



# 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

## 2016 New Year – A NEW BEGINNING

I don't think New Year resolutions make a difference – so let's strive to improve. Yes that is what I said in your last Newsletter and let us strive to make a difference instead, so I have resolved to target each one of you to get some good stories – there are dozens out there just waiting for us to publish, now I know some of you are going to say 'but they are about the living!' OK but you do not have to name names, and we do not have to publish your name as the author.

## Meeting dates for the start of our 5<sup>th</sup> Year

2016

January 12<sup>th</sup> -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

January 14<sup>th</sup> -- research morning – 9.30am

January 28<sup>th</sup> - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

February 9<sup>th</sup> -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

February 25<sup>th</sup> - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

March 10<sup>th</sup> – research morning – 9.30am

March 24<sup>th</sup> - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

April 12<sup>th</sup> -Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

April 28<sup>th</sup> -regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

May 10<sup>th</sup> Trust committee meeting 9.45am to 10.45am

May 26<sup>th</sup> - regular monthly members meeting 9.30am to 12.30pm

## Margaret Brown's puzzle

Very recently I visited the grave of one of my great-great-grandmothers, Jane McKenzie. I had been searching for 3 years and finally found that she was not in Dunedin, where I thought she would be, but indeed right under my nose at Karori cemetery. From the office at Karori I received a copy of the Plot summary, and found that the plot was purchased by a certain Ellen Humphries and that there was also an Ellen Walsh in the grave. Could this be one of Jane's 6 daughters that I didn't have names for. I thought that there could be a second marriage involved here so looked up BDM NZ and found a marriage for an Ellen Humphrey to a Michael Walsh, which I ordered. Her mother was Jane Morris, and I now have a third possible maiden name for Jane, having already Sheils and then Seale, from other certificates, I now have Steel! Ellen's father is more of a challenge as he is listed as James, not William and was a farmer not a clerk. So, I am more confused than ever. I would have expected Ellen to have been born in Dunedin and not Napier! Whoever said that sorting out one's family history was a life-long exercise really hit the nail on the head.

## GOOD NEWS –NO FEE!

Good News! The Victorian bdm has removed the 99c charge to search their Historical indexes. The service from this site is very good and the 99c barrier was an annoying feature. I didn't mind paying, but it was the bother of setting up the credit that stopped me, so well done

to them. [www.bdm.vic.gov.au](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au) Historical indexes of births, baptisms, marriages, burials and deaths dating back to 1836. Births to 1914, marriages to 1942 Deaths to 1988. Also Events at sea 1853-1920. Historical certificates are available as instantly downloadable PDF images or mailed hard copy certificates. Cost \$NZ 24.

#### FAMILY TREE MAKER

Ancestry have done it again, they have unceremoniously dumped users of Family Tree Maker but don't despair because most of you will have seen my separate message issued when the news broke! Your current programme will last a long time yet, and you have until 2017; but what does that mean, because they say they will continue to support it until then, over all the years I have been using it there has never been any direct support offered. Yes they brought out new versions after 2006 Version 16, but I believe it was these that brought the demise of the programme. From 2008 onwards the new versions were awful, complicated, not simple to use like V16, difficult to read because of the colours, the fine fonts, and the scatter fashion of the features. Navigation around the system was illogical, brain numbing. I contacted one of the key persons in Ancestry a couple of years ago by phone and at my expense and he admitted that the new versions were unnecessarily complex – but he did not offer to fix them.

Now here is a tip, if you are using 2006 V16 and are going for a new computer and Windows 10. Keep your program disk safe and when all your programmes are transferred to the new computer – and hullo, my FTM has disappeared, along with all my family tree!

Simple remedy which I used recently, load your programme disk onto the new computer, and it should immediately resurrect your old V16 along with all your data! What a relief, I did this for Pat Watkins in Miramar recently and she is still smiling, and so is Rodney our treasurer, we received a \$25 donation from her for our services. Try this with your newer versions if need be.

For those who made contact with Ancestry via the little icon in the middle of your family page (V16) then we assume you will not be able to do that anymore, or download through that icon, but that just echo's my advice over the years not to use that access!

#### **A Brief History of the Gilbert Family of Oriental Bay, Wellington**

James and Elizabeth Gilbert both came from Cornwall. James was born in 1837 at St Just and later, was a miner there in the tin and copper mines. Elizabeth, nee White, was born in Pendeen in 1850. The family lived in a small, stone cottage at Chyrose farm, which overlooked the rugged cliffs to the sea off the northern coast of Cornwall.



Both families emigrated to Ballarat in Australia where many Cornish had gone to work in the mines in the hope of forging a better life for themselves and their families. The Cornish copper mining industry collapsed in 1866, so that was likely the year in which they left. Both families settled in South Australia where gold mining promised great wealth for those who were lucky. James and Elizabeth married in 1867. In 1868, their first son, James was born. Four more sons followed and finally, a daughter, Elizabeth in 1883. In approximately 1895, the family moved to New Zealand, living in Opawa, Lyttelton, Christchurch (1896 census). The home was occupied by James and Elizabeth, James Jr. Albert, and William. Elizabeth Jr. would have been there too

but would not be recorded on the census. In about 1899 the family moved to Wellington. In 1900 they had a house built at 8 Telford Terrace, Oriental Bay. The house was built for the "Gilbert Bros" so was brand new when they moved in. It was owned jointly by James and Elizabeth and their sons, James Jr and William. By 1900, the house was occupied by James and Elizabeth senior, James junior, another son, Richard and daughter Elizabeth. On 18 April 1900, young James married Lucy Lamb. The wedding was held at St John's Presbyterian Church, Willis Street, Wellington. Lucy was a daughter of James and Mary Lamb of Christchurch where the Lamb family had established Lamb Funeral Directors, which much later became Lamb and Hayward.

In 1902, James and Elizabeth Sr. Moved to Greymouth. The Grey River Argus reported on 5 December 1902;

*Mr and Mrs James Gilbert, late of Wellington, accompanied by their daughter, Miss E. Gilbert, arrived in Greymouth by the 'Mapourika' yesterday, and will remain as permanent residents. Mr and Mrs Gilbert are the parents of Mr Albert Gilbert, the well-known jeweller of Tainui Street.*

The Grey River Argus of 17 October 1903 reported;

### **Marriage**

*Gilbert—Richardson —On the 14<sup>th</sup> inst., at St John's Church of England, Westport, by the Rev. J. R. Dart, Albert, third son of James Gilbert, Esq, of Greymouth, to Madge Blanche, third daughter of the late Albert Richardson Esq, chemist, Westport.*

Young James and Lucy continued to live in the Oriental Bay house and had a daughter, Roma Irene in 1903 and a second daughter Grace Alma in 1905. Another son, William Thomas (known as Tom) was also living there by 1905.

James senior died in 1904. The Grey River Argus carried the notice of his death on 10 June 1904.

*Gilbert – On the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, 1904, at his residence, High Street, Greymouth, James Gilbert, native of Cornwall, England, and late of Bendigo, Victoria. Aged 66 years. Private funeral, Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.*

He is buried in the Karoro Cemetery, Greymouth, record # 1015. 1869-1909-PO 3.07

The electoral role of 1905, shows James' widow, Elizabeth, living with her third son, Albert and his wife, Blanche.

In 1914, young Elizabeth married Shirley Thornycroft Frost. In her later years, Elizabeth Gilbert moved to Kaukapakapa, North Auckland and lived out her final years on the farm with her daughter and son-in-law. She died in 1942 and is buried at Helensville. Terry

*Kennaway*

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

No pressure. Thank you Margaret and Terry for your short stories – now to keep them coming.

### **RESEARCH MORNINGS**

Please note that the New Year begins with a research morning on **14<sup>th</sup> January 2016**, so let us get started early – we now have two laptops on which you can search the data library, we have the disks separate, so bring your own laptop. Do you have a special problem, brick wall, hurdle you think we can tackle – give us advance notice with a description of your problem and we will try to come up with an answer.

### **WHO IS GOING TO TAKE OVER?**

Have you got children (adult ones) or grandchildren who could be interested in taking up doing the family history after you? If they haven't shown an interest invite them to one of our meetings, or should we be looking at targeting young people when school holidays are on?

Here is a challenge – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 is in the first school holiday period of the year – why don't we devote that day to invited intermediate students from Kapiti coast Colleges to spend the first session of the day learning on a one on one basis with laptops how to put their family history together. The session could be limited by the use of a registration form, and the students could be encouraged to come in School holidays. It is also possible to have the colleges give students leave to attend just the first session of any one of our meetings as a follow up – or if the school holiday event is not appropriate to run it at any meeting of the year. We would encourage you as a member to bring/register one of your grandchildren or more for the day. Your feedback would be appreciated.

## COMMON BIRTHDAY DATES

How many of your relatives or family in your family tree have birthdays on the same day, in the same family of course. Having phoned my sister in law on boxing day I was reminded that they were celebrating two birthdays, my nephew's first partner produced a daughter by another male on 26 Dec 1988 and then her fourth child with my nephew on 26 Dec 1993, and the mother, although now not the preferred spouse, was born on 26 Dec 1972 and was not there on boxing day 2015. Nevertheless how does the bio clock work. Now you could have a similar better story. There is also the instance where all the family members were born in February or any other month, can you give us one of these stories?

## YOUTH INVOLVED IN FAMILY HISTORY 2016

I have proposed a scheme to Margaret Murtons, one of our dedicated family historians and retired teacher that we make in 2016 a major or minor effort to get intermediate and or high school students involved in family history, maybe your grandchildren, starting at any one or more of our monthly meetings. There are lots of possibilities because students can get leave to attend say the first session of one or as many of our monthly meetings where we will focus entirely on getting them into using a family tree programme, giving them an outline of what they can do, getting them started if they have the will and an abiding interest in taking up this important work. NOW I frequently ask for feedback on many things and here is where we can help to get that next generation doing what we do – and at the end of 2016 if we can look back and see that just four students have stuck with it, that is an advance on the zero of 2015 PLEASE get behind us, alongside us or join our committee just to give time to YOUTH FAMILY HISTORIANS. Also you will remember that we offered a cash prize for a hard copy of a family history – no one took this up, the money is still in the bank and maybe we switch the focus of that prize to youth. Do I hear you?

## PHOTOGRAPHS

Apart from the editor how many people have loads of photographs that depict many historical points in their family history – this is another area of our curriculum that is being neglected and some very good “shots” can enhance your family history. Put this on the agenda for discussion.

## Membership donations

The perennial story of how to maintain your membership – just \$15 donation at our first meeting will get Rodney Foster, our treasurer smiling, and you will be relieved to know that when 1 April comes around you can smugly say “I’ve already paid up!” If you are advancing towards this goal please try to have the correct amount or a cheque just made out to WFHG, we can't make it easier than that, and likewise save up some gold coins so that you have the raffle money ready if you indulge. I am one of those people when we are taking in money for whatever cause and the first five people turn up with a \$20 bill, I want to explode, yep I know that we should be ready with change, but! There are two ways of looking at this –to explode would be a PR disaster. There are those who will turn up with a handful of “rats & mice” – does this sound like a bit of a winge session – but it happens, but both the treasurer and I will smile no matter which way you pay.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE, MAY ALL YOUR SEARCHES  
BE SUCCESSFUL ONES, AND YOUR CERTIFICATE  
SEARCHES BE FULL OF LOVELY SURPRISES.**

[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](mailto: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](mailto: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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