

NZSG CANTERBURY BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Meetings - Parkview Community Lounge Hall, 75 Queenspark Drive, Parklands
Monthly – 2nd Thursday evening at 7:30pm & 3rd Thursday morning at 10:00am
Visitors welcome – Gold coin donation

Email - Canterbury@genealogy.org.nz

Postal - PO Box 38064, Parklands, CHRISTCHURCH 8842

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CanterburyNZGenealogy/>

Canterbury Branch Website - <http://canterburygenealogy.wordpress.com/>



Issue # 2 / 2022

March 2022



We are at COVID-19 – Red Traffic Light:
This means: There is a limit of 50 people and the chairs will be spaced out.
Vaccine passes are required. You must sign in and scan in as well.
Masks are to be worn.
This applies to all Branch activities.


<https://covid19.govt.nz>

Programme for March 2022 – COVID-19 Alert Levels Permitting

NZSG National Financial Situation & Possible Effects on Canterbury Branch

MEMBER INFORMATION / DISCUSSION SESSIONS

To provide a forum where we can provide additional information, listen, answer questions you may have and hear your views on the best way forward. We urge as many Members as possible to attend as your Committee needs to hear your views before any next steps are taken. Come along and have your say, or just listen to what your fellow Members say.

Three Date & Time Options

Thursday 10th March 7:30pm - Evening Meeting - Parkview Community Lounge – Hall

Sunday 13th March 2:00pm – 4:30pm Afternoon - Parklands Recreation Hall
(large hall adjacent to our usual meeting place, more capacity & distancing – entry directly from car park)

Thursday 17th March 10:00am - Morning Meeting - Parkview Community Lounge – Hall

Other Dates for March 2022

- Saturday 5th **Irish Interest Group** – Bi-monthly informal group asking & answering questions, sharing information, resources & knowledge. Led by Tony Gordon. 10:00am. **Parkview Community Lounge – Donnington Room**
- Saturday 5th **DNA & Genealogy drop-in sessions at Shirley Library** – 10:00am to 12noon – run by Shirley Library & volunteers from NZSG Canterbury Branch. *Book through Shirley Library, phone 941-7923*
- Saturday 12th **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Thursday 17th **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Thursday 17th **St Patrick's Day – see Page 6 & 10**
- Saturday 26th **Computer Interest Group** – Bi-monthly informal group asking & answering questions, sharing websites, discussing computers & genealogy programs. We will stop half way through for a cuppa break. Led by Fiona Lees.
10:00am - 12noon - Parkview Community Lounge – Hall
- Saturday 26th **Continental Europe Interests – individual research session** – led by Kathy Bisman (kathmark5354@gmail.com) and other experienced genealogists. This will be from **12:30 - 2:30pm. Parkview Community Lounge – Donnington Room**
- Saturday 26th **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**

April 2022 Dates

- Saturday 2nd **DNA & Genealogy drop-in sessions at Shirley Library** – 10:00am to 12noon – run by Shirley Library & volunteers from NZSG Canterbury Branch. *Book through Shirley Library, phone 941-7923*
- Thursday 7th **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Saturday 9th **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Thursday 14th **Branch evening meeting - To Be Advised**
- Thursday 21st **Branch morning meeting - Anthony Patterson from the Electoral Commission**
- Thursday 21st **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Saturday 23rd **Canterbury Branch Library will be open from 12noon – 3:00pm**
- Monday 25th **ANZAC Day**

The programme for the New Year is under way but if you have a request or know of a group who members would be interested in hearing from, please contact Lorraine - malcwilms@gmail.com.

FROM THE COMMITTEE**Branch News:****NZSG National Financial Situation & Possible Effects on Canterbury Branch**

This month we are providing a forum for **Member Information / Discussion Sessions** where we can provide additional information, listen, answer questions you may have and hear your views on the best way forward for our Branch in response to the national NZSG's situation. We urge as many Members as possible to attend as your Committee needs to hear your views before any next steps are taken. Come along and have your say, or just listen to what your fellow Members say.

We need the help of you, our members to guide the way forward. We have provided some further information to our members in a separate email or as an attachment with your printed newsletter.

Please also note that any suggestions for the future for Canterbury Branch do NOT affect your individual membership or relationship with NZSG.

BACKGROUND

(Quotations from the NZSG are in *italics*.)

The NZSG Board announced last July that the NZSG was experiencing financial difficulties. At this stage, we were told that *“this situation does not affect NZSG Branches and Interest Groups. The Society's rules ensure that these are legally and financially separated from the national organisation.”*

This statement was then contradicted and now we are still waiting on a definitive legal opinion as to where our Branch stands. The following question and statement was provided by the Board – *“Would Branches and Interest Groups be financially liable if the NZSG did go into receivership? - The Board has sought legal opinion on this question and the first opinion stated that the Branches and Interest Groups were defined in the Rules as separate entities and therefore would not be liable. However, further clarification on the basis of receivership indicated that a receiver was likely to go after Branch funds if there was a shortfall at the national level. It would then be up to the Branches to prove their independence.”*

The Board has stated that *“We do not see your Branch assets as being at risk.”* And, *“Legally, Branches and Interest Groups are part of the National Organisation but operationally, Branches and Interest Groups are independent.”* Nevertheless some Branches have done what they believe they need to do to protect their assets and be able to continue as a genealogy group in their area, by becoming incorporated.

Board recently provided some information to another Branch in February 2022. *To ensure everyone has the same information, here is what we sent them: Financial wellbeing of the national NZSG - I'm sure many of you shared the concerns of myself and the Board about the ongoing viability of the NZSG. The decline in cash reserves arose over a number of years from a decline in membership and product sales and investment in technology in the hope of reversing these declines. We have worked to correct the cash flow situation, but there are commitments such as our lease that could not be broken to reduce costs in areas that most members would prefer. We have cut the costs that we are able to (which unfortunately does include a printed magazine at this point) and are looking at ways of increasing our income. With the support of our members, staff and landlord, we are now confident that the NZSG's financial situation is under control.*

Board - Possible impact of NZSG finances on Branch finances - *While taking steps to address the financial situation, we also sought advice on implications for Branches if the NZSG had to wind up. This advice identified a risk that a receiver might attempt to use Branch assets to cover any shortfall. The identification of this risk further heightened concerns across all Branches and for many members. Having identified the risk that Branches might be impacted in such a situation, we continue work to mitigate this risk becoming an issue in the future. We are seeking legal advice on how Branches can best document their independence from the NZSG.*

Board Legal Advice – *“We have made some progress on the issue of Branches and Interest Groups' position if the NZSG should go into receivership. The Board is hopeful that by the next Board meeting on 19 March, we will have received the advice we require. We will update you further after that meeting.”*

In the opinion of the Branch Committee and appointed committee members, Lindsay & Sandra Serra, there still exists a significant financial risk for NZSG and that it is highly likely that cash-flow problems will occur again before the end of 2022.

WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH CANTERBURY BRANCH?

We are an affiliated Branch of the NZSG and are bound by their rules. We are not allowed to remain a Branch if we try and operate under our own set of rules, which we would need to do to protect branch assets by becoming an incorporated society.

There has also been a warning given to branches that in the event of there being a shortfall of funds on any possible future winding up of NZSG *“a receiver is likely to go after branch funds”*. However, a protection is available through our branch becoming an incorporated society, giving us independence from NZSG. Should the NZSG ever have to wind up in the future then our Branch would need to already be protected to continue operating as we do now. Further advice is anticipated following the Board's 19 March meeting, however in case this advice is unfavourable, we as a branch committee would like to understand the wishes of the branch as to how to proceed.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY ON WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN NEXT?

This situation presents serious risk to our branch, and our branch committee is working to protect and preserve our branch assets and services. We need to hear what is wanted from branch members, so please speak up with your questions and comments. Any decision made will be from you, our members.

We need to hear your views on these important issues. We are organising a series of meetings during March, replacing our usual two Branch Meetings, to discuss and canvas the opinion of all our Branch Members. Further details and explanations will be provided at these meetings to discuss and resolve any queries or concerns you may have.

We have also produced a more detailed *‘paper’* for any Branch Member to delve a little deeper into the issues. A copy will be emailed.

However, most importantly, come to the meeting with an open mind and express your views, hear what other Members have to say and help your committee work out if any further actions are needed to safeguard your Branch and allow us to continue into the future. There will also be discussion at these meetings about what the Canterbury branch could look like in the future

All the statements in italics are from the NZSG Communications.

Please note that the Branch is not in itself a member of NZSG.

Please also note that any decisions made on the future for Canterbury Branch do NOT affect your individual membership or relationship with NZSG.

Member Information / Discussion Sessions – to replace standard evening and morning meetings for March, as well as an additional session on Sunday 13th March in the afternoon, from 2:00pm to 4:30pm. This Sunday session to be held in Parklands Recreation Hall to allow a different day and time to suit people who may not come along otherwise, as well as having a larger capacity, making better level of distancing. This is the hall that is attached to our complex, where we meet and have rooms. It is where the QEII Gym was operating from after the earthquakes until the new facility was built. Entrance is from the carpark side of the building – we will have our Branch 'sandwich board' to show the entrance.

A separate email account has been set up to receive feedback, comments, criticisms that you wish to pass on, particularly if you wish to do so privately. Feedback to Canterbury group – CanterburyFeedback@gmail.com

Virtual Meetings and Presentations - Since we may be in for more disruptions with COVID & with people not feeling comfortable coming in to meetings in person, we are wanting to find out who is comfortable using virtual / online meetings & who has never tried. We have been using Microsoft Teams or Zoom during the last two years for committee and other meetings. It has been a learning curve, but getting there. Some of you will have experienced *Talking Family History* on Fridays, with Fiona Brooker and Michelle Patient, since the pandemic began. Would you like to have the option of joining a meeting virtually, especially during lockdowns, when various stages of the pandemic is raging. The ideal, in my opinion, is to get together in person and enjoy the chatting and camaraderie, but times as they are now, lead us to suggest an alternative way of meeting. Also, to discuss important issues, such as facing us at present, we want all members to have the very best chance of being informed and making decisions in the best interests of the future of our group and our passion for genealogy. **Please let us know whether you would prefer to remotely join the discussion this month, using Zoom.**

As always, if you have any suggestions or comments please don't hesitate to get in touch with me or others on the committee.

Fiona Lees, Phone 021 040 8606 NZSG-CantyGroup-Newsletter@hotmail.co.nz

Omicron - As you well know COVID has well and truly taken hold in the form of Omicron, with numbers soaring. Please don't let Omicron make you a prisoner in your own home. Though the good thing about that is that you could do some more genealogy research. And we'd love to see you. We will be following all the COVID rules, of vaccine passes, masks & social distancing, so please don't worry.

Social media is increasingly being used for family research - asking questions, finding relatives, learning what this obsession is all about. The committee has discussed the current exposure the branch has on social media and would like to increase our presence starting with the engagement we get on *Facebook*. We are looking for a group of 4-6 people who could periodically post reviews, general questions, events, etc to stimulate engagement and increase our presence. It is expected that a group this size will mean people will not need to post as frequently. If you think you might be interested or would like to know more, please contact Natasha.

natashawells552@gmail.com

CANTERBURY BRANCH LIBRARY

AT PARKVIEW COMMUNITY LOUNGE - 75 QUEENSPARK DRIVE, PARKLANDS

Open: 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month from 12noon – 3:00pm &

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month from 12noon – 3:00pm.

March 2022 library dates:-

- Thursday 3rd & 17th from 12noon to 3:00pm
- Saturday 12th & 26th from 12noon to 3:00pm

April 2022 library dates:-

- Thursday 7th & 21st from 12noon to 3:00pm
- Saturday 16th & 30th from 12noon to 3:00pm

Use your branch library - have one on one help for your research and to see what resources are available for your research.

WHERE TO NEXT WITH YOUR DNA RESULTS?

DNA has become an important tool in our toolbox for many. If you have questions or have hit a brick wall, contact Bruce Holm (bruce.holm@gmail.com) or Barry Pycroft (barry@pycroft.co.nz or phone: +64-3-942-8417). There is also a DNA & Genealogy drop-in session at Shirley library on the 1st and 3rd Saturday each month, from 10:00am to 12noon (book through Shirley Library, phone 941-7923) that may help you solve the problem, and also ask for help at our Branch Library.



More than 26 million people have taken an at-home ancestry test

The genetic genie is out of the bottle. And it's not going back.

As many people purchased consumer DNA tests in 2018 as in all previous years combined, MIT Technology Review has found.

Surging public interest in ancestry and health—propelled by heavy TV and online marketing—was behind a record year for sales of the tests, which entice consumers to spit in a tube or swab their cheeks and ship the sample back to have their genomes analysed.

By the start of 2019, more than 26 million consumers had added their DNA to four leading commercial ancestry & health databases, according to our estimates. If the pace continues, the gene troves could hold data on the genetic makeup of more than 100 million people within 24 months. <https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/02/11/103446/more-than-26-million-people-have-taken-an-at-home-ancestry-test/>

MEMBERS' INTEREST DATABASE – Canterbury Branch is updating the members' genealogy research interests. This form is now available on our Branch website - <https://canterburygenealogy.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/membership-interest-form-2021-fillable.pdf>. A database for searching the surname interests for other members is now available on each of the branch computers - this will grow with more surnames of interest added by you. We will not give your contact details outside the branch, but will send on details of enquiries to you. For those who have previously submitted changes, please check and we can correct.



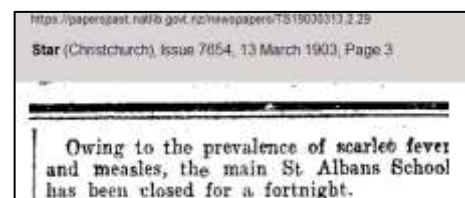
Thanks to Gordy

MEMBERS' RESEARCH INTERESTS & QUERIES AND REQUESTS FOR LOCAL INFORMATION

Members are invited to submit a recent find, surnames or topics of interest, or to ask a question, for inclusion in this newsletter.

- **Thank you to Alan Tunnicliffe** for giving us 'The New Zealand Genealogist' magazines we required for the years 1970-1976 inclusive – Volume 1, number 1 to volume 7, number 70. We now have a complete set of the NZSG magazines and are adding printed copies of the more recent issues to our set.
- **A snippet from 1903** – sounds just like COVID lockdown in 2020-2022 from Barry Pycroft

"Owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever and measles, the main St Albans School has been closed for a fortnight."



CORSER, Marie Eunice: (10 December 1932 – 18 February 2022) On February 18, 2022, peacefully at Park Lane Lifecare, aged 89 years. Loved sister and sister-in-law of Geoffrey and Elizabeth Corser (Manchester, England). Loved aunt of Sarah D'Monte, and Richard (England), and a loving great-aunt. Special thanks to the staff at Park Lane Lifecare for all the love and care given to Marie. At Marie's request, a private cremation has been held. (A genealogy gathering will be held in memory of Marie at a later date.)



[For those who don't know Marie well - she has been involved in genealogy since the early 1970s, very involved in Branch and nationally with NZSG. She taught many genealogy courses, gave multiple talks, held various positions, helped organise seminars and conferences, research, projects, coaching, passing on her immense knowledge and encouragement to many. For her long service and dedication, Marie has received awards and acknowledgement. She was a life member of Canterbury Branch and NZSG. Marie was previously a ballet dancer and ballet teacher, having her own school. Photos of Marie, and with her brother Geoff, also a dancer.]



In Marie's own words, from the Canterbury Branch 50th Anniversary Book produced by Alan Tunnicliffe, 2018:

"I joined the branch and the NZSG 46 years ago, back at the end of 1971, having got interested after a distant relative made contact. In those days we met in a room at the Durham Street Methodist

Church. Back then we only had the Public Library and Canterbury Museum as places to do our research at. Of course, this was well before the days of computers, which I later embraced with much enthusiasm. I soon got very involved with Canterbury Branch's activities, becoming Treasurer from 1976 until 1983.



One thing that I found fascinating was Wills and somehow I became the expert on this subject. I spent several years at the Christchurch Office of Land & Deeds compiling indexes of the wills and birth, death and marriage certificates found in the Deeds registers. Today there is still a print-out of those indexes with the Deeds registers, which are now kept in the Christchurch office of Archives New Zealand. From 1989 until 2003 I served as the Project Officer for the NZSG Wills Indexing Project.

In 1982 I was awarded an NZSG Merit Award and then from 1984 until 1986 I became Convenor of the Branch. My highest honour was being made a Life Member of the NZSG in 1989. An NZSG Service Award followed in 1996. The following year, in February 1997, the 8th Australasian Congress on Genealogy & Heraldry was held at Lincoln University and I was a member of the organising committee, which was chaired by Jenny Mayne.

Over the years I have given many talks at branch meetings, seminars and conferences, mainly on the subject of Wills. For example, at the NZSG Seminar in Christchurch in February 1980 I spoke on Wills and at the Conference in Invercargill in April 1996 I gave a presentation on NZ and English Wills. In 1989 the late Lynley Goldsmith and I wrote and published a book about genealogical research in Christchurch.

In 1997 I was a speaker at the AFFHO Congress at Lincoln University on the subject of Research in Christchurch Repositories.

For many years I tutored adult community education courses on genealogy and have on occasions travelled to other South Island branches to give talks. I also enjoyed my long period of time helping

people when I was a volunteer librarian at the LDS Family History Library under the leadership of Beth Colwell.

Most of all over the past 45 years I have made many wonderful friends both here in Christchurch and around New Zealand, all through this most interesting hobby of ours."

From NZSG website – "Marie joined the NZ Society in 1972 and has served for many years on the Canterbury Branch Committee, helped to organise seminars and give lectures; she teaches family history research at community colleges and encourages membership of the Society. She was the Officer responsible for the Wills Indexing Project 1989-2003. Presented with a Merit Award 1982; Service Award 1996. Marie was on the organising Committee of the AFFO Congress 1997."

Marie gave some great talks over the years for the Branch, including on her research with Coppell & Corser families, and on Wills, French Huguenot Ancestors, Research Repositories beyond and earlier than Census and Certificates, Family Serving in the British Empire, and British Seamen and their records. Marie was "very proud of the research she had done over the last 40+ years and especially pleased as she didn't do well at school history".

Thank you Marie – Farewell – Rest In Peace.

Fiona



1997 Congress Organising Committee wearing blue polo shirts. Front row L to R; Marie Corser, Jean Clifton (Congress Treasurer) Jenny Mayne (Congress Convenor), Betty Image (Congress Secretary). Back row L to R: Margaret Weir, Garry Jeffery, Helen Southen, Murray Barber, Millie Knox, Keith Cramond, Joan Teale, Kay Campbell, Pam Cook, Merle Conaghan.

HAWTHORN, Maureen Violet:

Passed away peacefully after a short illness on February 2, 2022, aged 82. Loved wife of Alex for 62 years. Dearly loved mother & mother-in-law of Alex & Lynette; Nicky; and Michelle. Treasured Grandmother of Samuel and Michael. A private cremation has been held. Messages for the family to 31a Selwyn Street, Timaru 7910. Maureen was a member of our Branch for several years. She was a keen researcher and passed on her knowledge in talks to members.

Maureen gave a very memorable, well researched talk on workhouses. Her father had grown up in a workhouse. Maureen hadn't had a very good relationship with her father, but through her research, she gained a far better understanding and respect of how his life had been.

Maureen and her husband moved to Timaru, after many hassles with EQC / Insurance in Christchurch. We were pleased to catch up with Maureen and Alex in Timaru for a cuppa a few years ago.

Fiona



MEETING REPORTS

Thursday Evening Meeting - LYTTELTON PORT

Neil McLennan, Engineering Advisor from the Lyttelton Port Company, talked about the history of the Port and also the present-day operations and how these came about.

Port of Lyttelton

On the evening of Thursday, 10 February, 2022, Neil McLennan, Engineering Adviser at the Port of Lyttelton, gave a well attended meeting a glimpse of some history and of the workings of the port today. As he is interested in the sea and is a recreational sailor he was well suited to a career at the port after completing a Bachelor of Civil Engineering at the University of Canterbury. He began in 1975 and will retire this year at the end of March.

To emphasise the links that many of our family histories have with the port Neil began with a picture of the memorial of the ship *Tararua* which sank in the far south but has memorials in both Christchurch and Dunedin. Some letters written to his great grandmother Ruth Fairhall were edged in black. Research into the family of the writer (Marian Dearsley) found that her father was a Wesleyan pastor who drowned in the shipwreck en-route to a Wesleyan conference in Australia.

Neil's paternal great-grandparents Susan Poingdestre, listed in the *Rakaia's* passenger list as a Guernsey-born servant, and Henry Jackson a draper, were married in Lyttelton in 1879. Henry's father had been a weaver and seeing his livelihood and artisan skills being lost to machines joined the luddite movement. Sabotage of mill equipment resulted in his conviction for treason and transport to the penal colony in Tasmania.

The lacemaking industry in the Channel Islands was similarly affected by mechanisation, and Neil found it interesting to contemplate how the worlds of Henry and Susan were both affected by the industrial revolution.

Neil mentioned the connection of the Port of Lyttelton with the heroic voyages of Scott and Shackleton in the early 1900s. He recommended the book "*First Voyage in a Square Rigged Ship*" by Frank Worsley who as a newly apprenticed 15 year old set sail in 1888 from Lyttelton on a clipper to England via Cape Horn. This captures the courage of all who travelled around the world in this era of shipping.

The Lyttelton wooden lighthouse originally built in 1878 was left on a lean after the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes but it has since been restored and placed back. More information at

<https://www.lpc.co.nz/light-relief-the-lyttelton-lighthouse-has-returned/> The dioptric lenses in the lighthouse (originally designed to be acetylene gas powered) were fabricated by Chance Brothers in England.

Neil was reading a book on the history of this company at the time of the earthquakes, "*Lighthouses, the race to illuminate the world*" by Toby Chance and Peter Williams and was thrilled to find, after it had been relocated to safety, that this lighthouse had one of their lenses.

To illustrate the role the port has had in development of the wider Canterbury area Neil described the difficult journey necessary to get a water turbine made in Dayton, Ohio, from the port to its destination of the Deans farm at *Homebush* in 1879. The turbine was to turn the waterwheel to power the shearing machines. This role continues today with agricultural machinery continuing to be a significant import stream.

Much of Neil's work related to keeping the harbour dredged and providing greater under keel clearance for larger ships. In 2018 the *THSD Fairway*, the largest dredge in the world and owned by Dutch company Boskalis, spent nine weeks dredging the harbour. The material is taken further out to sea and dumped.

Before the earthquakes critical port structures had been strengthened with a focus on being able to continue operating in a large earthquake. Despite being well prepared, \$25 million was required for temporary work to allow one wharf to continue to function and the total repair cost in the port ran into many hundreds of millions. CQ2 (Cashin Quay 2) is a replacement container wharf 230m long and 34m wide.

After the earthquake a whole new area of 10 hectares of land was created from the rubble. There were rules for acceptance of a load and every load was logged as it came in. A new wharf will be 400 metres long for large container ships, some of which are 40 metres wide and 280 metres long. The piles need to be in excess of 70 metres deep for wharves with cranes. Lyttelton has the advantage that it can grow its capacity as trade demands it, whereas many other NZ ports have limited options to expand.

A number of questions were asked. We heard that coal export accounted for only about 15 per cent of the port's revenue. Unfortunately due to interrupted shipping schedules the supply chain is not going to settle down for some time. Although the Port of Dunedin has apparently restarted Sunday Tours of their facility, the Port of Lyttelton sponsored tours have ceased at present due to COVID.

Our thanks to Neil for sharing some history and his knowledge of the present day port.

Thanks to Deborah Williams assisted by Neil McLennan for report.



Another grave at Barbadoes Street Cemetery in Christchurch



Recorded on this large marble headstone is the following...
Francis George Garrard
Master of the S.S. Tararua
Who perished at the wreck of his vessel on the Otago reef
30th April 1881
Aged 29 years.

The headstone can be seen just inside the lych gate of the Cemetery.

Deborah's Illustration found at <https://slidetodoc.com/the-wreck-of-the-steamer-tararua-special-thanks/>



RootsTech 2022 - The world's largest family history conference is free and online. Dates: 3 - 5 March 2022. This is a massive conference, with the biggest names in family history presenting the latest information and techniques. There is useful information on all aspects of genealogy, for beginners and experts. It really is worthwhile taking part, even if you only choose to watch a few of the presentations. Check out the information available at www.familysearch.org/rootstech. Register at [RootsTech registration](#). Once registered, can view for one year.



Thursday Morning Meeting - Family Photographs and Stories

Jenny Mayne shared a photo of the Officers of the 41st Regiment Bengal Native Infantry, which included Peter's ancestor Robert Graham Mayne – the one in full uniform. →

There was also a photo of the Memorial in Calcutta (Kolkata) Christian Cathedral on which he is listed. Several of Peter's family had served in the military in India, including Peter's great grandfather Brigadier William Mayne in north east India.

Evelyn Robertson shared a photo of the Wilson family home, Lake View, Rich Hill, in County



Armagh, Ireland. Meredith Wilson, Evelyn's great grandfather ← had lived there before coming to New Zealand. There had been a mystery as to the name of the home, as there was no lake in the vicinity. In her research, Evelyn found that there had been a mill with a mill pond in earlier days.

David Lees spoke of his mystery family member who had come to NZ in 1874, as told to his family by his great grandmother, before they came to NZ when David was young. After much research, David has found this person

was Harriett Gardner (née White) his great great grand aunt, sister to David's great great → grandmother, Charlotte Bushell (née White). His photo shows the two sisters. He had another



photo of Charlotte with her 4 daughters. Harriett came to NZ on the *Ocean Mail* in 1874 and married a William Gardner. David is now in contact with Gardner cousins, who tracked him down at an NZSG Conference in Nelson.

Fiona Lees shared some photos of her Craig family in Ayrshire, telling how she had been given them by cousins in Scotland. There was a family group of Fiona's great grandparents with their 10 children. This photo wasn't known to Fiona's mother until a family visit to Scotland. Two large portraits of great grandparents, James & Jessie Craig and a lovely photo of one of their young sons ← on the back of a cattle beast, were posted by a second cousin, after he had found a letter from Fiona to his father, and figured she was interested in family history.



Lorraine Wilmshurst shared photos of an accident involving a family member - the *Brooklyn Tram Accident in Wellington on 3 May 1907*, where a tram ran out of control → down Brooklyn Hill and derailed on an incline. One passenger, Mrs Eliza Bell (née Sheat), age 44 was killed. Her husband, Thomas, was on the car with her, the couple had already lost two children in recent years. Thomas remarried, and this couple were Malcolm's grandparents.

Thank you to all the members who stood up and told special stories of their family photographs.

Thanks to Fiona Lees for notes, apologies for any errors in details.

**SNIPPETS** - Some bits & pieces of interest and some to help you with your research:

- **St David's Day** - 1st March - is the feast day of Saint David, the patron saint of Wales, and falls on 1st March, the date of Saint David's death in 589 AD. It is not a national holiday, though there is strong support for it becoming a bank holiday in Wales. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_David%27s_Day
- **St Patrick's Day** – 17th March - The day commemorates Saint Patrick and the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general. Celebrations generally involve public parades and festivals, céilís, and the wearing of green attire or shamrocks. From 1878 to 1955, St Patrick's Day was recognised as a public holiday in New Zealand, together with St George's Day (England) and St Andrew's Day (Scotland). Auckland attracted many Irish migrants in the 1850s and 1860s, and it was here where some of the earliest St Patrick's Day celebrations took place, which often entailed the hosting of community picnics. However, this rapidly evolved from the late 1860s onwards to include holding parades with pipe bands and marching children wearing green, sporting events, concerts, balls and other social events, where people displayed their Irishness with pride. While St Patrick's Day is no longer recognised as a public holiday, it continues to be celebrated across New Zealand with festivals and parades at weekends on or around 17 March. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick%27s_Day#New_Zealand
- **Airforce Museum of New Zealand** - Wigram Christchurch www.airforcemuseum.co.nz
45 Harvard Avenue, Wigram open daily 9.30am - 4.30pm; Phone 343-9532
This museum which opened in 1987 holds the national collection of the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF). Their Collections & Research departments were to be closed until January 2022 – hopefully now available (*but haven't yet checked*). This was due to a backlog of new additions to the collections department. Check via their blog, Facebook or subscribe to newsletter.

Back to Basics – Research Planning & Execution Online

The *Genealogy Society of Queensland* is hosting an online presentation by Cyndi Ingle. In this presentation, Cyndi will discuss some strategies for planning your research and executing it effectively.

Book for this session at the GSQ website. <https://www.gsq.org.au/> **Date:** Saturday 26 March 2022 **Time:** 9:00 am AEST **Cost:** A\$30
This presentation will be recorded and available for participants to view for one month if they are unable to attend the live presentation.

About the presenter - Cyndi Ingle is the creator and innovator behind the award-winning and globally recognized CyndisList.com, a free categorized list of more than 337,000 links for genealogical research. Cyndi, a genealogist for more than 41 years, has expertise in using technology for genealogy. Additionally, her many active years in genealogy have also resulted in specialties for research in the United States and bringing together traditional methodology with organization, computers, software, and the Internet. Cyndi is the recipient of several awards and honours, she has served in several capacities for genealogical organizations, she is an internationally-known guest lecturer, and she has authored numerous articles and three books. Some will remember Cyndi's presentation in Christchurch a few years ago.



150 YEARS POLISH PEOPLE IN NEW ZEALAND

Voyaging across the seas to an unknown land, the first assisted Polish immigrants arrived in New Zealand in 1872. There will be celebrations in 2022 to celebrate 150 years of Polish communities in New Zealand - their sacrifices, their successes and their contributions. The first main contingent of 92 Polish settlers arrived at Lyttelton aboard the *Friedeburg* on the 30th August 1872 & 100 Polish nationals at Port Chalmers aboard the *Palmerston* on the 6th December 1872. Chain migration followed with Polish settlements at; Banks Peninsula (1872), Marshland (1872), Greytown, Allanton (1873), Waihola (1873) Germantown (1875), Jackson's Bay (1875), Hokitika (1875) Carterton (1876), Dannevirke (1876) Halcombe (1876) Inglewood (1876), Midhirst (1876), Stratford (1876) & Rangitikei (1876).



The largest contingent was 259 Polish settlers aboard the *Fritz Reuter* which arrived in Wellington on the 12th April 1876. All further requests for migrants from Europe were halted in 1876 due to a sufficient quota reached. It is estimated around 1,000 Polish immigrants arrived upon these shores during the 19th Century.

<https://150yearspolesdownsouth.nz/>

<https://150yearspolesdownsouth.nz/christchurch-canterbury-region/>

Arrival of the German Emigrant Ship *Friedeburg*, from Hamburg (150 years ago)

The bark *Friedeburg*, 784 tons, sailed 19 May, 1872 from Hamburg and arrived at Lyttelton 30 August 1872. Total landed 241 Statute Adults <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/TS18720902.2.9> <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/CHP18720902.2.5>

Polish Anchors 1872-1876

The first large groups of Polish settlers to New Zealand arrived between 1872 and 1876 as part of the new colony's assisted immigration scheme. They all left through Hamburg. Three ships—the *Friedeburg*, the *Palmerston* and the *Reichstag*—carried the bulk of the Polish settlers to Christchurch and Dunedin between 1872 and 1874. <https://polishhistorynewzealand.org/polish-anchors/>

This is a website that continues to evolve, and so our original linear list of early Polish settlers became a searchable database in 2020. We know the list is not complete—and probably never will be thanks to the corruption in names, but now you can search by putting in, say, Suc% and find all sorts of variations on the surname Suchomski. We are continually amending the list, as we find more information, and we encourage you to contact us if you know of any omissions, different spellings, or maiden names that would help connect families. (Includes list of surnames of those aboard *Friedeburg*.)

Pages including passenger lists, transcribed newspaper articles at <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~nzbound/genealogy/Friedeburg.htm>

Polish Settlers in New Zealand - This searchable database has been put together by Barbara Scrivens and covers the early settlers arriving in the late 1800s and the ships they came on. Wild cards can be used here as many Polish names were miss-spelt.

<https://polishhistorynewzealand.org/search-settlers/>

Thanks to Wairarapa Arboretum, February 2022

Fiona

HOLY TRINITY AVONSIDE CONSECRATION AND COMMEMORATIVES



The new Church at Holy Trinity Avonside was being opened and Consecrated on 24 February 2022. Commemoratives available. This is the same date as the original Church was Consecrated in 1857. To commemorate the occasion we have a Souvenir Calendar and a postmarked Cover (*stamp collector's stamped, postmarked envelope*) available. Calendar \$20.00. Cover \$5.00. Please support Holy Trinity.

Enquiries Christine Haythornthwaite, Phone 03-385-7661. Email Philipchris001@gmail.com.

Watch the recent consecration of Holy Trinity Avonside Church - <https://holyltrinityavonside.nz/consecration-and-official-opening/> <https://youtu.be/xleeSr7S3LY> <https://holyltrinityavonside.nz/> <https://holyltrinityavonside.nz/about-us/>



Holy Trinity Avonside was a heritage-listed Anglican old stone church building located in Linwood, Christchurch. It was registered as a "Historic Place – Category I" by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. It was "damaged beyond the point of repair" in the February 2011 Christchurch earthquake and was demolished the following September. It has been rebuilt with a modern, safe structure, repurposing some of the heritage material.



Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Trinity_Avonside

<https://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/avonside-the-holy-trinity-of-avonside-1855-2011/>

<https://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/linwood-the-holy-trinity-of-avonside/>

COVID-19 Preparedness: Vaccine Passes Required for Entry to Branch Rooms: Remember to:

- Look after ourselves and each other, protect our way of life. Please do not join us if you are feeling unwell.
- Either Scan the QR code (perhaps at the beginning and end of the meeting) OR note our whereabouts that day in our COVID 'Diary', however we do it.
- Mark attendance sheet and library visitor book.
- Masks are mandatory inside, social distancing 1 metre apart
- Sanitise our hands as we go into the hall or meeting room, before we get our cuppa & biscuit & as we leave



10 COMMON GENEALOGY RESEARCH MISTAKES

* Don't Forget Your Living Relatives	* Don't accept Family Legends as Fact
* Don't Trust Everything You See in Print	* Don't limit yourself to just one spelling
* We're Related To... Someone Famous	* Don't neglect to document your sources
* Genealogy is More Than Just Names & Dates	* Don't jump straight to the Country of Origin
* Beware Generic Family Histories	* Don't misspell the word Genealogy!

Here is a silly memory tool to help you remember the order for the vowels in the word **genealogy**

– **Genealogists Evidently Needing Endless Ancestors Look Obsessively in Grave Yards**

These ten bullet points are only the headings of a larger paragraph, so if you would like a copy of the three pages of detailed notes go direct to the website. From Hawkes Bay Twig Newsletter, February 2022

<https://www.thoughtco.com/top-genealogymistakes-to-avoid-1421693> - By Kimberly Powell - Updated March 17, 2017

NZ HISTORY – DATES IN NZ HISTORY FOR MARCH – <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/calendar/3>**TODAY IN NZ HISTORY****Legendary sheep rustler James Mackenzie caught - 4 March 1855 – 167 years ago**

In March 1855, shepherds searching for 1000 missing sheep in the upper reaches of the Waitaki Valley apprehended suspected rustler James Mackenzie, one of New Zealand's first and most enduring folk heroes.

Caught red-handed, Mackenzie denied the theft, claiming he had been hired to drive the sheep to Otago. After escaping from his captors, he walked 160 km to Lyttelton, where he was recaptured on 15 March. The Supreme Court found Mackenzie guilty, sentencing him to five years' hard labour. Mackenzie escaped from his road gang twice, remaining at large for a few days each time. In September 1855 a new magistrate reinvestigated his case and found flaws in the police inquiry and trial. Pardoned in January 1856, Mackenzie probably returned to Australia, but details of his later life are scarce.

The exploits of Mackenzie and his loyal dog Friday left an indelible mark on the South Island high country. Canny pastoralists quickly realised the significance of the pass where he was found with the stolen sheep, and the open country beyond. This region was subsequently dubbed the Mackenzie Country. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/the-legendary-sheep-rustler-james-mackenzie-is-caught>
<https://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/james-mackenzie-1820/>

New Zealand's first official execution - 7 March 1842 – 180 years ago

Maketū Wharetōtara, the 17-year-old son of the Ngāpuhi chief Ruhe of Waimate, was the first person to be legally executed in New Zealand. In November 1841 he had killed five people at Motuarohia in the Bay of Islands: farm worker Thomas Bull, Elizabeth Robertson and her two children, and Isabella Brind, the granddaughter of the Ngāpuhi leader Rewa.

Maketū had worked with Bull on a farm owned by Robertson, who was a widow. He killed them because he believed they had offended his mana. Bull had been verbally and physically abusive towards Maketū, and Robertson had sworn at him. Maketū did not explain why he had killed Robertson's two children and Isabella. It was perhaps this last killing that sealed his fate. Maketū was hanged at the corner of Queen and Victoria streets in Auckland. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/first-official-execution-in-new-zealand>

Census held after two-year delay - 5 March 2013 – 9 years ago

New Zealand's five-yearly census had been scheduled for 8 March 2011. But after Canterbury's devastating February earthquake, Government Statistician Geoff Bascand and Statistics Minister Maurice Williamson announced that it would not go ahead. Statistics New Zealand's Christchurch operations had been significantly disrupted, and the exodus of people from the city would have skewed the results. Cancelling the census so close to the due date cost around \$65 million. All the forms had been printed and contractors had delivered them to half a million houses. Statistics New Zealand recognised there would be longer-term costs too, as government agencies would have to rely on outdated data from 2006.

The census has only been cancelled on two other occasions – in 1931 as an economy measure during the Depression, and in 1941 because of the Second World War. Neither of these was rescheduled, leading to two decade-long gaps between censuses. The census planned for 1946 was, however, brought forward six months to September 1945 so electorate boundaries could be redrawn in time for the first post-war general election. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/census-held-after-two-year-delay>

New Zealand Cross created - 10 March 1869 – 153 years ago

This medal was created because members of New Zealand's colonial forces were not eligible for the Victoria Cross. Only 23 were awarded, all to men who served during the New Zealand Wars, making it one of the world's rarest military honours.

The *New Zealand Cross* was instituted by Governor Sir George Bowen by order in council. It was intended to meet the need for a decoration equivalent to the *Victoria Cross*, for which colonial military personnel were eligible only if they had been under the command of a British officer at the time of their exploit. The Cross could also be awarded without the delay inherent in referral to Britain for royal approval. The title '*New Zealand Cross*' was not adopted for some time. Lobbying for the honour was intense and persistent; the last award relating to the New Zealand Wars was not made until 1910.

In 1999 a new *New Zealand Cross*, similar in design to the original award, was instituted to replace the *George Cross*. Today this is the pre-eminent New Zealand award for '*acts of great bravery in situations of extreme danger*'. Unlike its namesake it is intended primarily for civilians, but may be awarded to military personnel in some circumstances. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/the-new-zealand-cross-is-instituted-by-order-in-council>

51 killed in mosque shootings - 15 March 2019 – 2 years ago

New Zealand's Muslim community suffered an horrific attack when a self-proclaimed '*white nationalist*' opened fire on worshippers at mosques on Deans Avenue and in Linwood in Christchurch. Fifty people were killed and 41 wounded, one of whom died six weeks later. The gunman used five weapons, including two semi-automatic assault rifles, in the attack, which was live-streamed on some websites. The death toll would have been higher but for the heroism displayed by unarmed men at both mosques, and by the police officers who forced the assailant's car off the road. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described it as one of New Zealand's darkest days.

In the following weeks, memorial events around the country were attended by thousands of people. Mosques welcomed visitors as the Muslim community displayed a remarkable capacity for forgiveness. Millions of dollars were raised to support the victims and their families. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/51-killed-mosque-shootings>

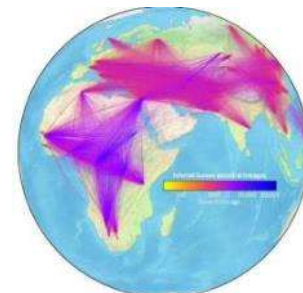
Scientists create the world's largest 'Family Tree' linking 27 million people

Scientists have created the world's latest family tree in history, linking around 27 million people - both living and dead - from around the world. Developed at the University of Oxford in England, [the expansive genealogical network](#) - which researchers say is the largest human genealogy to date - reveals how individuals across the globe are related to one another.

"The characterisation of modern and ancient human genome sequences has revealed previously unknown features of our evolutionary past," researchers from the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute said.

"As genome data generation continues to accelerate - through the sequencing of population-scale biobanks and ancient samples from around the world - so does the potential to generate an increasingly detailed understanding of how populations have evolved." "One important conclusion from our work is that the people we often label as representing 'the cradle of humanity' themselves had ancestors further back in time, whose descendants are still among us today."

<https://www.msn.com/en-nz/news/national/scientists-create-the-worlds-largest-family-tree-linking-27-million-people/ar-AAUhamC?ocid=mailsignout&li=BBdqg4K>





BISHOPDALE BRANCH

NEXT MEETING (COVID-19 Alert Level restrictions allowing):

Date, Time, Place: Thursday 24th March, 7:30 p.m. at St Margaret's Hub, 94 Farrington Avenue.

Topic: "**Breaking down those brick walls**" - this will be an in-house self-help session. Has your research got stuck and you don't know where to look next? Bring your questions along and we will try to come up with a solution.

The February meeting: Tony's Gordon's talk on researching Irish records was well attended.

Future meetings will proceed unless restrictions and guidance changes.

All welcome. Visitors are most welcome, for whom there will be a \$3 door charge.

Regards Christina Carroll

Convenor: Frances Cadman Phone: 352-5605 Branch Email: bishopdale@genealogy.org.nz
Newsletter Contact: Christina Carroll View our branch library catalogue at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/bishopdalenzsg>

Waimakariri Genealogy Branch

WAIMAKARIRI BRANCH

Monthly General Meeting dates are held on the third Tuesday of each month from January to November. Usually there is a Guest Speaker followed by a light supper. There is no charge for these evenings.

Next Meeting: Postponed

The Waimakariri branch will not be holding their March club meeting on 15 March due to the Omicron virus in our communities.

Convenor: Gordon McIvor Phone: (03) 327-3331 Email: gordandpaul@xtra.co.nz
Email: Waimakariri@genealogy.org.nz **Newsletter Contact:** pearsonchristine8989@gmail.com

NZHistory website launched - 16 March 1999 - 23 years ago

NZHistory (www.nzhistory.govt.nz) was launched by the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Honourable Jack Elder in Wellington on 16 March 1999. In 1998 staff members in the Heritage Group of the Department of Internal Affairs decided to embrace the brave new world of the Internet, primarily to promote the work of the group. This comprised the Historical Branch (responsible for publications about New Zealand at war and the history of government), the Heritage Operations Unit (responsible for national monuments, war graves and the administration of the Antiquities Act), National Archives and the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. In 2000 the renamed History Group became part of the new Ministry for Culture and Heritage.



One of the first topics on NZHistory, about the pioneer aviator [Richard Pearse](#), featured a virtual 3D version of his plane. Another state-of-the-art feature was a moving river on the home page, which you can see in action [here](#). Other early topics included ANZAC Day, the Tāngiwai disaster, assisted immigration, suffragists and the Radiant Living movement.

For the first few years all the technical work was done by one person, who started out using a very basic web-editing tool (Netscape Navigator 3 Gold), but over the years learnt more sophisticated web techniques. In 2006 the site was completely redesigned and moved into an open-source content management system (Joomla!). By this time more staff were contributing content to a site which had grown to several thousand pages, including a [Classroom](#) area for students and teachers and a [Calendar of New Zealand historical events](#). In February 2007 the site was moved into the more sophisticated Drupal open-source CMS to accommodate changes required to incorporate the treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz website and to add further functionality.

NZHistory has stayed true to its original purpose of making New Zealand history accessible to a general audience. The scope of its subject matter has broadened well beyond topics covered by the History Group's print publications.

Check out the [Wayback Machine](#) website to see [how far we've come since 1999](#).

NZHistory is now part of a suite of websites administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage:

- [Dictionary of New Zealand Biography](#): the online version was launched in 2002 and is now part of the Te Ara website.
- [Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#): the first theme, 'New Zealanders', was launched in 2005.
- [Anzac.govt.nz](#): a guide to Anzac Day for New Zealanders launched in 2005 and merged back into NZHistory in 2015.
- [VietnamWar.govt.nz](#): launched in 2008 for people to contribute their memories of the Vietnam War.
- [28maoribattalion.org.nz](#): launched in 2009; dedicated to the men who served in New Zealand's 28 (Maori) Battalion in the Second World War.
- [Quakestories.govt.nz](#): launched in 2011 as a place for people to record and share their experience of the Canterbury earthquakes
- [ww100.govt.nz](#): launched in 2012 to help people learn about New Zealand's involvement in the First World War and encourage participation in the commemoration of its centenary. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/page/nzhistory.net.nz-launched>

COMMITTEE 2021 / 2022

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Irish Interest Group	Tony Gordon	338 3052	cnnxns64@gmail.com
WWI Project - War Memorials / Boards of Honour	Evelyn Robertson	331-8204	robertsona@xtra.co.nz

BEST WISHES TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS – keep safe & warm, be kind to others and yourself.
We wish a warm welcome and happy researching to our new member Richard GREENAWAY.
Congratulations to all of those who are celebrating extra special BIG birthdays.

IN MEMORIAM: We have lost two members this past month, Maureen HAWTHORN & Marie CORSER. (See Page 4)
We pass on sympathy & condolences to all those who have lost family & friends recently.

[New Zealand Society of Genealogist's Website:- http://www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

Please let us know if you are shifting or have changed address, or email address, so we can keep our records current, & keep in touch.
Apologies for any errors & omissions in newsletter. Corrections & additions welcome. Photograph credits – David Lees.

NZSG CANTERBURY BRANCH LIBRARY HOURS

**Open: Every 1st & 3rd Thursday of the month from 12noon – 3:00pm, and
 Every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from 12noon – 3:00pm.**

Bring along your research queries and brick walls to your branch library – use the resources there and receive assistance.

Branch LIBRARY at Parkview Community Lounge - 75 Queenspark Drive, Parklands

Canterbury Branch Library is an Affiliate Library of FamilySearch – access to restricted records here!!

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE @ 25 FENDALTON ROAD

Hours: Tuesday 10:00am - 2:00pm and 7:00pm - 9:00pm

TŪRANGA - CHRISTCHURCH CENTRAL LIBRARY @ 60 CATHEDRAL SQUARE

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00AM – 8:00PM (GROUND FLOOR 8:00AM – 8:00PM)
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY 10:00AM – 5:00PM

CHRISTCHURCH PARKLANDS LIBRARY @ 46 QUEENSPARK DRIVE

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00AM – 6:00PM. SATURDAY 10:00AM – 4:00PM

CHRISTCHURCH FENDALTON LIBRARY @ 4 JEFFREYS ROAD

OPEN MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:00AM – 8:00PM. SATURDAY 10:00AM – 4:00PM

NEWSLETTER

NZSG Canterbury Branch
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 CHRISTCHURCH 8842



Thanks to our Newsletter Printer (printing from his home)
 - AndrewStark @ AWS Publications Ltd

*May love and laughter light your days and warm your heart and home.
 May good and faithful friends be yours wherever you may roam.
 May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.
 May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!*



Everyone's Irish
 On March 17th.

March National Days of Celebration
 Irish
 Welsh



Send us Feedback, comments, at CanterburyFeedback@gmail.com