

South Canterbury Genealogy

January/February 2025



From the editor

Carol Bell



Ancestry has announced their publication of the 1921 Census of England and Wales. This has been available on Find My Past for a couple of years now, but this will be good news for those of you with an Ancestry subscription.

The 1921 England and Wales census was taken after the First World War, when hundreds of thousands of men had been lost. As a result, there were a high number of widowed women in this census - and it showed that overall, there were 1.7 million more women than men living in England and Wales at that time. This census was the first to show name of an employer and address or location of work. During the First World War millions of women had taken on roles that had been traditionally reserved for men. The census shows that many women continued this work post-war, seeking economic freedom or supporting a household after the loss of a husband.

The 1921 Census contains information on nearly 38 million people who were living in England and Wales at the time, and is the last census from the first half of the 20th century. England had a census in 1931, but the individual returns were destroyed in a fire in 1942, and there was no census taken in the war year 1941. The next UK census was on 8 April 1951 with the records due to be released in 2052. I, for one, won't care by then. Good luck with your searches.

Chair's report



from Liz Shea



South Canterbury genealogical resources timaru.gen.nz

Hi everyone,

With Christmas and New Year now a distant memory it's good to get restarted on family history. Good news in January was to see Ancestry releasing the 1921 census. This has encouraged me to review my trees and to add in the census data and attach to the relevant family members.

First off, I found my father, who was born in December 1920 and so is the baby in the household. Sad to see that my grandfather was out of work. Knowing his subsequent history of suffering from what was then called "shell shock" I can only wonder how my grandmother managed. The 1921 census reveals a lot more information on where my ancestors worked, who their employer was and what they did. Even if they were out of work, they still put the previous employer. While not as informative as the 1911 census, it's still worth checking out.

Another item to check when looking at census data is the spelling of names, especially when you can't find someone. I was researching my great-great aunt, Florence Louise Perry 1872-1934. Earlier I had found her marriage in 1903 to an Exley Jones. Thereafter, I have looked in vain for Exley but with the 1921 census, finally spotted him. He wasn't with Florence and is listed as single and a musician. So resumed my hunt, but his name varies, so I had to be patient. His birth is registered as **Exlay** but has a birth place in Yorkshire. In the 1881 census he is recorded as a daughter. Cant find him in 1891 but in 1901 he is recorded as **Eslay** which appears to be a transcription error. I'm now on the hunt for death or other marriages so I need to try different name variations. So again, a reminder to sometimes think outside the square to track down your ancestors.





News



Crew list indexes

<https://www.crewlist.org.uk/about/findingonindexes>

If you have no details of the ships that a seafarer sailed on, you will need to rely on indexes. For the period from 1861 to 1913, there are millions of records of seafarers, but no central index of seafarers was made at the time. There is no single modern index anywhere, and probably never will be. However, there is some hope - many indexes do exist as this page explains. Either scroll down or use the links. Where data is available online, we provide a link to it. A (£) symbol means you will have to pay for the data.

Bear in mind that you only need to be lucky once, because the seafarers' records show the previous vessel they worked on so you can trace back their career from one voyage to the previous one. Also, if they were at sea for some years, records of an individual seafarer will appear on many documents, so the chances of finding at least one record is increased.

Remember that seafarers could sign on to a ship from any port, so look in as many indexes as possible - you never know!

Scotland's People

A guide to all registration districts in Scotland is published on the archived Registration Districts page of the National Records of Scotland website. It gives the dates during which each was operative up to January 2009. There are separate lists for the registration districts of Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow.

<https://webarchive.nrscotland.gov.uk/20241128123036/https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/statutory-registers/registration-districts>

Plans for the year

February: D.C Turnbull's building - Roselyn Fauth

March: Back to basics - Liz Shea

April: WWII exhibition at the museum

May: AGM

June: AI - Dave Jack



MEMORIES

How many of you have taken up the challenge to record your memories this year? And what format are you using? I'm finding a digital format easier - I type better than I write these days and it's easier to include photos, although I seem to be spending a lot of time digging through old photo albums to illustrate my stories. You might have chosen to tell the whole story through photos if you're not comfortable writing. There are no rules. Even if you're just making notes in a notebook, it's better than nothing. If you haven't started it's not too late. The first questions are in the December 2024 newsletter, and here are the questions for the next two months.

Childhood and Family

16 Feb: Can you describe your parents and their personalities? Did you have any siblings? What were they like?

23 Feb: What elderly relatives and close family do you remember?

2 Mar: What houses did you live in growing up?

9 Mar: What were family meals like at home? Did your family have any traditions or special celebrations?

Adolescence and Young Adulthood

16 Mar: What was high school like for you?

23 Mar: Did you have a first crush or love? What do you remember about them?

30 Mar: What were your dreams or goals when you were young?

6 Apr: Did you have a first job? What was it like?

13 Apr: How did you spend your free time as a teenager? Did you participate in any sports, clubs,



Some photos to help with the question about what Timaru was like when I was growing up.



TIMARU WAS TWO TOWNS



Usually towns were founded by either government or private enterprise. Timaru was established by both. In 1853 the Rhodes brothers surveyed a town behind Caroline Bay; three years later the government surveyed its own town south of the Rhodes's settlement. As is evident in this 1864 plan, North Street divided the towns. Eventually the two settlements merged.

John Wilson, 'South Canterbury region - Timaru and its port', Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/zoomify/11338/timarus-two-towns> (accessed 1 October 2024) Story by John Wilson, updated 1 Feb 2017



WW2 project

from Lois White

PRIVATE PATRICK DANIEL MCGILLEN – 2. NZEF 447220

Born at Temuka in 1923 to Michael McGillen and his wife Mary, Patrick or “Pat” as he was known was one of 10 Children. His father Michael was a Gallipoli veteran who had been left permanently injured and the family were living in one of the huts on the Arowhenua Marae which had been made available to returned servicemen in the years after WW1.

Pats’ early working life was spent on farms in the Clandeboye/Milford area as a farm labourer and when the war began, he undertook military training and was conscripted into the NZ Army. Aged 20 his first overseas posting was to Maadi camp in Egypt for

more training, and then his unit was sent onto Italy to help push the German army back.

Wintry conditions in Italy meant things were quiet to begin with but there was soon plenty of action and Pat commented in his later years that the 30 men in his unit were very lucky to have all returned, with no loss of life. He also said that the sightseeing had made it all seem like a great adventure.

After the battle of Trieste the unit left Italy. The men were on board ship in the Pacific Ocean and headed for home when the news came through that Japan had surrendered. The ship was then turned around, and they sailed instead to Hiroshima to become involved in the occupation of Japan.

Pat served with the 22nd & 25th Battalions and although the army has recorded him as being a part of Jayforce, he always maintained that he wasn’t, because Jayforce hadn’t even been formed at that stage.

Returning to NZ in 1946, Pat married his wife Patricia Day and together they raised a family of eight children at Temuka. Later he enrolled in a government rehabilitation scheme, qualifying as a bricklayer and eventually owning his own business.

Over the years he played an active part in the Temuka community including serving several terms as a borough councillor and at one time as president of the Temuka RSA.

Patrick McGillen died in 2003 aged 79 and is buried in the Temuka Cemetery.



This photograph, taken at Burnham Camp about 1943, includes several men who were from Temuka – including Patrick McGillen

Five of the men have been identified - can you help name the rest?

WORLD WAR 2 – SOLDIERS LETTERS & CARDS

In the early 1940s many of the young men who patronised the Royal Hotel in Timaru were called away to serve in the forces

The publican's son Jack Clay was 14 at the time and he wrote sending good wishes and parcels to many of the men and they wrote back thanking him and passing on their news.

Jack Clay never married, but he kept all the letters and cards, and his niece Joan came across a bundle of them after he had passed away.

Some have been uploaded onto **The Auckland Museum Cenotaph website** – in most cases there is only a card or letter, others have several letters.

Joans' email address for contact is at the bottom of each page.

The names of the soldiers are:

Norman John Campbell – 3rd Division Engineers

Lawrence John Campbell – 27th Infantry Brigade

Leonard Frederick Fletcher Carver – 26th Infantry Brigade

Colin George Campbell – 27th Machine Gun Battalion

Robert Charles Findlay – 26th Infantry brigade

Kenneth Roddick – Infantry Brigade

David Robert Morgan – Infantry Brigade

John James Dawson – 27th Machine Gun Battalion

Leo Peter Ryan – 37th Mixed Battalion

Joseph Rosevear – Army Tank Brigade

Robert Avon Watson – 2nd Division Artillery

Morris James McFadyen – Heavy Anti – Aircraft Regiment

William George Donnithorne – 2nd & 3rd Division Artillery

Royal Hotel



Meeting reports



with Lesley Tennent



December 2024: Present: 21 members. **Apologies:** Heather Fifield, Adrienne Bruce, Carolyn Johnston, Hilary Coles, Esme Jones, Dave Jack, Faye O'Rourke, Dave Batchelor.

The committee has developed a strategic plan that will be brought to the group for input before finalising. More volunteers are needed for transcribing. Roslyn Fauth is looking for stories on shops and businesses on Stafford Street. She is planning to have plaques that tell the stories. A letter has been sent to mayor Nigel Bowen, asking to be part of discussions on the future, should a new museum be built.

The meeting focus was Brickwalls.

Lesley Tennent. Backgrounded her brother's death, and then adoption of his son born a couple of months later. Because of DNA she was contacted by this son. Excitement was great but dates are somewhat confusing. A suggestion for Lesley to follow. Also discussion on adoptions and associated issues.

Ruth Campbell was trying to find Annie & Jesse McConnell – where and when born in Ireland, and when did she come to NZ? It was noted that Irish marriages were recorded from 1862, but Irish Civil Registrations were much later. We're relying on church records. Was Annie born on the voyage out? Family arrived March 1864.

Barbara Ford wanted to find two unmentioned older siblings of her father's - Violet and Charles William Rudd. Her father was born in London, in a workhouse. Barbara has done a lot of research, including visiting there last year. Her dad came to NZ about 1949. Her dad's mother was Ada Rudd and there seem to be many of that name. Something happened to her father and his sister when 8/10yrs, in 1925. When Barbara visited last year, she found a 3rd cousin. Has also completed her DNA and met some 2nd cousins.

Heather Fifield Re her Great-grandfather James Graham. He was a crew member of a ship bound for NZ. Said to have been on a ship wrecked north of Port Chalmers in 1866. Suggested look at Marine Museum. Carol Bell has sent feed back to her and possible places to look.

Tim Brosnahan is researching Ferguson/Fergusson Family who came from Scotland in 1859. A large family. Wanting to know who parents of 2yr old James were, were they on voyage, was parent left behind in Scotland? He had found nothing in church records in Scotland.

Baby James may have been born in 1856 so not in the census. Teresa Scott found a transcription of a Civil Registration. His mother Jesse (Janet) married a Meredith in NZ.

Elaine Aitcheson is looking for her great-grandmother's brother. Was in Burham Industrial School. James Laurance Henderson Mackenzie lived in Leeston until March 1877. Has info up to 1896 when he was wanting to make a deposit on property, then nothing. Unable to find any info on the property. From a dysfunctional family. Father deserted, & mother possibly of ill repute! Asked had she looked at Australian records, & Trove? Have tried Akaroa Mail as covers area of interest? Tried farm diaries.

Teresa Scott. Re her aunty Colleen, who was an aunt by marriage. Died 1960 but couldn't find her death. One parent part Chinese. Found a school record that gave the birth. Did a search under the Chinese surname, then found two surnames in the registrations. Also in Findagrave. Christmas cake (from Presbyterian Support) was enjoyed with a sherry or drink of choice. Special raffle including Christmas treats and a DNA kit: Annette Batchelor.



scant.scgenealogy.nz

Olwyn's South Canterbury website

This is South Canterbury. If I was visiting Geraldine, I would take a tiki tour and take the back country roads, pass homesteads with impressive driveways, visit corner store cafés and stop at South Canterbury's small but unique churches and look at the blaze of stained-glass windows. St Thomas's Anglican Church, at Woodbury, 8km inland from Geraldine, is a fine example. In 1938 the nave of this church, designed by Cecil Wood, was built for the Tripp family as a memorial to Howard and Eleanor, a brother and sister. The builders were Herbert Cooling and Oswald Scott of Woodbury, whose work proved them to be excellent craftsmen. Os Scott also made a table out of wood. Miss Eleanor H. Tripp of Orari Gorge Station gave £10 to have a business table made for the Woodbury Country Women's Institute in 1936. It was used for monthly meetings in the Woodbury Hall until the Institute disbanded in 1994. The table cloth was sent from the Woodbury Womens Institute, Devon, England in 1934 and used regularly. Both items are now inside the church.

The altar window is a Veronica Whall masterpiece - Christ as the Supreme Angel with St Wendelin and St. Elizabeth of Hungary, c 1927l. This window is dedicated to Cotsford Matthews Burdon, whose grave is at St Anne's, Te Moana, on the other side of Geraldine, donor his wife Mildred.

The three lancet windows, contemporary stained, were installed in St Thomas in early 2007 on the west wall, designed and executed by Stephen and Denise Belanger-Taylor's Studio up Te Moana Rd, Geraldine. The windows were commissioned by Phillip Burdon, a former member of parliament, to commemorate his parents, Cotsford and Ruth Burdon, once faithful parishioners and respected local identities. Gifted by Phillip and Rosalind Burdon. "I prefer to design a window that has some magic and mystery to it." Stephen said. The late afternoon sun and sunsets illuminate the windows to colourful splendour.



The altar window is a Veronica Whall masterpiece.

Photo courtesy of Ian Moore, 2006

The oak font cover, in memory of Rosa Tripp Boyle d/o Howard Tripp, with its angel standing on a bed of roses, gently puns on the deceased young woman it commemorates was carved by Frederick G. Gurnsey in 1934 'heaven is a rose'. Gurnsey also worked in Oamaru stone. Oak for the carved furniture and for memorial tablets is from the Tripp homestead at Orari Gorge. There is no cemetery at the church but can be found on the south side of the Woodbury Domain.

So before you leave the area drive up Peel Forest Rd - Rangitata Gorge Rd as far as you can, to a car park, and enjoy the grandeur of the back country and the mountains surrounding Mesopotamia Station. Samuel Butler said "Scenery is not Scenery - it is "Country" - if it is good for sheep, it is beautiful, magnificent and all the rest of it; if not, it is not worth looking at."



Members' Interests



from John Sutherland

john-m-s@xtra.co.nz

PALMER	ENGLAND	Devon	Ashbury/Okehampton	pre1870
PALMER	ENGLAND	Devon	Teignmouth	1800s
PALMER	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury		1862+
PARKINSON	ENGLAND	Cumberland	Whitehaven/Arlecdon	All
PEARSON	ENGLAND	Yorkshire	Keighley	abt 1780
PEARSON	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Timaru	1830+
PEATTIE	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	1862+
PEATTIE	NEW ZEALAND	Sth Canterbury	Temuka	1928+
PEATTIE	SCOTLAND	Fife	Largo	1775-1875
PENNY	ENGLAND	Wiltshire	Overton	pre1878
PETERS	ENGLAND	Cornwall	Gwennap	pre1873
PHAIR	IRELAND	Cavan		pre1880
PHILLIPS	ENGLAND	Devon		1800
PHILP	ENGLAND	Surrey	Malden	1780+
PHIMESTER	SCOTLAND	Morayshire		1650-1850
PIERCE	ENGLAND	Kent	Canterbury	pre1860
PINK	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Alvington	1830+
PIRRET	SCOTLAND	Kirkintilloch		pre1920
POLLARD	ENGLAND	Sussex	Brighton	All
POLLEY	ENGLAND	Essex	Twinstead	1800-1875
PORTWINE	ENGLAND	Middlesex	London	1800+
POULGRAIN	AUSTRALIA	Bendigo		pre1854
POULGRAIN	ENGLAND	Devon	East Stonehouse	pre1854
POULGRAIN	NEW ZEALAND	Bay of Plenty	Gisborne	1840+
POWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire		1740+
POWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Lydney	1774+
POWELL	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	St Briavels	1774+
PREECE	ENGLAND	Hereford	Humber	1780+
PREECE	NEW ZEALAND	Canterbury	Christchurch/Waimate	1870+
PROCTOR	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Alvington	All
PROCTOR	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Winchcomb	All
PROCTOR	ENGLAND	Gloucestershire	Woolaston	All
RAE	SCOTLAND	Berwickshire		1700s
RAINTON	NEW ZEALAND	Otago	Dunedin	1890+
RAWES	ENGLAND			
READE	IRELAND	Offaly	Corrackevin, Dunkerrin	abt 1840
REILLY	ENGLAND	Wiltshire	Eton	pre1859

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

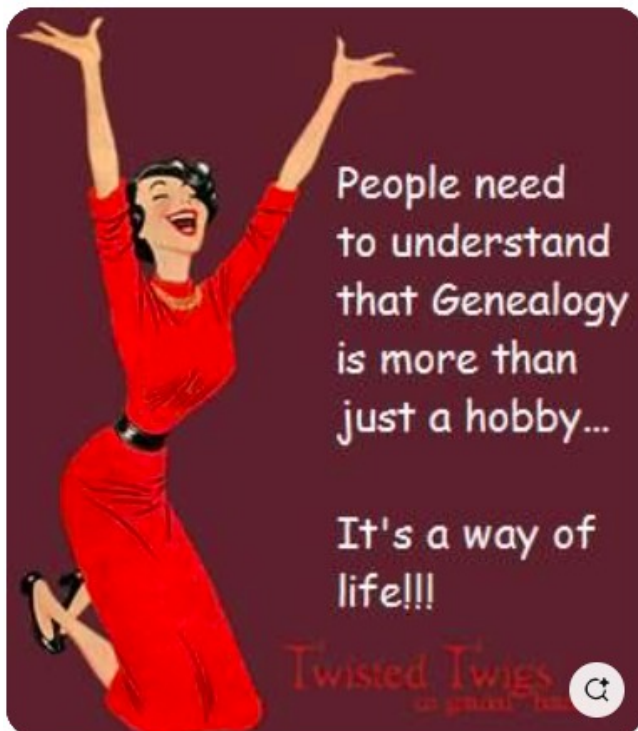
Recent accessions include:

Newsletters 2024, 2025:
Cambridge – February 2025
Hawke's Bay – February 2025
Hibiscus Coast – January 2025
Hutt Valley – February 2025
Kapiti – January 2025
Kilbirnie – February 2025
Matamata – February 2025
New Plymouth Genealogy – December 2024; February 2025
Porirua – December 2024; February 2025
Rotorua – Christmas 2024
South Canterbury Genealogy Society – November-December
Southland – December 2024/January 2025



Please send request for forwarding to Teresa.

They Marched to War: A tribute to the officers and sons of officers of the Bank of New Zealand who enlisted for service in the First World War 1914-1918 – Paul Hickford (2019) [NZG89] [donated]
Centenary of Geraldine and Temuka Districts 1855 – 1955 (Historical Survey and Programme of Celebrations) – William Vance [DH183] [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

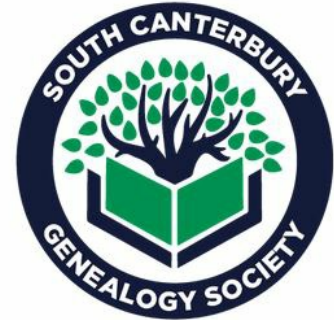
Carol Bell 027 3399447 Newsletter carobel49@gmail.com

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 carobel49@gmail.com or 027 3399447.

