



# WANAKA GENEALOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

## AUGUST 2016

Hello All

### **AUGUST SOCIAL MEETING – TIPS FOR TRIPS**

Very few of us go on a trip purely dedicated to genealogy research. If we think about it at all it usually means we allocate an afternoon to visiting a place our ancestors lived in or we think we can “pop in” to an archive and find that vital piece of information we’re looking for. We have found out the hard way that this doesn’t really work.

At our August meeting we pooled our ideas and the following is an attempt to summarise our handy hints. Many thanks to Ken who has provided the framework for this. I have grouped them and added other people’s comments in a different colour. If you are planning a trip or you are going abroad in the near future, this is well worth a read through!

### **KEN’S TRIP TIPS**

#### ➤ **PLANNING - DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE YOU LEAVE**

1. Do as much research on your family from NZ as you possibly can. Time spent looking at overseas records you can access from NZ on the internet is very expensive time.
2. **Is there anything you can look up online before you leave the comfort of your own home. Check the website of the archive you wish to visit for the following information:**
3. Decide what exactly you are going to be looking for and where it will be found.
4. **Find out which local archive has the records you are looking for. e.g. The State Library of NSW Australia holds information about Tasmania. Check the opening hours**
5. Don’t forget that with some institutions, you will need to book research times beforehand. **e.g. Ask if you need to book a microfiche reader**
6. **Don’t expect special treatment because you have come a long way. They are often busy and understaffed.**
7. Set up appointments beforehand e.g. write to the local Church Warden and arrange a convenient day and time to meet. They may be busy or on holiday when you are visiting.

#### ➤ **TRAVEL DETAILS**

1. Work out where you want to go and approximately when. Start planning details well before your “wished for” start time so you can take advantage of special airfares etc. Shoulder times are best – not too cold and not too hot and you miss the summer crowds – also a bit cheaper.
2. Do not count travel days as time to do research. E.g. you want three days in Edinburgh to do research and look around. You need 5 days – one getting there and the other returning/travelling on. Part of the first day could be allocated simply to finding out where places are and how best to get there.
3. Contact an experienced travel agent with whom you can establish rapport (important). Shop around. If it’s cheap – well you are very likely to get what you paid for!

4. Expect changes to the itinerary – my trip away in two weeks has had 5 major changes to one major part of our holiday since we paid the deposit. Even had the flight overseas cancelled by the airline and moved to another flight which caused a “chain reaction” to all subsequent bookings. If we had not used a travel agent we would have been up the creek -she negotiated a replacement flight to another more distant city at no additional cost (and return flight home) that would have normally cost a lot more money.
5. Be flexible in respect of arrangements – and physically flexible also as those ‘cattle class’ seats are not very enjoyable on a long trip.
6. If you are going to the “other side” e.g. UK, think seriously about having an overnight stopover e.g. at Singapore – or fly Premium Economy, Business or 1<sup>st</sup> Class. Don’t go via Los Angeles – arrogant, rude and unhelpful staff at the airport. San Francisco/Seattle/Vancouver – brilliant.

➤ **MAPS**

1. If you want to visit places where the family once lived, find them on a map. In the UK I found 1 Inch to the Mile Ordnance Survey Maps to find farms and how to get there.
2. But don’t forget internet maps – you can get the Ordnance maps on line now.
3. When you get there, don’t be afraid to knock on the door as you might be surprised by the response and we have never been turned away – quite the reverse. Make sure they know you are a Kiwi at the start – big plus overseas, especially in Scotland and Ireland.

➤ **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

1. The very moment you make the deposit on any part of your trip take out travel insurance and make sure you disclose ALL your health issues. Remember that in the event of a claim for medical issues, they will check with your doctor’s records before considering a payout.
2. Note NZ is one of the few countries in the world that provides insurance cover for rental car insurance excesses (so don’t get sucked into paying another premium to the car rental company for exactly the same insurance – they will try it on).

➤ **GADGETS or KEN’S BAG OF TRICKS**

1. Take a good digital camera with a spare battery and charger. At times a small discreet camera that you can slip in a pocket is an advantage – people with huge telephoto lenses tend to stand out as tourists and can be targeted by pickpockets etc. Don’t forget spare SD Cards for the cameras. On my last trip we took in excess of 2000 photos over a 3 week period which needed multiple cards.
2. Take an electric plug adapter that works in the countries you will visit. (see <http://www.trademe.co.nz/electronics-photography/other-electronics/adaptors-chargers/auction-1134761036.htm> for the overseas power plugs I showed at the meeting.
3. A small multi-plug board with a couple of USB plugs can be a godsend when you have a number of items to recharge overnight. ( see <https://www.pbtech.co.nz/index.php?z=p&p=SURACC5400> for the “powercube” multi point that I showed at the meeting)
4. A portable battery to charge the phone on the run is a great idea.
5. Load your contacts/addresses on your cellphone and Ipad/tablet and/or written notebook.

➤ **MONEY AND DOCUMENTS**

1. Register your travel arrangements with [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz) . Well worth it especially if you have problems overseas like a lost passport.

2. Have two separate credit cards e.g. a Mastercard and a Visa. DO NOT put both of them in your wallet. Buy a travel wallet that you can hang around your neck or waist inside your clothes in which you can hide your passport, one credit card and surplus cash etc.
3. **Check Public Holidays. Sometimes the eftpos machines will not be working. Best to have some cash available**
4. Lots of prices exclude local taxes e.g. equivalent of GST. E.g. in Canada we added 30% to the cost of a restaurant meal – 15% for the tip and 15% for provincial tax and federal tax.
5. Inform your credit card company of the dates you will be away and what countries you will be visiting – if they do not know you are likely to have your card(s) stopped.
6. Think about how you are going to remember passwords and PINs. DO NOT put them on paper and have them in your wallet!
7. DOUBLE CHECK the travel documentation the Travel Agent gives you and check against the travel schedule. Ask questions.
8. Photocopy your passport, and travel arrangements and put one copy in your suitcase and give the other copy to someone you trust and can contact here in NZ in case of problems.
9. Open a cloud app like Dropbox. Scan your passport and all travel documents and save them in your cloud app. Make sure your cellphone and ipad/tablet can access this cloud account. It is also handy for saving digital photos on as you travel around – backup!

#### ➤ **TRANSPORT and TRAFFIC**

1. Travel around the UK by rental car is a bit like driving here only faster on the big M Motorways. The big Motorways tend to miss all the really interesting places unless you are strictly a “City” person. I do not recommend driving in the big cities. Take a GPS – gold! They can also be handheld whilst you walk around.
2. If you are on a conducted trip e.g. a bus tour, get on side with the tour guide and make sure you are never late – pays dividends in the event of a problem arising.
3. **Be aware of bus lanes. Cars are not allowed between certain times and you may be fined**
4. **Parking is very expensive and less available due to the volume of traffic. Consider Park and Ride into the city centre or staying centrally so you can walk to places.**

#### ➤ **MEDICATION**

1. Take pills? Take a supply sufficient to last the trip and get a letter from your Doctor listing them as being prescribed by him/her. Put them in your carry-on luggage.
2. Wear glasses? Go to your optometrist and get a prescription certificate in case you lose or break them– you won’t be able to read those family documents without them!
3. Don’t forget your hearing aids and batteries!

#### ➤ **TIME**

1. Arrive at the airport in plenty of time! We ALWAYS aim for arrival an absolute minimum 2 hours beforehand – I try to be there at least 3 hrs beforehand. There is less chance of being “bumped off” if you book in early – many airlines over-sell tickets on flights hoping that not everyone turns up on the day. **Airports and also public buildings are more security conscious. Allow more time for this**
5. **It takes time to get Readers tickets, photo i.d. and just finding your way around the Reading Rooms, ordering systems, scanning, working the microfiche readers and reading almost illegible writing, loading money on to a card so you can do these things etc, etc. Some documents are off site and can only be viewed if ordered in. Allow extra time.**
6. **Visit early in the morning if you can. Staff can give more time at the beginning of the day.**

7. Some staff are not as knowledgeable as you may be as to what they have. Allow more time for discoveries.

➤ **LANGUAGE**

1. Learn a little of the local language (if it is not English). Greetings etc. e.g. 'buongiorno' show the locals you are making an effort. Even 'Slainte' in Scotland and Ireland goes down well at the appropriate time! Many Europeans have English as a second language.
2. Above all be patient, speak slowly and clearly (our accent can cause problems) and be security conscious at all times.

➤ **LOCAL ARCHIVES**

People willing to help you can be found in unexpected places e.g. Old Melbourne City Cemetery has a small office on site where you can find a map and helpful caretakers.

➤ **JOIN A GENEALOGY COURSE or CONFERENCE**

We joined a genealogy conference e.g. The Ulster Historical Foundation run a week long course twice a year (June and September) in Belfast visiting PRONI and The National Archives in Dublin. Details can be found here: [www.ancestry.ireland.com](http://www.ancestry.ireland.com) The expert help available is invaluable especially when visiting National Archives

Have fun!!!

## OTHER TOPICS

### DNA Update

FamilyTreeDNA - **They have a special offer on at the moment. See**

<https://www.familytreedna.com/sale.aspx>

*"This US based firm is the biggest DNA-testing company and hosts the majority of the surname projects conducted.*

*The kit is sent from the USA and takes about 10 days to arrive. All instructions are included with the kit. There are different prices for different levels. It takes about 6 weeks for the first report to arrive which includes names of people with similar DNA but they provide updates in between so you know what is happening. Matches are still being sent even though the test was done 3 years ago."*

The Genographic Project

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/>

Margaret reports that if you have taken this test you can load your results into Family tree DNA (above) and receive matches.

**LOST COUSINS NEWSLETTER** <http://www.lostcousins.com/> is free to join and has some good articles on DNA in the newsletter. I included this in our May newsletter so this is a reminder  
It is well worth signing up for the newsletter. It is FREE.

### **FEDERATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES U.K.**

There is a useful information leaflet to download from [www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)

You can also subscribe to their free bi-monthly newsletter

### **WORLD WAR 1 QUILT PROJECT**

I called in to see Phillipa McCray whilst I was travelling. There are photos of the finished quilt showing "our" embroidered squares in the Historical Records Room in the library.

## SUBSCRIPTION MAGAZINES – INSIDE HISTORY AND FAMILY TREE

Our group has Inside History on subscription and the first 2 issues are doing the rounds of members who signed up to be on the list. If you would like to be added to this please send your details to Doreen (details at the end of the newsletter)

Inside History is Australian biased but some interesting articles and snippets of information I picked up from it include: *Dating an image, How to date photographs, Family History Month happenings in Australia, My Heritage new Book Matching tool, An Irish ancestral archive, Photobook tips, and Surnames of Scotland (book available to download)*

Family Tree is a U.K. magazine and kindly sent to us from Sue Sweet. This may be more relevant and is also coming around those on the list.

We would like some feedback as to which magazine you prefer and can either look at a second subscription or the most popular one.

## INTEREST GROUPS

The Interest Groups are continuing to work well. The following contain a short summary of what we have been doing and a glimpse of what is coming up. Don't forget you can go along to any group that you are interested in. You don't need to attend every session. If you have something to offer on the topic then all the better. I am trialling holding 4 of the groups in one week in September in an attempt to make it easier to remember when they take place. People do not normally attend every one. Please give your feedback if this works or not.

### LOCAL HISTORY EXPLORERS

#### Next Meeting

Wednesday 17 August

When: 11am  
Where: Wanaka Library  
Project: New Project to be decided  
Jo Wilton 443 8123  
[wiltonnz@hotmail.com](mailto:wiltonnz@hotmail.com)

The group expressed an interest in learning more about the old properties in the district. A booklet will be produced on the history of the Ferryman's cottage at 4 Arklow Street, Albert Town by Marie Lewis.

We continue to ask for details of homes of historical interest in the Upper Clutha area. Contact us if you have suggestions or information.

### SCOTTISH GROUP

#### Next Meeting

Friday 30 September

When: 2pm  
Where: **105 Aubrey Road**  
**(Please note venue)**  
Topic: Famous Scottish Battles  
Neal Brown 443 1044  
[brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz](mailto:brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz)

Our last meeting was entitled Healers and Herbs in Scottish history. Healers included: physicians, midwives, the church and clergy, clan chiefs, bonesetters, witches. Some threats to peoples lives came from: fairies, demons, the evil eye and the devil.

Some herbs and plants talked about that helped in healing were: chamomile, comfrey, hemlock, wild sage, rowan tree, selfheal, cowslip shepherds purse.

Laudanum (opium) was often used for treatment of pain.

In the discussion about witches this quote gives feeling of how scary life might have been. , "Accusations of witchcraft could be made anonymously by leaving a note in a box in the kirk."

The next meeting is on famous Scottish Battles. Bring any relevant material, especially if you had an ancestor taking part.

## COMPUTER USE IN GENEALOGY

### Next Meeting

Thursday 15 September

When: 5.00 pm

Where: Wanaka Library

Topic: Adding Photos to your software  
Part 2

Louise Primrose\_443 8977



[loup.lp76@gmail.com](mailto:loup.lp76@gmail.com)

In our sessions we have been learning how to import a GEDCOM and generally familiarise ourselves with how to use the Family Tree Builder software.

Our next session will continue the topic How to add photos to your genealogy software, mark faces in a group photo etc We can also look at adding photos to Word documents, changing the wrapping etc.

We try to have a general question time at the end. It gives us ideas for other topics if we can't answer the query easily.

Would you like to have your family tree in some sort of genealogy software program, be able to print out charts and reports easily, but don't know where to start? I can take you through step-by-step from downloading it to learning how

to add your family and printing out a chart. **Contact me and register your interest.**

## IRISH GROUP

### Next Meeting

Wednesday 14 Sep

When: 2pm

Where: 86 Kings Drive Wanaka

Topic: Irish Wills. What is available and where to find them

**Matt Primrose** 443 8977

[mprimrose@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mprimrose@xtra.co.nz)

The 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Irish interest group was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July. We looked at the Primary Valuation of Tenements (Griffiths Valuation) which is a valuable census substitute for the period from 1847 to 1864 as official Irish census records have been lost. [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) has an easily searchable version of Griffiths, including maps used to locate properties overlaid on present day maps for reference. We also looked at the Valuation Revision books for Northern Ireland which are available online on the PRONI (Public Record Office of Northern Ireland) web site. These books update the Primary Valuation records from 1869 to about

1932 so changes of land occupiers and ownership can be traced. Unfortunately while Griffiths Valuation covered the whole of Ireland and Valuation Revision books also exist for all of Ireland, only the revision books for the 6 counties of Northern Ireland are available on-line. To see the revision books for the remaining 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland it is necessary to visit the Land Registry in Dublin.

Topics suggested for future meetings are Irish Wills and where to find them, and also a look at the Land Reform process in Ireland in the late 1800s when many properties tenanted from the large landed estates were purchased by occupiers as freehold properties. Other suggestions are welcome, especially if accompanied by an offer to present or lead a discussion on the subject.

Note: The PRONI web site has recently been integrated into a new government information web site and is now available at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>

## **RECORD KEEPING & WRITING**

### **Record Keeping & Writing**

**Monday 12 September**

When: 2.00 pm

Where: Wanaka Library

Topic: ABC

Louise Primrose\_443 8977

[loup.lp76@gmail.com](mailto:loup.lp76@gmail.com)

Our catchphrase is “Make a start” as there is never an ideal time to do this and we are all so busy! This works for writing as well as record keeping.

### **TELLING OUR OWN STORIES**

Some of us have started writing our ABC although with our own interpretation. We discussed who our audience for our stories would be and discovered it changes the way you write. Alison is writing hers but also connecting it to an ancestor. My first audience will be my young granddaughter but the stories can be used as a first draft to put together a longer work.

Come along to hear what it is all about. Bring anything you have written to share either your own stories or those of your ancestors

We set ourselves a challenge of finishing 10 “stories” by our next session.

Future Topics include “Making a Plan” ; Creating a Timeline;

## **RESEARCH MEETINGS**

### **Research**

**Friday 26 August**

When: 2.00 pm

Where: Wanaka Library

Topic: Bring any information you have

Doreen Hale 443 7320

[rosemaryhale@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rosemaryhale@xtra.co.nz)

We meet on the last Friday of each month in Wanaka Library

These sessions are for anyone actively researching an ancestor/family. Bring a name and any information you have. You can use the library computers or bring your own tablet/laptop. This is a good idea as sometimes the library computers are very busy.

Books and magazines may be borrowed from the

Genealogy Group library cupboard. The library also has a selection of genealogy books.

There will be people to help you!

If you are not researching but feel able to help others search, please do come along.



## **SOCIAL MEETINGS**

**First Friday in February, May, August and December** All are welcome. Bring a friend.



### **Christmas Afternoon Tea**

**Friday 2 December**

Where: Meeting Room, Wanaka Hotel, 71 Ardmore Street, Wanaka

When: 2.00 pm

Topic: WHERE IN THE WORLD DO ALL OUR FAMILIES COME FROM?

Bring along the earliest ancestor you have found and introduce them to us.

Dressing up optional!



## SUMMARY OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AUGUST TO DECEMBER 2016

| Date                                 | Group   | Place   | Time           | Topic   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|----------------|---|
| <b>AUGUST – FAMILY HISTORY MONTH</b> |   |   |                |   |
| <b>Wednesday 17 August</b>           | <b>Local History Explorers</b>                      | <b>Wanaka Library</b>                           | <b>11am</b>    | <b>New Project: To be discussed</b>   |
| Friday 26 August                     | General Research                                    | Wanaka Library                                  | 2pm            | Bring the name of an ancestor to research   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b>                     |   |   |                |   |
| <b>Monday 12 Sep</b>                 | <b>Record Keeping &amp; Writing</b>                 | <b>Wanaka Library</b>                           | <b>2 pm</b>    | <b>ABC stories. Bring your writing to share</b>   |
| <b>Wednesday 14 Sep</b>              | <b>Irish Group</b>                                  | <b>86 Kings Drive</b>                           | <b>2pm</b>     | <b>Research Group – Irish Wills</b>   |
| <b>Thursday 15 Sep</b>               | <b>Using Computers in Genealogy</b>                 | <b>Wanaka Library</b>                           | <b>5.00 pm</b> | <b>Adding Photos part 2 Genealogy software</b>  |
| <b>Friday 30 Sep</b>                 | <b>Scottish Group</b>                               | <b>105 Aubrey Road</b>                          | <b>2 pm</b>    | <b>Famous Scottish Battles</b>  |
| Friday 30 Sep                        | General Research                                    | Wanaka Library                                  | 2pm            | Bring the name of an ancestor to research   |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>                       |   |   |                |   |
| Friday 28 Oct                        | General Research                                    | Wanaka Library                                  | 2pm            | Bring the name of an ancestor to research   |
| <b>NOVEMBER TBA</b>                  |   |   |                |   |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>                      |   |   |                |   |
| <b>Friday 2 December</b>             | <b>Social Meeting: All Welcome (Bring a Friend)</b> | <b>Meeting Room Wanaka Hotel Ardmore Street</b> | <b>2pm</b>     | <b>Christmas afternoon tea. Where in the World do all our families come from? Bring your earliest ancestor to meet the others</b> |

### Committee

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Secretary  
Treasurer

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