



WANAKA GENEALOGICAL GROUP

APRIL 2023

Hello all

Autumn has arrived with the trees turning colour and most of the year's harvest safely stored. Winter is around the corner so now is a good time to decide on and prepare for a Winter Genealogical project. You may find inspiration from our meetings this year on 'Passing On' and 'Photogenealogy'. They are both reported on below.

We have welcomed 5 new members so far this year: Debra Wilkins, Meridee Beange, Pam Vaughan, Carole Willsher, and Ann Rankin

27 JANUARY MEETING – OPEN MEETING

We had a good attendance of 16 members and 3 possible new members for this meeting at the Wanaka Library.

Louise opened with a general discussion on what we do as a group and how we help members with their family history research through our monthly meeting topics and our Newsletters.

Sue discussed the resources we hold including books, magazines, and other records such as our Upper Clutha School Registration Index. Our WGG Library was open and various resources were on display. Members were reminded of the magazine round robin whereby the three magazines we receive from Sue Sweet on a regular basis are circulated around those members interested. They are - 'FamilyTree', 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and 'Devon Family Historian'

Erena demonstrated how to use the Wanaka Library's free Ancestry programme for genealogical research.

Kay Curtis gave a brief talk on DNA and the various options available for having your DNA tested.

Margaret discussed how to make use of the records held in the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society's Archives' Room.

24 FEBRUARY – Louise Primrose – PASSING ON

WHAT TO DO WITH ALL THE STUFF!

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR? Q. After 40-odd years of family tree research I have amassed quite a bit of data. The younger members of my family don't seem to have any great interest in my papers.

Should I just bin it?

THERE'S NO SIMPLE ANSWER-

1. Do not bin your work. The attitudes of the younger members will change with age and maturity.
2. Make sure your paper files are tidy and stored in an organised way. Tidy records are less likely to be ditched.
3. Make a digital copy and send a copy of your research to a relative.
4. Consider printing your family history in book form. It doesn't have to be complicated. A simple ring file which can be easily read.
5. Look at posting online.
6. Deposit your research in a public facility e.g. Hocken or NZSG.

For more detail, please see attached notes.

31 MARCH – Louise Primrose – PHOTOGENEALOGY

THE ART & SCIENCE OF CARING FOR AND ENJOYING FAMILY HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHS

This was based on a series of articles by Ann Larkham published in the Family Tree Magazine over 6 months July – Dec 2022. The articles cover the 5 steps for Photogenealogy success:

Introduction – FT July 2022

1. Gather & Back-up – FT August 2022
2. Sort & Organise – FT September 2022
3. Preserve – FT October 2022
4. Enhance & Share – November 2022
5. Legacy – December 2022

All the magazines are available to borrow from our genealogy library.

There is more information on Ann's website photogenealogy.co.uk including worksheets which are free to download. If you have a problem with downloading the email Louise can send you a copy.

Ann is a qualified genealogist, based in the U.K. She is happy to give us a talk via Zoom on "Scanning your photographs". This has now been organised and will be held at St Johns Meeting Room, 4 Link Way on Friday 28 July starting at 10am. Her fee is \$90 so there will be a charge for attendees which will be notified later.

At our November meeting last year Paula Mitchell from Wanaka Library led a session on how to create a Photobook using Snapfish. Their website is snapfish.co.nz

The lesson covered using the online software, downloading photographs into the software, naming and creating the photobook using themed templates or designing your own, creating the Photobook - adding backgrounds, colours, and embellishments. Adding a textbox, formatting it and finally publishing your book.

Paula is willing to hold another session for the group if we want one.

Louise brought along her Photobook using Snapfish on Matt's time growing up in Africa along with the photograph album that was the source of the photos. The result was impressive.

YOUR BOOK

Type: 28x20cm Hardcover (satin pages)

[Change](#)

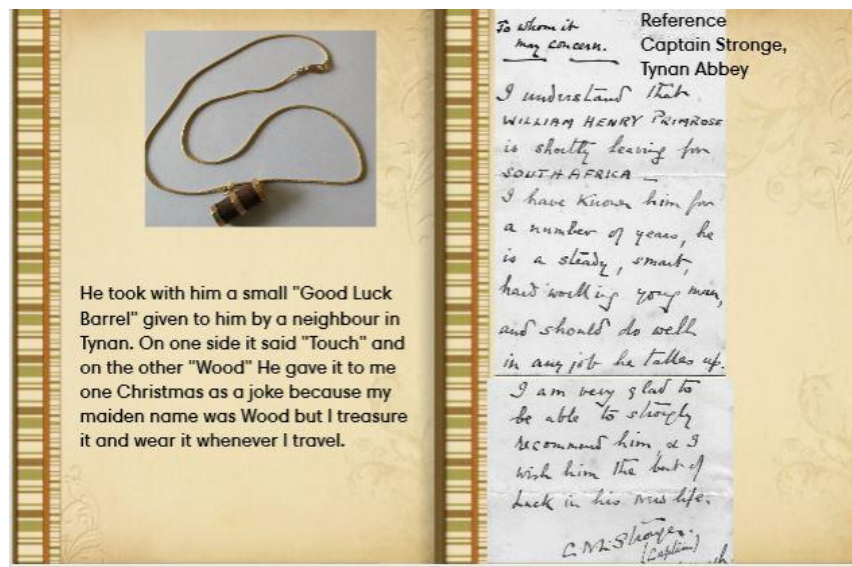
Theme: Family Memories

[Change](#)

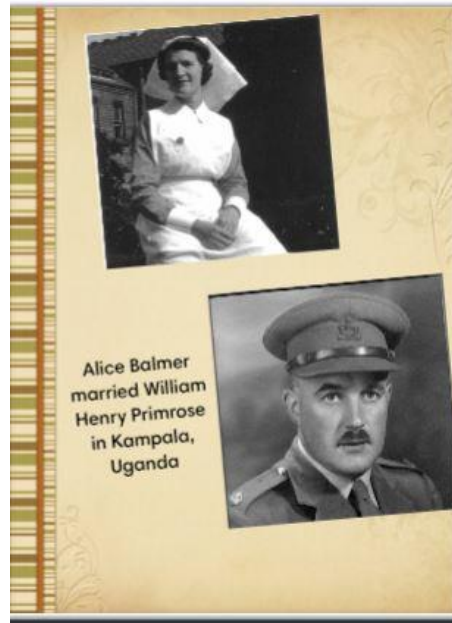
Pages: 38



A working document with the type of book, theme, number of pages and various possible layouts.



The programme allows you to include photos of objects, text and copies of family documents –



and of course your family photos.

Organising Your Family Photos:

Erena explained how she had organised her family photos

A few years ago I was given all our old family photos in a cardboard box. Thankfully I already had the digital images and had identified many of the people.

I decided to arrange the photos into the four grandparent families, plus my parents post-marriage and put aside any unknowns, thus making six piles. Firstly, I laid all photos out on the table, sorted them into the appropriate family and then sorted each pile chronologically. Many of the photos had some degree of identification written on the rear eg 'Pop', 'Wyn and Lil's wedding'. Using a 2B pencil, so not to damage the photo, I added identification wherever I could to aid future generations.

There were a variety of photo sizes to accommodate in my D4 polyporopylene ring binder/photo album, bought from PaperPlus. I bought three different sized packs of polypropylene archival pockets to hold either 8 (4 back-to-back) or 18 (9 back-to-back) photos, plus A4 sleeves for larger photos and pages. There are several New Zealand websites selling archival materials, and I purchased these from Conservation Supplies.



Once the photos were in their pockets, I used coloured dividers to separate the families and indexed them at the front of the ring binder.

Finally, using SmartArt in Word, I created simple Family Trees for each grandparent branch of my family. I included 'family' names eg Arthur Button was 'Pop', Gertrude Button was 'Nanny', Annie Allen was 'Aunt Nan', and this ensured the names on the photos could be matched to the relevant family.

Do's and Don'ts for Labelling Old Photographs

NEVER use permanent markers, cheap pens, highlighters etc.

USE **#2B pencil** (softer than HB) on fibre-based photographic prints. This can be erased and graphite is relatively inert. Write on the photograph rear side along a margin, and don't press hard.

OR better still, use a graphite **Stabilo-All Pencil**. They are excellent for glossy surfaces such as the rear of plastic-coated photographs, album pages, polypropylene or polyester sleeves etc. They come in a variety of colours, are water-soluble and can be wiped off or erased from paper.

See Archival Methods website <https://www.archivalmethods.com/blog/safely-writing-on-photographs/>

Scanning negatives and slides:

The following is the name of the UCHRS scanner that can copy slides and negatives:
Epson V800 Photo/V850

Next meeting:

DNA - Latest News. To be held in the Faulks Room, Lake Wanaka Centre – 1.30 to 3.

Ancestry can now separate your matches into your Maternal and Paternal lines and has tentatively connected your DNA profile to variations in a number of traits.

With DNA in mind, you may be interested in the following mtDNA discovery:

What's new with Beethoven?



Recently, researchers from FamilyTreeDNA and Cambridge University worked together to sequence Beethoven's genome from locks of his hair. The study, published in Current Biology, uncovered that Ludwig van Beethoven was not genetically a van Beethoven. They were also able to identify his mtDNA haplogroup.

A contemporary portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven, who died in 1827 at age 56, by Joseph Karl Stieler. Photo / Joseph Karl Stieler, Beethoven-Haus Bonn via The New York Times

Erena found the following article relating to this story written by Gina Kolata in the New York Times:

New York Times

By Gina Kolata

It was March 1827, and Ludwig van Beethoven was dying. As he lay in bed, wracked with abdominal pain and jaundiced, grieving friends and acquaintances came to visit. And some asked a favour: could they clip a lock of his hair for remembrance?

The parade of mourners continued after Beethoven's death at age 56, even after doctors performed a gruesome craniotomy, looking at the folds in Beethoven's brain and removing his ear bones in a vain attempt to understand why the revered composer lost his hearing.

Within three days of Beethoven's death, not a single strand of hair was left on his head.

Ever since, a cottage industry has aimed to understand Beethoven's illnesses and the cause of his death.

Now an analysis of strands of his hair has upended long-held beliefs about his health. The report provides an explanation for his debilitating ailments and even his death, while also raising new questions about his genealogical origins and hinting at a dark family secret.

The paper, by an international group of researchers, was published on Wednesday in the journal *Current Biology*.

It offers additional surprises: a famous lock of hair — the subject of a book and a documentary — was not Beethoven's. It was from an Ashkenazi Jewish woman.

The study also found that Beethoven did not have lead poisoning, as had been widely believed, nor was he a Black man, as some had proposed.

And a Flemish family in Belgium — who share the last name van Beethoven and had proudly claimed to be related — have no genetic ties to him.

Researchers not associated with the study found it convincing.

It was “a very serious and well-executed study”, said Andaine Seguin-Orlando, an expert in ancient DNA at the University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse, in France.

The detective work to solve the mysteries of Beethoven's illness began on December 1, 1994, when a lock of hair said to be Beethoven's was auctioned by Sotheby's. Four members of the American Beethoven Society, a private group that collects and preserves material related to the composer, purchased it for US\$7300. They proudly displayed it at the Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies at San Jose State University in California.

But was it really Beethoven's hair?

The story was that it was clipped by Ferdinand Hiller, a 15-year-old composer and ardent acolyte who visited Beethoven four times before he died.

On the day after Beethoven died, Hiller clipped a lock of his hair. He gave it to his son decades later as a birthday gift. It was kept in a locket.

The locket with its strands of hair was the subject of a bestselling book, *Beethoven's Hair*, by Russell Martin, published in 2000 and made into a documentary film in 2005.

An analysis of the hair at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois found lead levels as high as 100 times the normal amount.

In 2007, authors of a paper in *The Beethoven Journal*, a scholarly journal published by San Jose State, speculated that the composer might have been inadvertently poisoned by medicine, wine or eating and drinking utensils.

That was where matters stood until 2014 when Tristan Begg, then a master's student studying archaeology at the University of Tübingen in Germany, realised that science had advanced enough for DNA analysis using locks of Beethoven's hair.

"It seemed worth a shot," said Begg, now a doctoral student at Cambridge University.

William Meredith, a Beethoven scholar, began searching for other locks of Beethoven's hair, buying them with financial support from the American Beethoven Society, at private sales and auctions. He borrowed two more from a university and a museum. He ended up with eight locks, including the hairs from Hiller.

The Hiller lock, which the study found did not come from Beethoven but a woman, with its inscription by its former owner, Paul Hiller. Photo / William Meredith, Ira F. Brilliant Center for Beethoven Studies, San Jose State University via The New York Times



First, the researchers tested the Hiller lock. Because it turned out to be from a woman, it was not — could not be — Beethoven's. The analysis also showed that the woman had genes found in Ashkenazi Jewish populations.

Meredith speculates that the authentic hair from Beethoven was destroyed and replaced with strands from Sophie Lion, the wife of Hiller's son Paul. She was Jewish.

As for the other seven locks, one was inauthentic, five had identical DNA, and one could not be tested. The five locks with identical DNA were of different provenances, and two had impeccable chains of custody, which gave the researchers confidence that they were hair from Beethoven.

Ed Green, an expert in ancient DNA at the University of California, Santa Cruz, who was not involved with the study, agreed.

"The fact that they have so many independent locks of hair, with different histories, that all match one another is compelling evidence that this is bona fide DNA from Beethoven," he said.

When the group had the DNA sequence from Beethoven's hair, they tried to answer long-standing questions about his health. For instance, why might he have died from cirrhosis of the liver?

He drank, but not to excess, said Theodore Albrecht, a professor emeritus of musicology at Kent State University in Ohio. Based on his study of texts left by the composer, he described what is known of Beethoven's imbibing habits in an email.

"In none of these activities did Beethoven exceed the line of consumption that would make him an 'alcoholic,' as we would commonly define it today," he wrote.

Beethoven's hair provided a clue: he had DNA variants that made him genetically predisposed to liver disease. In addition, his hair contained traces of hepatitis B DNA, indicating an infection with this virus, which can destroy a person's liver.

But how did Beethoven get infected? Hepatitis B is spread through sex and shared needles and during childbirth.

Beethoven did not use intravenous drugs, Meredith said. He never married, although he was romantically interested in several women. He also wrote a letter — although he never sent it — to his “immortal Beloved”, whose identity has been the subject of much scholarly intrigue. Details of his sex life remain unknown.

Arthur Kocher, a geneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany and one of the new study’s co-authors, offered another possible explanation for his infection: the composer could have been infected with hepatitis B during childbirth. The virus is commonly spread this way, he said, and infected babies can end up with a chronic infection that lasts a lifetime. In about one-quarter of people, the infection will eventually lead to cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer.

A couple of days after reading this article Margaret received the following message from FamilyTreeDNA :

Do you match Beethoven’s mtDNA?

It was discovered that Beethoven had a unique mtDNA mutation. This newly discovered mutation has never been detected in any other tester of this haplogroup.

As a result, anyone of European descent that is testing their mtDNA for the first time could potentially be the first detected mtDNA match with this unique mutation! Could that be you?

An enterprising bit of soliciting by FamilyTree DNA for their mtDNA tests!!!

For those of you who do not subscribe to Lost Cousins the following abridged article on Marriage may be of interest and encourage you to join – it is free.

Child marriages outlawed in England & Wales

Since 27 Feb 2023 it has been illegal for under-18s to marry in England or Wales, and the new law also prohibits ceremonies which are not legally binding.

“Previously forced marriage was only an offence if coercion, such as threats, was used. But under the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Minimum Age) Act, it is now illegal to arrange for children to marry under any circumstances, whether or not force is used.” The minimum age remains at 16 in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

When could you marry in earlier centuries?

Under Canon Law boys were able to marry at 14, and girls at 12 – and those minimum ages continued to apply after Civil Registration was introduced in 1837. Indeed, it was only in 1929 that the minimum age for boys and girls was raised to 16. Although minors (children under 21) were supposed to have their parents’ consent to marry, a failure to obtain that consent didn’t usually invalidate the marriage.

There were restrictions relating to the hours and the days during which marriages could be celebrated.

According to Professor Rebecca Probert in *Marriage Law for Genealogists*, in the early 17th century marriages were *allowed* from 13th January to Septuagesima Sunday (the third Sunday before Lent) but were then *prohibited* until 8 days after Easter Sunday.

It was possible to buy a licence to marry during one of the prohibited periods and, even without a licence, if the vicar was prepared to take the risk a marriage after banns would still have been valid. Nevertheless, a consideration of the dates on which your ancestors married might give you some clues to the circumstances – particularly if you take into account the timing of the baptism of the couple's first child.

Those restrictions were removed in 1644, but reimposed at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660 – though Professor Probert indicates that the Church had difficulty enforcing the prohibitions.

There were also restrictions as to hours – you could only marry between 8am and 12 noon. It has been suggested that the term 'wedding breakfast' is a consequence of the timing, though since this wording was not used until the 1830s it seems unlikely. Again marriages contracted outside the permitted hours were valid (but regarded as clandestine), though from 1823 until 1886, when clergy solemnising a marriage before 8am or after noon became liable to transportation for 14 years, there can have been few examples!

From 1886 the hours were extended to 3pm in the afternoon, and in 1934 they were extended again – to 6pm.

Professor Probert answered some unanswered questions relating to Illegal weddings and Superintendent Registrar's certificates after a talk she gave to LostCousins members recently.

'Illegal' weddings

One attendee asked whether it would have been illegal for a man to marry his deceased brother's wife in the 1830's. Such a marriage was certainly within the list of "prohibited degrees". Its precise status would depend on when it was celebrated. If it was before 31 August 1835 then it would have been validated by the Marriage Act 1835 – but if after that date it would have been automatically void.

So it was 'illegal' in the sense of not being recognised as valid – but it was not a criminal offence and so couples who did marry within the prohibited degrees could not be prosecuted. However, there are occasional examples of individuals being prosecuted for perjury under the Marriage Act 1836 for making a false declaration that they were free to marry before the superintendent registrar.

Another related question was about the penalties for someone officiating at a void marriage. The Marriage Act 1835 doesn't address this point and the Marriage Act 1836 only sets out the penalties for superintendent registrars and registrars who allow marriages to go ahead where the formal requirements haven't been properly observed. That said, the church courts would no doubt have taken a dim view of clergy who conducted marriages that they knew to be void!

The "Superintendent Registrar's Certificate"

A Superintendent Registrar's Certificate was introduced by the Marriage Act 1836 as the standard preliminary for non-Anglican weddings. It cost a shilling to give notice and another shilling for the certificate to be issued, with a mandatory waiting period of 21 days. During that time notices of the marriage were either read before the Poor Law Board of Guardians (before 1857) or simply posted up in the register office (from 1857). A Superintendent Registrar's Certificate could also be used to authorise an Anglican wedding in place of banns or licence – although from 1856 Anglican clergy were entitled to refuse to accept the certificate and insist on Anglican preliminaries!

Most of us are likely to have examples in our tree of widowers who married their dead wife's sister at a time when it was prohibited – indeed, I have three examples in my maternal grandfather's tree, one of whom was his father, my great-grandfather. Such marriages were retrospectively legalised in 1907, but it was nevertheless a subject that wasn't spoken about in my family – my late aunt, born in 1916, knew that there was something 'wrong' with the marriage, but not what the problem was. It was good to be able to put her mind at rest.

Marriage index entries. Prior to 1911 the marriage indexes for England & Wales didn't include the surname of the spouse – which created enormous problems for those of us who started our research 'in the old days'.

Eventually the General Register Office (GRO) indexes were transcribed by FreeBMD volunteers, and later by Findmypast (then known as 1837online). How did this help? It enabled the quarterly entries to be sorted, not just by name, but according to the volume and page references.

Although the volume and page references relates to the copy registers held by the GRO, those registers were compendiums of bundles of loose pages sent to the GRO by individual churches and register offices. When two people married they signed the same page of the bound register kept by the church or register office – and when the marriage entry was copied for submission to the GRO the two names would be on the same loose page.

As there were typically two marriages per page there are only four people with the same index references, two males and two females. Back in the days when marriage was between a man and a woman there would have been only two possible ways that those four people could have been joined together in holy matrimony.

Withdrawal of library books and magazines:

Louise and Erena have carried out a stocktake of our library books and have made a list of those that are outdated. This list will be circulated with notices for our AGM and the books will be available at that meeting for anyone that have a use for them.

Here is the programme for April & May 2023

PROGRAMME FROM 28 APRIL to 26 MAY 2023

1.30 – 3.30

28 April – **DNA** – Latest News – **Faulks Room, Lake Wanaka Centre**
(please note the different venue)

26 May – Alicia Jaiko "Long and Winding Road - A Journey from England and Eastern Europe to New Zealand" followed by the **AGM** –
St Johns Meeting Room, 4 Link Way

28 July - Ann Larkham, Zoom talk on "Scanning your photographs".

10 – 11 am (please note the earlier time for this talk) St Johns Meeting Room, 4 Link Way. There will be a cost, notified later.

Committee

President: Louise Primrose	Sue Evans
Secretary: Lesly Stewart	Margaret Thomlinson
Treasurer: Kay Curtis	Email address - wanarely@gmail.com
Erena Barker	Website - https://wanakagenealogy.weebly.com/