



APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING MEETINGS THE HUB, 33 JOHNSONVILLE RD 7 for 7:30 pm

<p>Wednesday 19 April</p> <p><i>Search, Filter, Create, and Commemorate</i></p> <p>Kelly Dix of Digital NZ</p>	<p>Wednesday 17 May</p> <p>Annual General Meeting AND <i>Extraordinary stories from Glenside and Halfway House</i></p> <p>Claire Bibby</p>	<p>Wednesday 21 June</p> <p><i>Finding the Staffordshire-born Ackley Children in Canada</i></p> <p>Rodney King</p>
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CONVENOR'S CORNER

Hi all

April is Easter and ANZAC month. I hope you have enjoyed some family time over Easter or maybe some time away from Wellington? Or been working on your family history?

On 25 April (ANZAC Day) I will look forward to putting on my father's medals and marching in the parade in Tawa: from the New World car park at 10 am to the Tawa RSA building where a service will be held at the memorial nearby. I look forward to doing this each year to honour those that fought for our country.



Ernest A. Hutchison No. 16620 of the 23rd Battalion WW II

If you wish to look up NZ Defence Force files you may have a year's wait. But you may be able to do it sooner in person by filling out the form on the Defence website. [Service records - New Zealand Defence Force \(nzdf.mil.nz\)](http://nzdf.mil.nz)

The Committee has been busy putting together the year ahead with a great line up speakers. It is looking very good. We hope you can come along and attend Wellington Branch's monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday.

This month we have Kelly Dix from DigitalNZ. Come along and listen to what Kelly can tell us. See you all on the 19th April at 7:00 pm at the Collective Community Hub, Johnsonville.

Take care
Prue
Convenor
wgtbranch@gmail.com



Beach Cemetery, ANZAC Gallipoli

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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MARCH'S SPEAKER: Dr Anna Green

'The Missing Link: New Zealand European/Pākehā Intergenerational Family Memory'

Dr Anna Green of the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies at Victoria University, Wellington, spoke to us about an extensive Marsden-funded project she has been working on since 2016: 'The Missing Link: New Zealand European/Pākehā Intergenerational Family Memory' (<http://www.familymemory.nz>) The final product will be a book.

The focus is on descendants of European settlers who came to New Zealand before 1914, and what stories and memories have been passed down within their families. Very little research has been done in this area.

From a random sample from the General Electoral Roll, 60 multigenerational families were chosen and 150 oral history interviews conducted. The participants were 63% female and 36% male. The multigeneration aspect was crucial to the study as the grandparents were often the key in transmission of family stories.

Rather than using a questionnaire, which imposes a narrative, their interviews asked more open questions: tell us about yourself, your family history, and stories that had been passed down. They were asked to bring objects and photographs that were significant to their family's past. Some told of good or bad luck, disgrace, breakdowns, alcohol, 'stories of adversity overcome'. The stories were generally consistent across the generations.

The interview might end with something like: 'What would you hope for your children, what would you hope for them, in terms of their lives?

One reply: I think lives which...are meaningfully and purposefully engaged in the issues of the world, really.'

Without the oral history stories about the family past, it is much more difficult to learn about the interior world of the family, everyday life and relationships.

It was a fascinating talk and generated many questions and much discussion.

BOOK REVIEW

Gareth St John Thomas, *Finding True Connections: How to learn and write about a family member's history* (Exisle, Emotional Inheritance Division, 2019). Available at Wellington Public Library, and by ordering.

Trained staff at the Emotional Inheritance Division of Exisle Publishing will, after a series of interviews, write and publish your, or a family member's, life story. *Finding True Connections* sets out how you can undertake this process yourself, without an external interviewer.

The book is designed as a series of 100 double-page spreads, with a prompt question on the left-hand page and, on the facing page, notes to provide context to the question and tips and guidance for how to gain the most meaningful answers. The 100 questions are split into nine sections that move through a person's lifetime.

An example is Question 26 in the Early Years section:

'What were you like as a child? How did people describe you?'

Then there is a follow-up question

'Do you think you have changed a great deal since then, or are you very much the same person?'

There is some guidance:

'Sometimes people are slow to answer this question as they are not sure where to start. To prompt them, you could ask what a favourite class would have been at school, what a teacher or parent might have said about them, what they were best at, were they an initiator or a follower in groups of children. Ask what they dreamed about and what made them happy.'

Examples of other questions are:

'6 Do you have memories of your grandparents when you were growing up'

'36 Do you remember your first romantic crush on someone? Can you tell me about it?'

'56 What was the best part of having children?' [obviously only suitable for parents]

Where *Finding True Connections* falls down is its lack of practical advice about conducting an oral history and how to find and work with a publisher. Probably they expect you to contact Exisle Publishing.

At our March meeting Dr Anna Green talked to us about the Family Memory project and how she interviewed people about their families. She didn't tell us what questions she used but they might have been similar to these.

A useful book to use if someone asks you to write their life story or you want to write your own personal story for your family.

Review written by Ann Ball

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old...

Like many New Zealand families, mine remembers losses and service during the two World Wars (and indeed the Boer War). I've given details of a few losses below from both my Wilson and Hood families from Canterbury. As well as those who made the supreme sacrifice there were many others who served, one became a prisoner-of-war following capture in Greece, and one went on to serve in the J-Force after fighting in the Pacific. Several others were farmers, who as essential workers were not conscripted but served in the Home Guard, and at least one single woman was 'man-powered', that is, required to work in jobs to fill in for the men who were away. Others who were 'too old' were involved in community work raising the required funds that each area had to contribute to the War Effort, not to mention the women knitting for men in the services and making up food parcels to send abroad. Those who died are remembered by re-use of their names down several generations. We have several Errols, Lisles, and Leslies!

Remembered by Pam Wilson

WILLIAM ROLAND ERROL HOOD (1897–1918)

He was born 17 February 1897 in Springburn, Canterbury, son of John and Margaret Hood (née Johnstone). He was the youngest in the family of 8 surviving children.

Ashburton High School Old Boy's Register 1912: Hood William Errol. From Mt. Somers, Brother of No. 447. A fine footballer and athlete. Was a member of the first XV 1912-15 and Captain 1915.



Won the Senior Athletic Championship in 1914 and 1915 and the Gymnastic Championship in 1915. In 1915 he passed Public Service Entrance and gained the Fooks Memorial Prize.

He joined the Lands and Survey Department in Christchurch but later entered the office of National Mortgage and Agency at Ashburton where he became Cashier.



Errol Hood

He was called up to the 2nd Battalion of the Canterbury Regiment and left New Zealand with the 38th Reinforcements, was severely wounded in France at Mormal Forest following the battle to liberate the town of Les Quesnoy, on 4 November 1918, and died on 7 November 1918 (just 4 days before the Armistice).

SEFTON DOUGLAS LISLE HOOD (1915—1943)

He was born at Mt Somers and educated at Mt Somers School and Ashburton Technical School. He became an engineer and worked at a sawmill at Ross on the West Coast. He joined up when World War II broke out and was posted to Britain. During active service he became a pilot instructor on Lancasters before transferring to flying night bombing raids. He was mentioned in Despatches for Distinguished Service (see citation below) reported in NZ on 19 January 1943, and only 2 days later, on 21 January 1943, his family found out he was Missing in Action. He has no known grave but his name is on the Runnymede Memorial, Missing Presumed Dead in January 1943.



Hood, Flying Officer Sefton Douglas Lisle, MID NZ 40975. Born Mt Somers, Canterbury 4th October 1915; RNZAF 9th April 1940 to (KAO)¹ 18 January 1943. Pilot.

***Citation Mention in Despatches.** (NY 1943): For distinguished services with 27 OTU² RAF (Wellington) and 1656 HCU³ RAF (Lancaster) Fg Off Hood's operational flying included the following targets with 149 Sqn RAF Kiel (4) Brest (3) Bordeaux, Cologne, Mannheim (3) Hamburg (2) Hannover and Dusseldorf. As an instructor he also flew operationally to Bremen and Berlin. KAO Berlin Germany, 18th January 1943 with 1656 HCU. No Known Grave.*

Commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial.

- 1 KAO – Killed on Air Operations
- 2 OTU – Operational Training Unit
- 3 HCU – Heavy Conversion Unit



Lisle Hood on leave in Mt Somers with his grandmother Margaret Hood (mother of Errol above)

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn...



ROBERT WILLIAM LESLIE WILSON (1893—1916)

Private, 6/2962, Canterbury Infantry Regiment 1st Battalion

Leslie was born in Belfast near Christchurch, the son of William and Margaret Wilson, née Hanna. He was the grandson of Robert and Margaret Wilson who arrived on the 'The Charlotte Jane,' one of the First Four Ships into Lyttleton in December 1850. His father William took over his parents' farm 'Urekia' at Belfast near Christchurch, where Leslie was born and started school. He was the eldest son in a family of 10 surviving children. The family shifted to Sefton but later returned to Belfast where Leslie was a farmer before joining up in 1915. He died of wounds sustained in the Battle of the Somme, World War 1, on 28 September 1916, aged 23 years. He is buried in the Dartmoor Cemetery, Becordel-Becourt, Somme, France.

Remembered by Pam Wilson

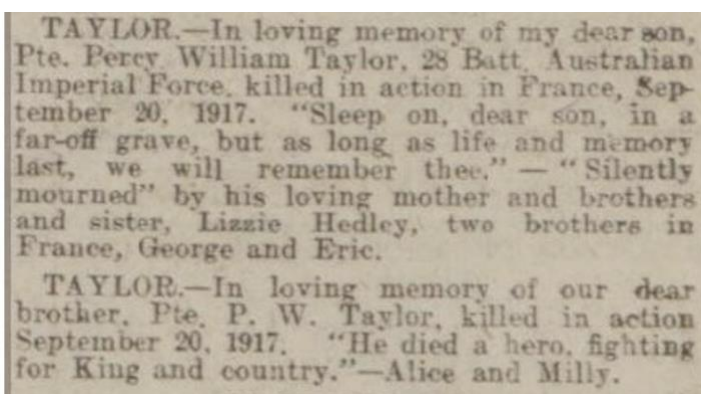
PERCY WILLIAM TAYLOR (1894—1917)

Percy William TAYLOR was my 2x great uncle on my maternal grandmother's side. He was born in Burton upon Trent in 1894. In 1912 he joined his brother Arthur Henry, who had emigrated to Perth, Australia, in 1908. He joined the Australian Imperial Force on 30 April 1915 in Perth, just after the ANZAC Day landings. He arrived in Gallipoli and was almost immediately wounded (crushed toes). Later when he was in Belgium he got into trouble – for refusing an order to blow out a candle. In France he was wounded again – a gunshot wound to the right foot – and spent time recovering in England. He re-joined his battalion in France on 18 July 1917 and he was killed in action in Belgium on 10 September 1917.

He is commemorated on the Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial ([commonwealth war graves](#)) and at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra.

Remembered by Ann Ball

He was missed and remembered by his family back in England.
From *Tamworth Herald*, 21 Sep 1918



30/4/15	Enlisted.
4/9/15	Embarked to Gallipoli.
21/9/15	In hospital Malta, crushed toes.
5/11/15	Back to duty Anzac.
12/4/16	Sentenced to 3 years Penal Servitude — drunk, inciting to resist arrest, disobedience of orders — sentence commuted to 90 days F.P.No.2 30/5/16.
29/7/16	Wounded in Action.
18/7/17	Rejoined unit.
10/9/17	Killed in Action.
Recommended that all War Medals be issued.	

I found his Service record at www.awm.gov.au.



At the going down of the sun, and in the morning...

The Five Fletcher Brothers

Remembered by Geraldine Needham-Girven

This is the story of my paternal grandmother's five brothers, written by their niece. The family lived in Bethnal Green, East End of London.



'**James** [left] was wounded and died in hospital in Alexandria. **Fred** [below] was missing presumed dead. **Ted** or **Edward** was killed in France, the only one of them married. He left a wife and 6 children. **Ben** [below left] came home and made an unhappy marriage, he also lost money in a business adventure the first year of his marriage. His wife gave birth to twin daughters, then soon after they had a son who as far as I know was drowned at sea during the second war. Well after about 4 years of marriage he went insane. I don't know if he is still alive. At the time they said he would never get mentally well again because what with his brothers and one thing and another it got him down. Now the 5th brother, his name was **Arthur**. He was only 16 when he joined up. His mother and father were dead against it, but he said if they didn't let him go, he would run away and join up, so they let him go. He was just 17 when going into the front line and was killed almost at once. After the war an officer came and told my grandparents what had happened. My poor Gran got the news of **Fred** and **Arthur** the same day. In the second war **Edward**'s wife, who had married again and had a son 19 and a daughter 13, were all killed in an air raid shelter at Lewisham. A very sad story of 5 very nice men.'



by Winifred Elsie Needham, née Green, 1907-75 (punctuation added)

Over the years I have been able to verify everything and expand on the stories as well. **James** was wounded at Gallipoli. gdid not die until 1968 in Claybury Hospital, Redbridge, Essex, and one of the causes of death was chronic schizophrenia. He had been living there in 1939, but I have been unable to find out when he was admitted. One of **Ben**'s sons died on the HMS Dunedin which was torpedoed. **Ted**'s wife did remarry and have two children, and all three died in 1941 from injuries due to an enemy air attack.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

3 May 1915



ROUNDEL

Vera Brittain

Because you died, I shall not rest again,
But wander ever through the lone world wide,
Seeking the shadow of a dream grown vain
Because you died.

I shall spend brief and idle hours beside
The many lesser loves that still remain,
But find in none my triumph and my pride;

And Disillusion's slow corroding stain
Will creep upon each quest but newly tried,
For every striving now shall nothing gain
Because you died.

5 Nov 2015

We will remember them.

Those they fought with remember them still

Remembered by Christine Franzen

The greatest story of war, heroes, the futility of it all. Where all the myths began...

22 Jan 2008: We visited Troy and Gallipoli. The site of Troy is small, confusing, over-excavated, heaps of rubble, apart from the survival of a portion of the sloping wall. The story, much retold, is all that retains the horror and poignancy of whatever, if in fact anything at all 'Homeric', happened here.

From Troy we could almost see Gallipoli, so very different in presentation: swathes of immaculately groomed grass, memorials, statues, cemeteries. We walked onto the beach the ANZAC troops should have landed at and then the one where they actually did – tiny with impossibly steep eroded cliffs. 'Like trying to climb the walls of Troy', I said to our Turkish guide. 'I'm going to use that', she said. We saw trenches, absurdly close together. A statue of a Turkish soldier carrying an Australian one reinforced how close the soldiers were in other ways, too; mutual respect grew across enemy lines. And finally Atatürk's words:

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives ... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side here in this country of ours ... You, the mothers who sent their sons from faraway countries, wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land they have become our sons as well.



I was overwhelmed at such generosity of spirit towards a former enemy.

6 April 2016: We visited the Maritime Museum of Crete. Upstairs 'The Battle for Crete' had an ANZAC memorial room. The Māori Battalion was particularly honoured for the 'Charge at 42nd Street' on 27 May 1941. Hopelessly



outnumbered, the plaque said, as the German soldiers approached, a member of the Māori Battalion stood up unarmed and did a haka; others joined him. They then charged with their bayonets, and the terrified Germans turned and fled. (In fact the official history doesn't mention a Māori soldier standing up or a haka: 'Anzac defenders carried out a bayonet charge that caused heavy casualties on German attackers.') Where did this story, so prominently displayed arise? Who knows? But the land of myths knows heroics when it sees them.

As we left I mentioned to a guard that we were from NZ, and he became extremely friendly and thanked us profusely: 'New Zealand is in my heart, with Australia. They stuck it out, weren't bothered by anything, unlike the Brits.' It was very touching and

heartfelt. I said it didn't have anything to do with me, but he said he loves and honours all New Zealanders. Cretans in general, just like the Turks, welcomed us for the deeds of our forebears. It didn't seem to matter whether they were fighting with or against them. They recognised a spirit worthy of respect.

Items of interest from various issues of *Who Do You Think You Are*

Issue 195, September 2022

There is a new database detailing approx 17,000 accidents affecting British and Irish railway workers for the period 1900-1915 and 1921-1939. This part of the Railway Work, Life, & Death project.

Family Search www.familysearch.org has added about 119,000 parish register and nonconformist records.

Ancestry www.ancestry.com has added 4 BMD collections of Church of England parish registers from the city of York and the surrounding area.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added about 2400 names of British soldiers and German Hessians captured during the US War of Independence.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added the details of about 129,000 men and women who died while serving in the RAF.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added details of 58,000 service personnel who died while serving with Bomber Command. Also added are recommendations for honours made between 1935 and 1990 by the British Army.

An interesting feature about tracking down where your Victorian ancestors lived in London. Several very useful resources are listed including Fire Insurance maps, Poverty maps, and the London Picture Archive.

An intriguing article about the company Super Recognisers International (SRI) who are able to remember and recognise people's faces even as they age.

A *Best Websites* article on researching your performer ancestors such as actors and musicians.

For war historians there is an interesting article about the use of Zeppelins as bombers in WWI.

A '*Focus On*' article on *Estate Archives*.

A '*Tech Tips*' article on using the *National Archives of Australia* passenger database.

A feature on the archives and museums in Lincolnshire.

Issue 196, October 2022

A feature on colourising your old family photos. The feature compares the offerings of various companies who supply this service and find the results vary markedly. If you are considering colourising your photos this article is a must read.

Family Search www.familysearch.org has added about 4.5M records from the French department of Hautes-Alpes for the period 1583-1902.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added about 1,724,000 electoral register records from the City of York for the period 1848-1938.

TheGenealogist www.thegenealogist.co.uk has made its 'Map Explorer' tool available to its Starter and Gold subscribers. This allows users to compare

maps of the UK at various census times and for the 1086 Domesday Book.

An interesting article about the history of Britain's 'national' drink – tea. Recommend having a good cuppa while you read the article. Do you remember the great PG Tips television ads with the monkeys.

A *Best Websites* article on researching your ancestors who had contact with the UK and Australian justice systems.

A '*Focus On*' article on *Irish Census Substitutes*.

A '*Masterclass*' article on genealogical Journals.

A feature on the archives and museums in Warwickshire

Issue 197, November 2022

Family Search www.familysearch.org has added about 117,500 parish BMD records for the years 1529 to 1974.

Ancestry www.ancestry.com has added almost 4.4 million records of C of E parish records from Nottingham.

It has also added approx 91,100 Women's Land Army index cards.

An interesting article about the history of child labour in Britain.

An informative article about the digitising of reference books and the websites that hold many of them.

A useful article on tips finding that elusive English BMD certificate.

A *Best Websites* article on where you can search collections of historic audio and video recordings.

A '*Focus On*' article on *Militia Records*.

A '*Masterclass*' article on *Irregular Marriage Records*.

A feature on the archives and museums in Gloucestershire

Issue 198, December 2022

Family Search www.familysearch.org has added nearly 4 million Irish Records, including registers from the Dublin Workhouse; Court of Chancery Bill books; and some school registers.

Ancestry www.ancestry.com has added almost 900,000 records from St Margaret's Church in Westminster.

FindmyPast www.findmypast.co.uk has added about 17,000 records of the British West Indies Regiment from WWI.

An article previewing the 1921 Scottish census. This census was released in November 2022 and can be

searched on *ScotlandsPeople*. There are 10,560 children under 15 listed as orphans.

An interesting article about the diary of a clergyman in the latter half of the 1700s and his entries over the Christmas period.

A '*Best Websites*' article on where you can search for Clergy, Priests, Vicars, and Preachers.

A '*Focus On*' article on how to track down Burial Records in England and Wales.

A '*Record Masterclass*' article on WW2 War Dairies. Ancestry has added some 1939-46 war dairies to its collection.

For many other items of interest in these issues and future issues of the magazine *Who Do You Think You Are* it is worthwhile joining the Wellington Branch *Round Robin* magazine list. For further details please contact Ann Ball at 027-641-0646 or ball@xtra.co.nz.

Compiled by **Doug Miller**, 28 Feb 2023

WELLINGTON BRANCH NEWS

Thank you so much to Pam Wilson, Ann Ball, and Geraldine Needham-Girven, who contributed memories and photos of family members who lost their lives in service to their country. We can only keep their memories alive by such means. We need to remember the terrible effect war has on individuals, families, and society in general. As another war now rages in Europe, I wonder if the sunflower will take its place beside the poppy as a symbol of sacrifice and hope for Ukrainians for decades to come.

Thanks also to Doug Miller for another (of many) contributions on Research Tips, and to Ann Ball for her book review. The more contributions from members, the better our newsletter will be.

By this time you should have received your membership subscription renewal form for Wellington Branch for 2023/2024. Thank you to those who have already renewed. If you did not receive it, forms will be available at the meeting. If you know of someone who might like to join, please either forward them the email you received or contact wgtbranch@gmail.com. We are always keen to find new members. If you have suggestions how to do this, such as places to put posters advertising ourselves and our talks, contact us. I will also put a 'Suggestions/Comments' sheet out on the sign-in table.

We are very pleased to welcome Max Kennedy, our first new member of the year.

Along with this newsletter, you should also receive a Nomination Form for Wellington Branch Committee 2023/24. As you know, our AGM will be held at our 17 May meeting. Prue will be stepping down as Convenor and from the committee because she is moving later in the year. We hope you will take a few moments to think about who you want on the committee, and especially, consider joining yourself.

Christine Franzen, Newsletter Editor



DIRECTORY



Committee

Convenor	Prue Theobald	04 232 0241
Secretary	Vacant	
Minute Secretary	Kaye Batchelor	027 2276734
Treasurer	Barbara Marriott	021 756 860
Membership Secretary	Christine Franzen	021 1129730
Speakers' Program	Ann Ball	027 6410646
Newsletter Editor	Christine Franzen	021 1129730
	Robin Mossman	021 1587848
Library Liaison	Sallie Hill	04 232 4622

POSTAL ADDRESS

C/O 12 St John's Terrace
Tawa, Wellington 5028

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

wgtbranch@gmail.com

BRANCH WEBSITE

NZSG Wellington Branch

FACEBOOK PAGE

Facebook.com/NZSGWellington

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR LOCAL BRANCH?

KILBIRNIE Thursday 4 May Steve Watter: Online websites available through the Ministry for Culture and Heritage Matairangi Room, Ākau Tangi Sports Centre, 72 Kemp St 10 am	PORIRUA Wednesday 12 April Damien Fenton World War I Records Helen Smith Community Room, Pataka, Norrie Place, Porirua 7 for 7:30 pm	HUTT VALLEY Thursday 20 Apr Christine Edney The Sisters of our Lady of the Missions Archives The Masonic Centre, 65 Udy St Petone 7:30 pm	KAPITI Tuesday 25 April Anzac Day: Bring along stories to share related to the service men/women in your family. Coast Community Church, 57 Hinemoa St, Paraparaumu 7 pm
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