



Family History Group News

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The Group meets at the WAIKANAE CHARTERED CLUB, 8 Elizabeth Street Waikanae, just over the Railway Crossing, 9.30am to 12 -12.30pm, on the Fourth Thursday of the month –January to November. See the dates in the body of the newsletter.

The Waikanae Family History Group is a corporate member of the Waikanae Chartered Club

Christmas Cometh & the end of another year

Are you prepared or leaving everything to the last minute! You might ask that of me because I normally prepare a two page newsletter for all our family and friends, to be included with their Christmas cards or sent to them by email, much less work having got away from writing a different note in the cards, sixty or seventy of them. Of course many reciprocate with newsletters and all of these and our own contribute more information for our family histories. When there is an event do you rush off and put it in your diary and your Family Tree Maker programme immediately, of course not, because you were baking when that news came on the phone, no entry was made, and time passes. However there are some avid diarists, and sorry but I am not one of them, and when it comes to developing that Christmas newsletter, there is always some muttering about missed notations. I don't think New Year resolutions make a difference – so let's strive to improve. Do keep those newsletters though, more hoarded history!

Family Stories – about Food

On our recent South Island trip we caught up with a cousin who on her ¼ acre section has quite a few chooks, and egg production at its premium. A supply was offered to her sister-in-law but there was a marked reluctance to take them because she liked the ones from the supermarket, despite the fact that the free range ones were probably better. She did take advantage of the supply eventually! I had a similar experience on our family farm in Australia, where two brothers married two sisters, and so my cousins, the two older ones, girls, and they lived with grandma in town and went to school in Cootamundra. At home on holidays they witnessed my father separating the milk for the cream and the older one with a screwed up expression exclaimed "Ooh we would not drink that milk when we are home, it came from the dirty old cow!" (at this point the milk was still warm and with a distinctly bovine odour)". My father asked the question "Why not?" The reply came that "we only drink it where it comes out of the clean milk can in town!!!" This was the era where the milkman delivered his milk from the horse and cart around town, housewives and children lined up with their jug or billycan for their pint or quart.

Future meetings & Research mornings

November 10th (Tuesday) Committee meeting 9.45am

November 19th **Research morning 9.30am**

******November 26th** regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm + Christmas Lunch

2016

January 12th -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

January 14th – research morning – 9.30am

January 28th - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

February 9th -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

February 25th - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

March 8th -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

March 10th – research morning – 9.30am

March 24th - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

Research morning – 19th November

What happened last month makes us wonder if such an event is worthwhile!

Thursday October 15th is on your calendars as a research day and just three of us had a bit of fun, firstly trying to get on the internet, then Linda and Rodney desperately trying to find Rodney's grandparents, but Ancestry was having none of his "digging". At 11am we decided enough was enough and we all went home. Did you miss out? If you think you might take advantage of the time on the 19th of November would you please contact me by email, so that those of us who need to be there can arrive, knowing that we won't be the only ones there. This is an opportunity to be close to the action, do a bit more research, or get some one on one help.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

We make it our business to be neighbourly and promote your participation in other groups locally and elsewhere, our nearest neighbour is Kapiti Genealogy (NZSG), PO Box 703, Paraparaumu, 5254 <http://KapitiGen.org>. Just \$25 to join.

Become a member of the Waikanae Chartered Club, just \$50 for one year and you need two referees (contact me, my membership number is 184), Also you could join the New Zealand Society of Genealogists see www.genealogy.org.nz and download a form to apply, and check on the fee.

FindMyPast new releases

This week, we've released millions of new records including:-

1939 Register

Explore one of the most important documents of modern British history to discover where your relatives were living, with whom and what jobs they did at the start of World War II.

Uncover stories of a people whose lives were about to change forever »

Additional Burials from Yorkshire, England

Over 62,000 new records from Bradford Family History Society are now available to search. Explore over 220 years of records covering 18 locations to discover the final resting place of your relatives.

Where were your Yorkshire ancestors laid to rest? »

Marriage Licences from Cambridgeshire, England, 1684-1811

Search over 8,000 records to find out if any of your relations received a marriage licence from the ancient Anglican Diocese of Ely in Cambridgeshire and discover who they married.

Uncover new branches of your Cambridgeshire family »

Lloyd's Register of Merchant Ships Index 1843

Was your ancestor the master of a ship in 1843? Search over 14,000 entries to discover the name of their vessel and where they sailed from.

Find out if your family sailed the seven seas »

Explore the 1939 Register and more this weekend to gain a unique glimpse of your family, their home and their community as you've never seen them before.

If you have any queries or comments, or discoveries you'd like to share, get in touch [here](#). We love hearing your stories! Have a great weekend, **Alex, Editor (This week's FMP news)**

Repairing and caring for ancestor's Graves

Peter Calvert has just written a paragraph on this subject and I offer my personal advice on what we in both sides of my family have done. I have lead the way in our case by suggesting and going through with applying a brass plaque to two family graves, one in Wanganui, and the other in Young NSW my home town. Stonemasons over the centuries have used different methods of lettering on headstones but very few of them are particularly long lasting. So in 2004 in Wanganui we found a neglected grandparents Troy's grave, a simple concrete perimeter with an engraved headstone with a sandstone finish with barely visible lettering. The answer is a bronze plaque with raised lettering fixed in an appropriate blank space on the headstone. These are almost indestructible, from time to time thieves have stolen them, but that is a rare occurrence because they are usually firmly fixed. The cost back in 2004 was around \$450 but when you organise the lettering to accurately record birth and death dates, it is a relatively inexpensive update. In Young we were dealing with a vandalised gothic window shaped

headstone, which was poorly replaced on the flat of the grave – an illegal fix according to the local municipal council because the grave was considered an historic one, and should have been faithfully repaired, and in an upright position.



Sorry about the size of this photo, my grandparents new “headstone”, Young NSW, it might be obvious with that family middle name whose grandparents they are.

From Your Committee – Meeting of 10 November

*Your committee have recently applied for funding from the local body and ANZ Staff Foundation and have been unsuccessful with both applications, so if you know of any Trust which is offering funds on application please inform us.

*Russell Tether will definitely be giving us a run down on how to use Ancestry.com to our best advantage.

*At our future meetings we will be spreading our first session groups around the club premises to minimise the hearing problems which we experience in the auditorium one group will go to the Cardiff room if it is available, one in the Billiard room, and one in the Restaurant if it is free. We will still have our research facilities set up in the auditorium along with the registration desk and morning teas.

*We are looking at a community family history exercise where we set up a couples' family on Family Tree Maker for example, then print out a descendant outline of three generations. Assuming that all the details are correct this will greatly help the undertaker and the family informant bring together most of the information required to produce a death certificate. This also gives rise to the opportunity to have a local undertaker give us a presentation on dealing with this most important legal requirement around the death of a family's loved one.

Christmas Luncheon

This function will follow our Thursday 26th November meeting, the last meeting of the year and the menu will probably be a roast + sweets. Cost will be tailored to not burn hole in our wallets, the aim is to not exclude anyone because of a prohibitive cost, plus apart from this factor we want as many or all of our members present and looking forward to dining together. No there will be no presents, I am not Scrooge, just mindful that Christmas does strain the bank account a little – our focus is on your social opportunity in our Group. This is an opportunity for you to bring your husband/wife or partner or a family member.

Waikanae Chartered Club

I mentioned membership of the club before, the WFHG is a corporate member of the Club and when you attend our meetings there is no requirement for you to sign in at the bar as visiting

patrons to the club are required to, you are required by us to register in our meeting register – this serves several purposes – one in the unlikely event of a disaster (earthquake high on that list) we know who is in the building (OSH) and of course it is a guarantee we have a record of the good health of our group, and we also count the number of those present for statistical reasons. We know we are doing well, there were 26 present at our October meeting.

Famnet

We had a lively debate about FamNet and we recognise that we have to have some regular sessions with users and or new users. Rodney Foster who has been a long time user, has volunteered to help us have some “revision sessions” to help people come to terms with the system. We can rely on Robert Barnes giving us some Skype sessions too, if he is approached. Now if you are a user or potential user, please don't hesitate to call us or Rodney, we can devote some time at the research mornings to look at it as well.

Operation Pied Piper – an extract from Peter Calvert's own story in LostCousins

“With the threat of war looming, the British Government prepared plans for mass evacuation. During WW1 Germany had bombed London and other targets using Zeppelin airships (you can read more about it [here](#)), but now the enemy had modern bombers (over 1000 were operational by September 1939), and the bombing of [Guernica](#) in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War, had demonstrated the devastation that could be wrought. Preparations started long before the war: this [form](#) headed *Government Evacuation Scheme* is dated May 1939 - note that mothers were asked if they wanted to go with their children.

Operation Pied Piper went into action on 1st September 1939, two days before Neville Chamberlain, the British Prime Minister made his momentous radio broadcast to the nation:-

"This morning the British Ambassador in Berlin handed the German Government a final Note stating that, unless we heard from them by 11 o'clock that they were prepared at once to withdraw their troops from Poland, a state of war would exist between us.

"I have to tell you now that no such undertaking has been received, and that consequently, and there are anecdotal stories of this country is at war with Germany."

Children had assembled in school playgrounds on the morning of 1st September, each with a luggage tag attached to their coat, and carrying bare necessities: their gas mask, underwear, pyjamas or nightdress, plimsolls, toothbrush, comb, soap, and a face flannel. Over half a million children were evacuated from London alone during September, and my mother - then 13 years old - appears to have been one of them, because on Registration Day (29th September) she wasn't at home with my grandparents.”

Can I ask of our members do they have any stories about some of the boys who were evacuated to New Zealand from Britain – we know there were anecdotal stories of the young boys being used like slaves by some of the NZ so called benefactors who took them in, especially on farms, and many lived on with bitter memories of their “stolen childhood”.

This also brings to mind the “stolen generation” of aboriginal children in Australia – I was a telephone technician in Cootamundra NSW (in the days of manual telephone exchanges), and we had several telephonists who came from the “Girl's Home” on the hill in town. We all became more aware of this situation in more recent times, and my memory of trying to teach them and a stubborn attitude that may have been a silent protest about their “predicament”.

[Waikanae Family History Group Committee](#)

Secretary (Vacancy: New Secretary required) *Could this be you?*

Rodney Foster, Treasurer, Deputy Librarian, Acting Vice President, rodfos@gmail.com

Jo Sinclair, Meeting Registrar

Beryl Stevenson, Hospitality

Linda Schager, Committee, CD Librarian, 902 0497

May Redmond, Committee, [a welcome volunteer](#)

Russell Tether, Team Leader, Auditor, tether@xtra.co.nz

Gerald Twiss, Team Leader (off Committee)

Aileen Wood, Team leader (off committee)

[Research Officer](#), ask the committee

Hanley Hoffmann, President, Editor

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