

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 15 August, 5:30 for 6:00 pm 'A quick pivot': Family History Resources at Wellington City Libraries Gabor Toth (venue: National Library Auditorium) Wed 20 Sept, 7 for 7:30 pm *Finding Ancestors without documentation using DNA matches* Alison Howell and Kaye Batchelor (venue: The Hub, Johnsonville) Wed 18 Oct, 7 for 7:30 pm *Filling the gaps in Family History using newspapers* Sarah Hewitt (venue: The Hub, Johnsonville)



Kia ora koutou

We are sending this month's newsletter out early so we can remind you about Ann Ball and Kaye Batchelor's talk *What to do when you've done your DNA* at the National Library on Tuesday 8 August, at 5:30. They were asked by the Porirua branch to be their speakers for Family History Month – great kudos to Ann and Kaye. DNA is certainly a valuable tool to expand your family history and break down brick walls.

A reminder that the Wellington Branch's August meeting is also part of Family History Month and will be on **Tuesday 15 August, 5:30 for 6:00 pm** at the National Library Auditorium. There will be no meeting on Wednesday 16 August. Our

speaker, Gabor Toth, will speak on 'A quick pivot': Family History Resources at Wellington City Libraries.

I attended my first Lower North Island meeting of NZSG Branches and Interest Groups last Saturday – it was very interesting to meet people from other Branches and find out about the different approaches. We were advised that a new online DNA Genealogy Interest Group has been established and to look out for details of the first meeting in the August e-Kit. E-Kit is the newsletter for NZSG members, but you do not have to be a member of NZSG to be a member of the NZSG Branches or Interest Groups. There are several Interest Groups in Wellington.

At our last meeting we had a presentation from Doug Miller, the convenor of the Scottish Interest Group – Greater Wellington. Ann Ball convenes the English Interest Group (Wellington sub-branch) and there is also an Irish Interest Group – Lower North Island. Perhaps we should add their meetings to our newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the four Family History Month talks. I will be in Melbourne visiting my oldest son and his family and so will miss the 3rd and 4th talks, though I might try to zoom in.

Geraldine Needham-Girven, Convenor, Wellington Branch

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August 2023

July's Speaker, Doug Miller: IN SEARCH OF SCOTLAND

Doug Miller is the Convenor of the *Scottish Interest Group – Greater Wellington* and gave a brief guide to researching your Scottish ancestors. For any questions please contact Doug at <u>sigwellington@gmail.com</u>

He reiterated the basic family history research principles of starting from the known and progressing to the unknown. Research and confirm your NZ family details through NZ BMD, Intention to Marry, and shipping details to try to determine when your family came to New Zealand. Did they come directly to NZ or via Australia or Canada. There are several good shipping resources including the relatively new https://nzsc.wordpress.com which covers NZ Shipping Company records.

The primary sources of Scottish information are <u>www.Scotlandspeople.gov.uk</u> (\$\$\$) and <u>www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk</u> (free). Also see <u>www.genuki.org.uk</u>

For *ScotlandsPeople* you buy credits and use some of them when you view the original image. Your searching and viewed records are saved and you do not need to pay again to see this data. This site holds the following records and the amount of data is increasing by the month.

- Statutory Records (Civil Registration started 01 Jan 1855)
- Old Parish Records baptisms and marriages
- Census Returns
- Valuation Rolls
- Legal records (such as wills and probates, coats of arms, military service appeals tribunals) Wills 1513 to 1925
- Poor Relief and Migration Records
- Prison Records
- Kirk Sessions
- Maps and Plans
- and much more

Scotlandsplaces has many maps, and many interesting and varied tax records including horse, dog, female servant, male servant, window, hearth, clock & watch, and cart tax rolls.

If your forebears had an unusual combination of first and last names then check *Google; Ancestry* trees; *Myheritage* trees; *FamilySearch* trees; *WikiTree*; and *Geni*. Do be aware that there can be errors in some of these family trees, and most of them have little or no reference data.

Use Scottish census data to trace your family in Scotland. The site <u>www.freecen.org.uk</u> is a good place to start and it's free. You can also use *Ancestry* and *FindmyPast* to find an entry but you need to pay to view the details. Only ScotlandsPeople has images of the original data. It is worthwhile paying to view the original record as it will have data not shown in other online sites.

Useful record repositories are National Records of Scotland (NRS), National Library of Scotland (NLS), and Gazetteer for Scotland. Some less well known sources of Information include

- On-line digitised books
- PO Directories, Worralls Directory
- Local Newspapers (not yet digitised) via a local Scottish library
- Scottish Council websites for Local History
- Google
- You tube very good for social history

Many people are interested in any links to Scottish Clans and tartans. Two good places to start are <u>https://clan.com</u> and <u>www.scotsclans.com</u>. It is 'okay' to claim allegiance to more than one clan however you need to be careful that any claimed clans did not have a history of conflict with each other.

The NZSG website now has lists of overseas family history resources. See <u>https://Genelogy.org.nz</u> then *RESOURCES* - > *Overview of Overseas Resources*.

To learn more about your Scottish forebears and to ask those interesting questions come along to the quarterly meetings of the *Scottish Interest Group – Greater Wellington*. Our next meeting will be held on 09 September 2023 beginning at 1:30pm at the Tawa Union Church, Elena Place Tawa. The guest speaker will be Sandra Monk talking about her Nova Scotian and Waipu ancestors. We will also have time for research questions. There is a free booklet on *Online Scottish Family History Resources* available and afternoon tea will follow the meeting.

'Tiree'

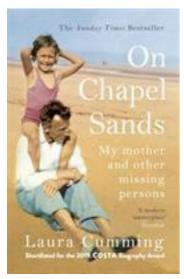
for Bruce

From Oban in the grey dawn the ferry steals past castles and islands: past Mull, past Coll, to Tiree. You stride ashore at Scarinish as though you owned the place.

We begin the ancestor search at Hynish, at the far end of the island. The white cottages, black inside from smoke. One hill. Stone walls. A lone *ti kouka* in the garden of the manse – 'our palm tree'. Look, I say as we ride the narrow road on our rented bicycles, the machair. Look, a Pictish broch! You ride on regardless, the first time you have disregarded antiquity. 'We can come back.'

Finally, we find them, the ancestors, in the old graveyard at Gott Bay behind a sign: Danger! Do not enter! You climb the gate and walk amongst them, saying their names out loud. Anne French July 2022

'My half-brother Bruce has just turned 80. This is about the trip we made to his ancestral island Tiree [Inner Hebrides]. Though they were not my ancestors it was terrific to go there with him and enjoy it vicariously. Much more recently I did an intensive search of the Borders for our shared ancestors, the warlike and unruly Eliotts, who were shipped off to Ireland at some point in the C17. That was fun. We even have a castle, on the moor above Liddesdale. Ruined! Perfect.'



TALKING ABOUT BOOKS: *On Chapel Sands* by Laura Cumming, published by Vintage, 2019. Reviewed by Ann Ball.

I bought this book from Unity Books but it is also available from www.mightyape.co.nz/books (\$36) and from Wellington City Library either as a book or an EAudiobook on Libby. https://catalogue.wcl.govt.nz/

The full title of this book is *On Chapel Sands: My mother and other missing persons* and this hints at both strands of the book. It is a biography of Laura's mother, Elizabeth, and the tale of how Laura, prize-winning author and art critic, and her family uncovered a family mystery.

In the autumn of 1929, a small child was kidnapped from a Lincolnshire beach. Five agonising days went by before she was found in a nearby village. The child remembered nothing of these events and nobody ever spoke of them at home It was

another fifty years before she even learned of the kidnap.

As a teenager Laura Cumming becomes interested in her mother's early life. As a twenty-first birthday present her mother wrote a short memoir for her. While the memoir answered some questions it also raised others. Elizabeth had a small photograph album and Laura started looking at these photographs for clues. And so began Laura's search to find out who her mother really was.

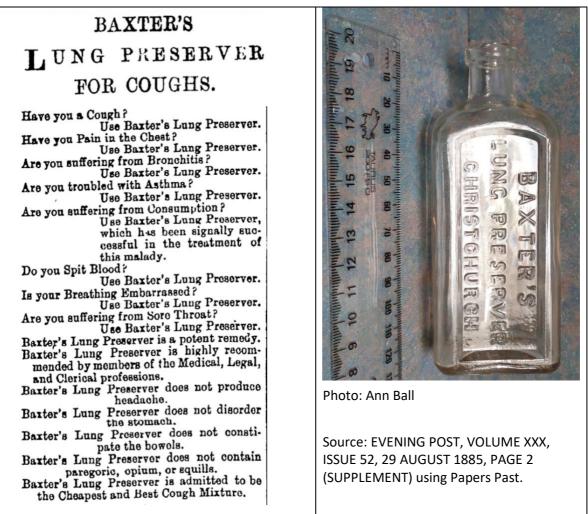
Mother and daughter both write beautifully about the landscape around Chapel Sands St Leonards in Lincolnshire. There are also vivid descriptions of the characters in the village, many of whom knew about the kidnap, and who kept their knowledge secret for the rest of their lives. I was reminded a little of "Cider with Rosie" by Laurie Lee, but without the sexual encounter. *On Chapel Sands* is about discovery, one I can't say too much more about without spoiling the journey. I thoroughly recommend taking this journey, though.

BAXTER'S LUNG PRESERVER

by Ann Ball

My husband was digging in the garden a few weeks ago when he found a small bottle. It was very dirty but cleaned up nicely after we scrubbed it with a soft toothbrush. The bottle is 13cm long and holds 4.2 fluid oz or 125 ml.

We decided to investigate what it was used for and found this interesting article from 1885 from Papers Past. I doubt our bottle is this old. Our former neighbour used to like to use that part of the garden as a dump – so I doubt this bottle is older than the 1950s or 60s.



If you want to know more about this "cure" you can read an interesting article from Christchurch Uncovered:

'Is your breathing embarrassed?' | Christchurch uncovered (underoverarch.co.nz

What did it taste like? Did it actually work? Apparently it's still available but my local pharmacy had never heard of it.

WELLINGTON BRANCH ROUND ROBIN

Would you like to join the Wellington Branch's magazine ROUND ROBIN?

For \$15 a year (plus postage) you can join the Branch's magazine round robin. For that you receive 13 issues of **Who Do You Think You Are**, a leading UK magazine, that is, for about \$1.13 per issue. A subscription to the magazine costs about \$150 per year and each issue costs \$19.99 from reputable stationers.

This sounds too good to be true – but it isn't. How it works is that you go on a list, the person above you posts or delivers the magazine to you, you have a week or so to read it before passing it on to the next person on the list. You can do this by posting it (currently \$4.60) or by delivering it. I try to arrange the list so as many people as possible can easily deliver it to the next person. Some people scan articles they want to keep. And Doug Miller lists some things that he thinks are interesting in the newsletter.

If you are interested in joining the round robin please contact me, Ann Ball, at 027-641-0646 or ball@xtra.co.nz. August 2023 4

ON GENEALOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

'Although Frodo referred to Bilbo as his 'uncle', they were in fact first *and* second cousins, once removed either way (his paternal great-great-uncle's son's son and his maternal great-aunt's son)'¹

Recently one of the contributors to this newsletter used the term: **'2nd great-great uncle'**. Christine couldn't get her mind around what this might mean. Before long this turned into three separate issues and involved several people.

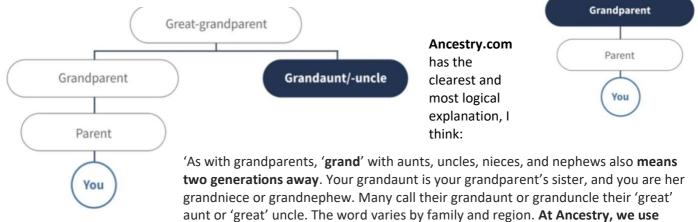
1. What does '2ND GREAT-GREAT' mean?

This term came from **Legacy**, the Family History programme she was using. Legacy also called the son of a 2nd greatgrandfather a great-grandfather so that clarified it: in Legacy '2nd great' means 'great-great' and '2nd great-great' means 'great-great-great'. I had never run across this usage before but it perhaps it is on analogy with '2nd cousin', meaning another step of removal(?) My first guess as to the meaning of **'2nd great-great uncle'** would have been something like: 'I have two great-great-uncles, and Great-great-uncle George is the second one.'

I sent the question out to the committee. Ann Ball replied, saying (among other things): '*My* (*English-based*) computer program **Family Historian** uses great-uncle, great great-uncle and great (x2) great-uncle respectively. I find this last one very confusing.' Christine: 'So do I.'

Can we agree to use '3X great' or 'great-great-great' instead of '2nd great-great' or any other variants; and '4X great' instead of '3rd great-great'? With the '3X great' system, the number tells you how many 'great's are needed.

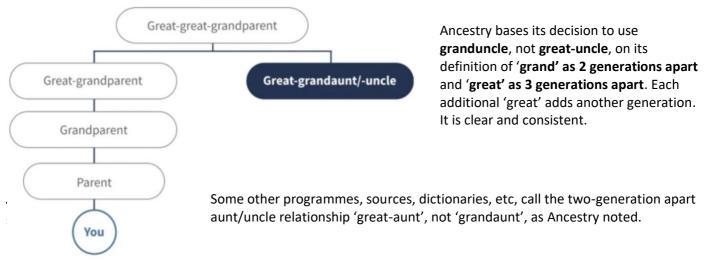
2. Adding in **'UNCLE': What term should be used for the brother of a grandparent and of a great-grandparent? 'GRAND** means **two generations apart**, as with a grandparent and grandchild:



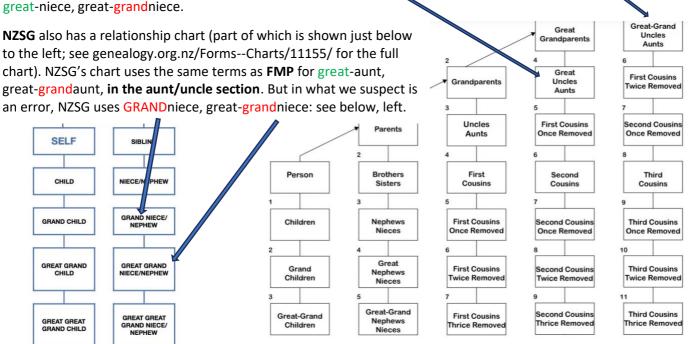
'grand' instead of 'great' for this relationship. 'GREAT means three or more generations apart. Each 'great' adds one more generation. A great-grandparent is three generations away because 'great' adds one generation, and 'grand' adds two generations. It works the same way with aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews. Your granduncle is two generations away, and your great-granduncle is

three generations away. Your great-grandniece is your sibling's great-granddaughter. You are your greatgrandniece's great-grandaunt.'

From: support.ancestry.com/s/article/Understanding-Kinship-Terms?language=en_US



For example, **FindMyPast** (extract below, right) offers 'this (downloadable) Table of Consanguinity show[ing] the degrees of relationships between you and distant branches of your family tree: <u>www.findmypast.co.uk/blog/help/kinship-terminology-how-we-refer-to-our-family-relationships</u>. But instead of Ancestry's 'grandaunt', 'great-grandaunt', etc, **FMP** has 'great-aunt', then, quite illogically, 'great-grandaunt', great-grandaunt', great-grandaunt', the first one. The same pattern is also used for every generation except the first one. The same pattern is also used for every generation except the first one.



According to *Collins Dictionary*, a great uncle is an uncle of a parent (thus a brother of a grandparent). They offer 'granduncle' as an alternative (that is, a synonym) for 'great-uncle'.

On the terminology in dispute above, Ann says, '*Personally, I'd use great-uncle, great-great-uncle and 3x great-uncle. But I would say grandfather, great-grandfather, 2x great-grandfather. Which is inconsistent. Argh!*' Christine, 'Greataunt 'sounds' right. 'Grandaunt', which makes more sense, meaning going back two generations, isn't a term I recall ever hearing and it sounds odd. But Ancestry's system with 'grandaunt' is consistent and I like that.'

Unsurprisingly, in normal life (not in *LOTR*) such distinctions as described above would very rarely be made. Most non-genealogists have no interest in anything beyond standard terms: grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins. Ann says she called her mother's uncle 'uncle' because that's what her mother called him. A raft of 'cousins' of who knows what degree show up at reunions or weddings. Unless you are considering marrying them, it hardly makes any difference what sort of relation they are. Historically in England (over a 1000 years ago) it seems it wasn't even deemed necessary to distinguish 'grandson' from 'nephew;' the same word was used for both.

3. Hyphenation

This is punctuation, not terminology but it has clear rules for usage and if misused can change the intended sense significantly. 'Great grandfather' (without a hyphen) means your grandfather is a great guy. It's just an adjective, like tall, and irrelevant in genealogical contexts. 'Great-grandfather' (with a hyphen) means a parent's grandfather; great-great-father means a parent's great-grandfather. The sense comes from treating the three bits as a whole. You can pretty safely put a hyphen after all occurrences of the word 'great' when referring to members of a family tree. However, 'grand' is NEVER followed by a hyphen (or a space) in the same contexts. I don't know why. It's just the way it is. So it's grandmother NOT grand-mother; great-grandaunt NOT great grand-aunt NOT great-grand aunt, etc.

Genealogy **as a discipline** requires precision of definition and consistency. Starting with '**2nd great-great uncle'** and looking at a small sample of family history programmes (Legacy, Family Historian, Ancestry, FindMyPast, NZSG) we have found inconsistencies and illogical and confusing terminology, for example: 1) '2nd great-great' vs 3X great' or 'great-great-great' 2) grandaunt vs great-aunt 3) great-grandfather vs great grandfather.

How do members feel about this? Should we try to agree on terms and conventions we will use and perhaps even take this to NZSG for discussion?

Christine Franzen and Ann Ball

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Christine Franzen and Ann Ball

Ann has a distant cousin who married Vergie May Boyd. While investigating the unusual name 'Vergie', we ran across one even more unusual. Vergie's mother, Emma Pfohl, had



several siblings. They have perfectly normal names like 'Emma', except for one: 'Rock(a)bella'. This name, as far as we can tell, is unique in the annals of naming, for good reason. 1 or 2 trees try to pass it off as 'Rosabella' but the writing is very clear, on the 1891 census for Canada (L) and also on the birth registration (R). Miss

Rockabella Pfohl uses the name 'Bella' on all other documentation, understandably. She died aged only 22 of tuberculosis. We have k(a)bella' Any thoughts?

absolutely no theories about the origin of 'Rock(a)bella'. Any thoughts?

132 years after Rockabella Pfohl's birth in Canada, there is a hairdresser's shop in Northampton called Rockabelles; a dress shop in New York (Rockabella Boutique); a couple of hotels in Greece (Rocabella); a jewellery shop in Christchurch (Roccabella), as well as a pop group (Rockabella Duo) – and RockaBella – an absolutely delightfulloking shop which appears to cater to drag queens (Crowns & Accessories). 'Drag name' is really the only possible use of 'Rockabella'. Sadly the shop in is Trinidad and Tobago, but their online range is extensive. www.rockabellaxlolas.com



ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, Iss. 201, MAR 2023 by Doug Miller

Ancestry <u>www.ancestry.com</u> Has added about 5.2 million parish records from North Yorkshire. The various record sets cover the years 1558 to 1995.

Ancestry <u>www.ancestry.com</u> Has added about 28.6 million records from Sussex electoral registers. See Ancestry for details.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk Has added a collection of the Irish Licences to Keep Arms [weapons] covering the years 1832 to 1836. About 6,350 people are mentioned.

TheGenealogist <u>www.thegenealogist.co.uk</u> Has added about 630,000 records from the Royal Hospital in Chelsea.

Family Search <u>www.familysearch.org</u> Has added about 2.2million parish and civil registration records from the Ardenne department of north-east France for the period 1585 to 1892.

A 'Best Websites' article on the best sites for finding military memorials and war graves.

A very useful article about the Family Search new 'Guided Research' tool. Apparently this tool greatly simplifies the searching of their BMD records.

A '*Focus On*' article on Methodist Church records in Britain.

A 'Record Masterclass' article on digitised records of the Women's Land Army from WWII.

A '*Tech Tips*' article on how to access the FamilySearch collection of untranscribed and unindexed records.

A very interesting article on Scottish ancestors who lived in crofts and the challenges they faced including the clearances, the collapse of the Kelp industry, and the potato blight.

A feature on the family history resources in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

An interesting article about the Vagrant's book of 1825 to 1836 from Kirkby Lonsdale in Westmorland.

For many other items of interest in this issue and future issues of the magazine it is worthwhile joining the Wellington Branch *Round Robin* magazine list. For details please contact Ann Ball at 027-641 0646 or <u>ball@xtra.co.nz</u> for further details

WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWS

We are now finally into Family History Month. We hope the email we sent out on 30 July gave you all the information you need to find out about the three remaining talks that are on (and where and when), how to register for Zoom if you wish, what the raffle prizes are (fantastic!), and how much the raffle tickets cost. We recommend you bring some coins and small bills with you for raffle tickets and koha for refreshments. (I almost never have any cash on me these days!) In case you need reminding, the following link will give you all the information you need about the talks:

https://natlib.govt.nz/events/family-history-month-2023

We also encourage you to tell friends who are not members to come. One objective of Family History Month is to make ourselves known to the wider community and attract new members. The sessions will be informal and welcoming to all: no preregistration, no charge, just walk in.

Wellington Branch members Ann Ball and Kaye Batchelor are giving the talk on **T 8 August**: What to do when you have done your DNA? Let's be sure to support them by attending and also encouraging non-members to do so.

Wellington Branch's August meeting will be on T 15 August INSTEAD of the normal 3rd Wednesday of the month:

Gabor Toth: 'A quick pivot': Family History at Wellington City Libraries (preand-post closure of the Central Library)

The venue, as with all the talks, is National Library Auditorium, Aitken St. Tea, coffee, nibbles, raffle tickets available from **5:30.**Talks begin at 6:00 pm.

I am very pleased to present in this newsletter a previously unpublished poem, 'Tiree,' by the well-known New Zealand poet, Anne French. Thank you, Anne, for permission to include it here. The evocative genealogical poem and her account of ancestor hunting in the Borders fit perfectly with Doug Miller's account of his July talk 'Searching for Scotland'. Many thanks to Doug for his succinct presentation of his highly informative talk. And thanks to Doug for another 'Tips from WDYTYA'. Ann Ball has done much of the rest of the newsletter (sometimes jointly with me): thank you again.

This newsletter asks a lot of questions: Did you ever take Baxter's Lung Preserver, and if so, what happened? Where on earth would someone get the name 'Rockabella'? And, in a more serious vein, should we try to agree on genealogical terms and conventions we will use and perhaps even take this to NZSG for discussion? We look forward to your thoughts.

Christine Franzen, Newsletter Editor wellington@genealogy.org.nz

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH?

KILBIRNIE

Thursday 7 Sept, 9 am for 10

Members are invited to speak on an ancestor who signed the 1892 or 1893 Suffrage Petitions

(19th September is Suffrage Day)

Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St

PORIRUA

Tuesday 8 August, 5:30 pm Ann Ball & Kaye Batchelor What to do when you've done your DNA? National Library Auditorium, Aitken St

HUTT VALLEY

Tuesday 22 August, 5:30 pm Kelly Dix and Jason Murphy Family History Research using Papers Past and DigitalNZ National Library Auditorium, Aitken St

DIRECTORY





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POSTAL ADDRESS

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EVENING MEETINGS

Third Wednesday of the month

February through November

7:00 for 7:30 pm start

Collective Community Hub 33 Johnsonville Road

Committee Contact

wellington@genealogy.org.nz **Branch Website**

genealogy.org.nz/Branchdetails/11084-s1100084/ **Facebook Page**

Facebook.com/NZSGWellington

KAPITI

Tuesday 22 August, 7 pm Rodney King Preserving your History when you've gone

Coast Community Church,

57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu