemeteries. There are also smaller less known cemeteries –Honoeke Maori graveyard (1940-1979) Plimmerton, Takapu Maori Cemetery in Porirua (1858-1976). The Tawa Flat Cemetery (1861 -1978) at 311 Main Road, Tawa maintained and listed by Wellington City Council needs to be noted too as it is so close to Porirua. The list of the people known to be buried there is online by the Tawa Historical Society Inc.

Latest additions to New Zealand Newspapers

Papers Past is regularly uploading newspaper articles to their database. The latest additions are mentioned on the home page of their website. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers>

Latest additions to Newspapers (April 2020):

- [Gisborne Times](#) (1901-1937)
- [Hokitika Guardian](#) (1917-1940)
- [Opotiki News](#) (1938-1950)
- [Saturday Advertiser](#) (Jul 1875-1878)
- [Wanganui Chronicle](#) (1860-1869)

Latest additions to Newspapers (Jan 2020):

- Franklin Times (1934 -1945)
- Manawatu Times (1929-1936)
- Nelson Evening Mail (1931-1937)
- Northern Advocate (1946 -1949)
- Timaru Herald (1921-1928)
- Waihi Daily Telegraph (1942, 1945 - 1947, 1949 - 1950)