

South Canterbury Genealogy

November/December 2024



From the editor

Carol Bell



Another December issue including Christmas graphics. They seem to come around very quickly. Did you complete the genealogical tasks you set yourself for the year? These days mine seem to relate to our Wednesday transcribing group instead of personal tasks. I hope I'm not running out of things to do! Most of the new tasks I find in my research seem to relate to DNA matches which send me off in new directions. I now have several family groups that obviously relate to me, and to each other, but I can't see how. I know WHICH family they belong to but in the absence of early Irish parish registers it's very hard to work out the HOW. But maybe I'm just not trying hard enough or not looking in the right place.

See P3 for a plan to develop your story or that of another person of interest to you. Perhaps that can be our mission for 2025. I'm making plans already - it could be fun. A page on the computer for each question perhaps, then we could add photos or graphics!



Chair's report



from Liz Shea



South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

Hi everyone,

As genealogists, we often get asked to research other people's family history and I was pleased to assist the Aoraki Foundation to research two of their donors, Eric and Queenie Miller. You can read their story here: <https://www.aorakifoundation.org.nz/miller-story>

It is appropriate to remember Queenie especially as 6 December was the anniversary of her death (47 years ago) and the foundation honoured her memory with a Facebook entry.

The Foundation reguided the Miller grave and a poppy was added by the Remembrance Army to acknowledge Eric's war service. His medals are now held by the foundation. On a recent field trip to the Kyle Park Transport museum in Seadown, members were able to see a stock truck repainted in Miller Transport colours and read the information boards about the Millers.



This field trip was well attended by members and partners and we were all amazed at the fabulous collection of vehicles, trucks, tractors, emergency vehicles and other associated truck accessories. We were also entranced by the recreation of a kitchen with coal range, formica table and chairs and kitchen utensils that we all remembered. Egg beaters, toasters and sunbeam mixers. There was also a recreated lounge with an old tv and lounge suite, which were considered high class back in the day.

This hidden gem is worth a visit with opening hours Saturday and Monday 1-4pm. More details can be found here: <https://www.kylepark.nz/>

Wishing all our members a Merry Xmas and Happy New Year .
Liz



MEMORIES

With a new year approaching it's time to revisit the question of memories - ours or those of our older relatives. Here are 52 questions designed to help you or your target person reflect on their life and share their experiences - one for each week of 2025, so not too demanding. It will require discipline though, much the same as keeping a diary. These questions span different themes, such as childhood, family, work, relationships, and personal growth. Questions for February and March will be in the February newsletter.

Childhood and Family

5 Jan: Where were you born, and what was your home town like when you were growing up?

12 Jan: What is your earliest memory?

19 Jan: Who were your childhood best friends?

26 Jan: Did you have any pets growing up? What were they like?

2 Feb: What games or activities did you enjoy as a child?

9 Feb: What was your favourite subject in school?



News



Scottish Indexes Conference XXVII

Saturday 18 January 2025

<https://www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx>

Interested in tracing your Scottish genealogy? The Scottish Indexes Conference is an opportunity to learn new research skills, discover diverse records and see how others have put these into practice. If you want to trace your Scottish family tree, this is the event for you.

Plans for the year

December: Christmas - Genealogy Brick walls. Tips for dealing with your brick walls. Members who want help have been encouraged to submit their stumbling blocks. Information also available from a recent conference specific to Scottish brick walls



COMPARING THE PRACTICE OF COLLECTING FAMILY HISTORIES BETWEEN CELTIC, ANGLO SAXON AND MAORI CULTURES

The practice of collecting family histories in Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Māori cultures reflects their distinct social structures, world views, and traditions. Each culture emphasises genealogy for specific reasons—whether it's maintaining social hierarchies, preserving oral tradition, or connecting to ancestral lands and identity.

1. Celtic Culture

Focus of Genealogy:

Clan Identity and Hierarchy: Genealogy in Celtic culture, especially among the Irish and Scots, was deeply tied to the clan system. Family histories and lineages were vital for establishing one's place within the clan, determining leadership, and securing rights to land and resources.

Methods of Preservation:

Oral Tradition: Bards, seannachies (Scottish), and ollamhs (Irish) memorised and recited genealogies, ensuring that the ancestral history of families, especially those of nobility, was preserved through recitations during important events.

Manuscripts: With the arrival of Christianity and literacy, many genealogies were written down in manuscripts like the Book of Ballymote and the Annals of the Four Masters (Ireland). These documents were important records of royal lineages and noble families.



Mythology and Ancestry:

The Celts often merged their genealogies with mythological ancestors, giving clans and kings divine or semi-divine origins. Kings and noble families sometimes claimed descent from gods or heroes, as seen in Irish stories of the Milesians or Scottish claims to descend from Scythian royalty.

Purpose:

Genealogy served both practical and political purposes. It established claims to land and leadership and helped legitimise rulers through connections to ancient, sometimes mythical, ancestors.

2. Anglo-Saxon Culture

Focus of Genealogy:

Royal Descent and Land Rights: Genealogy in Anglo-Saxon England was closely tied to the concept of kingship, nobility, and land ownership. Like the Celts, the Anglo-Saxons used genealogies to establish legitimate claims to land and power.

Methods of Preservation:

Oral Tradition: Similar to the Celts, Anglo-Saxon genealogies were initially preserved through oral tradition, with stories of ancestral kings and heroes passed down through generations.

Written Records: With the spread of Christianity and literacy, Anglo-Saxon genealogies began to be written down. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (late 9th century) contains important genealogical records of kings. Monastic scribes also preserved family histories and royal lineages.

Mythological Connections:

Anglo-Saxon rulers often claimed descent from gods or semi-divine heroes, such as Woden (Odin), integrating pagan mythology into their genealogical records. This practice helped legitimise their rule by linking them to divine authority.

Purpose:

Anglo-Saxon genealogies were primarily political tools used to legitimise royal families. Land ownership was also tied to ancestry, with genealogical records proving familial rights to estates and territories.

3. Māori Culture

Focus of Genealogy:

Whakapapa (Genealogy) as Cultural Identity: In Māori culture, whakapapa (genealogy) is central to an individual's identity, community connections, and relationship to the land. Genealogy links the present to the past, binding Māori people to their ancestors, their tribe (iwi), and the natural world.

Methods of Preservation:

Oral Tradition: Māori whakapapa was traditionally preserved through oral recitation and storytelling. Elders in the community were responsible for passing on genealogies through chants, songs, and stories. This oral tradition remains strong today, although it has been supplemented by written records.

Carvings and Art: Māori genealogy was also reflected in physical forms, such as carvings on meeting houses (wharehenui) that represent ancestral figures. These symbols serve as visual reminders of whakapapa.

Mythological Connections:

Māori genealogy often traces back to the gods, especially through figures like Māui, a demigod in Polynesian mythology. The Māori believe that all people and living things are connected to Rangi (Sky Father) and Papa (Earth Mother), from whom all life descends.

Purpose:

Whakapapa is more than just a record of descent; it is foundational to social structure, spirituality, and identity. It establishes one's place within the tribe, defines relationships between tribes, and links the people to their ancestors and the land they inhabit. Whakapapa is central to Māori cosmology and understanding of the world.

Summary:

Celtic and Anglo-Saxon genealogies both served political and social purposes, often legitimising leadership and determining land rights. Both cultures incorporated mythology, claiming descent from divine or semi-divine figures. Māori genealogy (whakapapa) differs by serving a deeply spiritual role, connecting individuals not only to human ancestors but also to the gods and the land itself. It's an integral part of Māori identity and cosmology, with a broader significance beyond mere social status or land ownership.

While the methods of preserving genealogies evolved over time—especially with the adoption of writing and Christianity—the oral tradition remains strong in all three cultures. - **Chat GPT**

HAWKE'S BAY DIGITAL ARCHIVES TRUST

How many of us have research in the Hawke's Bay area? Lois White has been using the Hawke's Bay Digital Archives Trust at <https://knowledgebank.org.nz/> and says it's getting bigger by the minute. The locals deposit their photos and documents, even videos. Lois says it has a good search function, also a facebook page. In line with our focus of late, war negatives entered in the search brings up photos of soldiers.

The piece on the home page says: The Knowledge Bank is an ever-growing digital record of Hawke's Bay and its people. Stories of the events, people, celebrations, tragedies and day-to-day life that helped form the culture and landscape of the Bay we know today are gathered here in an easy-to-access format. Our volunteers collect personal and business stories, photos, memories and magazines, digitising them for everyone to read and enjoy. The Knowledge Bank is a digital record of Hawke's Bay and its people which continues to grow as more of our residents donate material from times past to be digitised and uploaded to this public website. Wherever possible, the Knowledge Bank provides the full original digitised files, free for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 New Zealand License.



Mahora School
1949



Opening the
Wairoa bar

Explore

Film and video

Film and video from across our collections.

Collections

Collections of material donated by individuals, families and organisations.

Oral History

Recordings and transcripts of interviews with Hawke's Bay personalities.

Bibliography

An index of printed publications relating to Hawke's Bay and its history.

Images

Photographs and other still images from our collections.

Who's Who

An index of Hawke's Bay people.

Hawke's Bay Photo News

Hawke's Bay Photo News, a local magazine published November 1958 – June 1967

Tags

Tags are informal subjects or topics used to group related material.





WW2 project

from Lois White



SERGEANT MARSHALL VERDUN TOOLE



This photograph is of New Zealand Air Force men taken at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands about 1943

In the middle of the front row is Sergeant Marshall Toole RNZAF 38227, known to his friends as "Mish", he served as an Aircraft Fitter/Mechanic during WW2.

He worked on many different planes including Ventura Bombers and P40 Kittyhawks along with his friends Don Ayson (pilot) and Bill Martin.

Originally from Southland, after the war Marshall married Betty McRae of Timaru and they raised a family of four children.

Many will remember him as the owner of Milnes Driving School in Timaru, a business which his wife Betty continued to run when he died in 1969 aged only 51 years.

He is remembered in the RSA section of Timaru Cemetery.



Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



October - Present: 19 members. **Apologies:** Adrienne Bruce, Margaret Cosgrove, Annette Batchelor, Carolyn Johnston. Speaker Jill Welford introduced website DNA Painter, created by Jonny Perl, a program using Ancestral Trees, Tools & WATO, & Chromosome Maps. Add DNA & it works on probability, & there is a range to work out how related. Cost \$55 US for a subscription for a year. Chromosome Maps are on not on Ancestry, but are on Gedmatch & My Heritage. Members watched a How To video re mapping your chromosomes. DNA can be shared on more than one line. Jill demonstrated how to take DNA from My Heritage to DNA Painter. Can also download from Ancestry to My Heritage. Unable to upload from My Heritage to Ancestry. She felt there was more she could do on My Heritage. The DNA Tool & auto cluster tool paints matches into clusters in the form of a zip file.

WATO.

Provided an example when trying to find her father's grandfather's father. Suspicious who it could be. There was no father's name on the actual birth certificate.

Watched a video re WATO which looked at the various tools.

Important to have the right generation.

Jill then spoke on her recent trip. She was able to visit Kew Public Record Office. Also Bath where she had some records ordered.

Carol Bell then spoke re AI in My Heritage. Putting in a Family Tree can be enhanced, & can now create an AI Biography. Her Biography was emailed to her. If you put in as much info as possible helps. It includes Social History & Genealogical History. She thought was an interesting option when putting together all ones ancestors.

Raffle: Robyn King.

November - The monthly meeting was a visit to Kyle Park Transport Museum. Apologies: Teresa Scott, Margaret Cosgrove. Bob Mehrtens was on hand to answer questions. 25 members & visitors enjoyed the impressive displays of trucks, tractors, fire engines, and ambulances. The museum was established in 1964, at Seadown. There was also an area showing the 'mod cons' from the past. This brought back a lot of memories that many could relate to. The trucks are all privately owned due to insurance issues. Some of the tractors are owned by the club, with others being privately owned. It is wonderful to see all the vehicles being so well looked after, and preserved for future generations.





scant.scgenealogy.nz

Olwyn's South Canterbury website



THE VOYAGE OF THE STRATHALLAN TO TIMARU CHRISTMAS 1858



24th December To the 'relief of all,' according to the Strathallan diarist Charles Alabaster the 'doctor and the captain shook hands'. For some time there had been ill feeling between the two and the concerned reverend had been trying to reconcile the two antagonists. Steerage assisted emigrant John Morris recorded, 'another stormy day' which was not a reference to the doctor and captain disagreement but the weather, which had the vessel, 'shipping water every moment'. At one stage, 'one sea filled the whole belly of the mainsail and then plumped down the main hatchway'. Morris also recorded 'Mr Double's child died this afternoon and was buried directly afterwards'. The sad event is also noted by the Reverend Alabaster. 'On Friday Mrs Double lost her baby after a long illness; the same afternoon I committed it to the deep.' William Double and his wife Sarah were bringing their six children to Timaru. Eliza Ann the baby was recorded on the passenger list as being four months old when the family boarded the ship.

The death of so many babies on immigrant ships was partly attributable to the lack of suitable food. With 23 children dying on the Lancashire Witch on its voyage to Timaru, diarist David Carr recorded in 1863 the following lines;

*Another child is dead
Another spirit fled
Another body overboard
To mingle with the dead*



In the evening John Morris noted 'southern lights or Aurora Australis very plain after dark'. Alabaster thought 'it was hardly possible to realise that it was Christmas Eve. When it grew dark I retired to my own cabin and consoled myself with the Homily on the Nativity'. The emigrants thoughts regarding the approaching festival have not been recorded.

25th December 'The sea moderated and we woke to as glorious a Christmas morning as could well be desired.' The Reverend 'read the morning service in the cuddy, churched Mrs Paget and Isabella Hayes and afterwards christened the two boys William Strathallan Paget and Strathallan Hayes. The ship gave us a good dinner; a walk on deck prepared us for tea and then with the dark came a tureen of snapdragon. Here endeth the legitimate amusements of the day. Before this we had learnt that one of the cuddy passengers who had in the morning acted as godfather was drinking below with the christening party and it soon became painfully apparent that the doctor had put his hand to orders of beer and spirits to a dangerous amount. No little of it found its way into the forecabin.' So for the Reverend Alabaster it was 'a Christmas day whose like I care not to see again'. As one might expect John Morris had different views on the day. 'Fine day. Splendid weather. Shiny cool and pleasant', he recorded. 'Two children christened this morning. One called William Strathallan Padget and the other Strathallan Hayes. Plenty of plum duffs on board. Sailors all drunk and fighting. Blue murder. Hurrah!'

The **26th December** was a Sunday and John Morris, after the incident filled day, noted, 'Queer. No how. All wrong. Too soon after Christmas'. The Reverend conducted his service and was not about to let the behaviour of the previous day pass without comment as 'the events of the preceding day called for notice. The offending cuddy passenger (he had been drinking with the christening party) I called to account publicly but apparently with little effect. Base and silly as his acts are he glories in them when away from those who would not permit such indecency'.



Members' Interests



from John Sutherland

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

MILNE	SCOTLAND	Morayshire	Forres	pre 1873
MORE	SCOTLAND	Nairn		abt 1700
MORGAN	ENGLAND	Oxford	Sandford	pre1900
MORNS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Fairlie	1878-1905
MORRIS	GERMANY	Posen		pre1855
MORRIS	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury	Christchurch	1868-1945
MORRIS	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Pleasant Point	1868-1945
MORRISH	ENGLAND	Cornwall	St Day, Gwennap	1800s
MORRISON	SCOTLAND	Banffshire	Keith	pre1811
MORROW	IRELAND	Antrim	Drumcrow	1750+
MOSS	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	1890-1910
MULCAHY	IRELAND	Tipperary	Emly	1780-1790
MULDREW	IRELAND	County Down	Armagh	All
MULLER	DENMARK	Kolding	Vamdrup	1800s
MUNRO	SCOTLAND	Sutherland	Oldshoremore	1600s
NICHOLS	ENGLAND	Devon	Holbeton	1800s
NISBET	ENGLAND	Northumberland	Berwick On Tweed	All
NISBET	SCOTLAND	Lanarkshire	Glasgow	All
NOLAN	NEW ZEALAND	South Canterbury		1860-
NYLUND	FINLAND	Oulu	Oulu	1760-1880
O'DRISCOLL	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1860-
O'HAGAN	IRELAND	Armagh		pre1878
O'HAGAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1878+
O'MELVENNA	IRELAND	Antrim		1800+
O'ROURKE	IRELAND	Clonmacnoise		1780+
O'ROURKE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1865+
OLIVER	ENGLAND	Cornwall	Helston	abt 1797
ORMISTON	SCOTLAND	Peebleshire	Stobo	1700-1899
OSBORNE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1900s
OSBORNE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Waimate	1900s
PACKMAN	ENGLAND	Kent	Swanscombe	1750+
PACKMAN	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1870+
PAHL	GERMANY	Bardowick		1842
PAHL	NEW ZEALAND	Nelson		1842+
PALLISER	ENGLAND	Saltburn		pre1740
PALMER	ENGLAND	Devon	Ashbury/Okehampton	pre1870
PALMER	ENGLAND	Devon	Teignmouth	1800s
PALMER	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1862+

Are your genealogical interests reflected in this list? If not, contact John Sutherland to be included. Take the opportunity to make contact with family members.



Library report

from Teresa Scott

South Canterbury Genealogy Society Inc - recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2024:

Cambridge – November
Canterbury Genealogy Society – October; November
Dunedin – November- December
Feilding – October; November
Hawke's Bay – October
Hibiscus Coast – October; November
Hutt Valley – November; December
Kapiti – October
Kilbirnie – November; December
Matamata – November
Mosgiel – October
Nelson – October; November
New Plymouth Genealogy – November
Oamaru – October (Waitaki); November (Waitaki)
Otaki Family History Society – October; November
Palmerston North – October; November
Papakura – November; December
Porirua – November
Riccarton – October; November
Rotorua – September
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – September-October
South Waikato – November; December
Wellington – October; November
Whanganui – October; November



Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.

The Gazette – Toowoomba & Darling Downs Family History Society – November 2024 [AUS12]
The Gooches of Timaru (booklet updated 2024 – John Gooch) [FH53] [donated]



Local contacts

SC Genealogy - Office bearers

Convener: Liz Shea 03 684 7790 Group Contact sheafamily@farmside.co.nz

Minute secretary: Lesley Tennent 03 612 6759

Treasurer: Carolyn Johnston 03 684 5709

Committee: Teresa Scott 03 688 9034 Library

Lois Shears 03 688 1655 School Rolls

Clare Palliser 03 688 0896

Hilary Coles 03 615 7195

Lois White 03 684 4173

Dave Jack 021 770 000

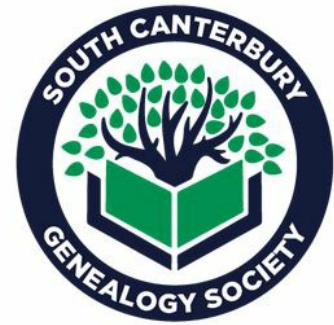
Carol Bell 03 684 7733 Newsletter carolbel49@gmail.com

Off committee: John Sutherland Members Interests john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

Janette Clarke Museum roster jansuscar@gmail.com

Branch email and research inquiries: SouthCanterbury@genealogy.org.nz

Website timaru.gen.nz



Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at SC Museum.

Research help is also available at the Library on Wednesdays 9am - 12pm and at the museum every Sunday 1.30pm - 4pm. The group library is available at the museum whenever the research room is open - Tuesday to Friday and Sunday 1.30pm to 4pm. Books can be borrowed on Sundays but must be signed out by the librarian or a Sunday volunteer.

A working group meets on Wednesday mornings at the Library and Friday mornings at the museum to transcribe various historical documents. Can you help? Contact Lois on 688-1655

“Writing up your Family History” help is available. If you would like help getting your research to the final stage contact Carol at carolbel49@gmail.com or 027 3399447.

Merry  *Christmas*