



# WANAKA GENEALOGICAL GROUP

## FEBRUARY 2020

Hi all

Welcome to 2020 and the start of a new decade! We hope you had a chance to share family memories during the Christmas and New Year festivities.

### **NOVEMBER 29 – Pot luck lunch and a talk by Tim Scurr.**

We enjoyed a very tasty pot luck lunch at the Cardrona Hall (the old Cardrona School) followed by an interesting and wide ranging talk by Tim Scurr on the “History of Cardrona and its Families”.

Tim outlined his long family links with the Cardrona Valley. His paternal great grandfather David Scurr, together with his future wife Anne Duke Stanford Stone, his stepsister Elizabeth Northfield and Robert Studholme her future husband, arrived in Dunedin on the “Roselyn Castle” on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1871. Soon after David and Robert were gold mining in the Cardrona Valley as part of the Geordie Gang. Within a couple of years both were married and starting families that continue to have connections in the Upper Clutha Area today. David and Anne both came to New Zealand from England and were Anglicans.

Tim’s maternal great grandfather Timothy Enright, on the other hand, came from Ireland. He arrived in NZ with four siblings in the 1870s and settled in Gibbston. Timothy came to the Cardrona Valley in the 1890s with his wife Bridget and three children including Tim’s grandmother Mary.

The Enrights were staunch Catholics and their faith was passed on down through their families. Timothy was involved in purchasing a games hall from the burnt out All Nations Hotel in 1886 and using it to establish a Catholic Church in the Valley. It was later shifted to Wanaka but when Tim heard, in the 1970s, that it was to be pulled down to make way for a new church he was able to rescue it and shift it back to the Cardrona School (Cardrona Hall) site.

The Scurr and Enright families were involved in gold mining and farming in the Cardrona Valley and Tim was able to tell us about the difficulties they faced and of family tragedies and hardships but he also shared stories of the more enjoyable side of life too. Food had to be grown and preserved. Dances were held and games such as rugby and cricket played providing necessary social contact with the outside world.

### **JANUARY 31 – Visit to the Wanaka Cemetery**

Margaret and Ken Thomlinson spoke on the history of the Wanaka Cemetery to a combined group of Wanaka Genealogy Group and Upper Clutha Historical Records Society members on a rather hot and windy afternoon.

Ken introduced his talk with a brief reminder of the early history of the area. The earliest burial in 1861 was by the river in Albert Town and others followed in the same place despite a different cemetery site being shown on a Preemptive Right survey for Wilkin's Station, Albert Town in 1865.

In 1863 John Connell surveyed townships in gold mining areas including Newcastle (Albert Town) and a township in Roy's Bay named Pembroke. At that time most people living in the Roy's Bay area worked for Wanaka Station and it was not until after Theodore Russell and Charles Hedditch built the Wanaka Hotel in 1868 that people began living in Pembroke. W. Arthur's survey of Pembroke in 1871 noted pegs outlining the site for a cemetery. The first recorded burial on this site was of Theodore Russell's 5 year old son Theodore in 1874. Theodore Russell (Senior) died in 1877. His tombstone is the earliest still standing, probably on the site where his son had been buried three years earlier. We visited his grave later and Ken talked about his life. The cemetery was not officially gazetted until 1882.

Six acres of the original cemetery site were down on the flat with four acres up on a higher level. In 1924 Percy Sargood of Wanaka Station swapped the lower land with six acres of Wanaka Station land east of the top four acres forming the cemetery as it is today. It was presumably thought that there were no burials in the lower area – maybe the view was better from the higher land! In 1940 a fire destroyed all earlier records held by the Wanaka Cemetery Trust so the whereabouts of many earlier graves was unknown and the Old Cemetery was closed for further burials.

Margaret outlined the various projects involved in obtaining the information now available on the QLDC Wanaka Cemetery Data Base.

In 1983 Allen and Jean Thompson from the Dunedin Branch of NZSG transcribed the names on surviving headstones and supplemented this information with Burial Records, post the 1940 fire, held by the Wanaka Cemetery Trust and Burial Registrations, held at that time at the Wanaka Post Office. In this way they were able to also record the names of those known to be buried in Wanaka but with no known burial site. Margaret later in her talk described the work of the Wanaka Cemetery Trust and the records they kept.

In 1995/96 Margaret used Burial Records given to her by Neil Studholme, Secretary of the Wanaka Cemetery Trust and checked against headstones at the cemetery to produce a list of burials from 1983 to 1995 for the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society, including names, death dates and plot numbers. In 2002 a group of our members took this list and a picnic lunch to the cemetery and added to it the information shown on the headstones.

Lynette Duncan combined all the information held at that time into a Wanaka Cemetery Data Base which we hold. When QLDC was looking to build their Cemetery Data Base ours was offered. This was initially turned down but later accepted. Unfortunately while researching for this talk errors were found between the QLDC Wanaka Cemetery Plan and pre 1983 headstone, Block and Plot numbers recorded on their Data Base. Hopefully these errors are being corrected.

The afternoon ended with visits to a selection of graves including Theodore Russell's as mentioned above. They included the grave of Robert MacDougall, sometimes known as the Father of Pembroke, the Pearce/Bovett family grave and Sarah and Mack Templetons' grave which included a memorial to their son James who was killed in WW1. We also visited the Pembroke Cemetery Memorial Wall with its list of those buried in the cemetery but with no known burial site. Loris King was recognised for her effort in getting this wall

built. We ran out of time to visit more graves and a suggestion was made that we return to the Wanaka Cemetery next year.

## **GENEALOGICAL GROUP LIBRARY and RESEARCH**

### **MAGAZINES**

An index for recently acquired magazines is attached to this email.

Kay found an interesting handy hint from a New Zealand Museum Archivist in a recent magazine. This was that un-perforated 'Glad Oven Bags' are archivally inert and can be used to enclose books, documents and photos.

### **RESEARCH**

We have decided to carry out a trial combining interest group meetings with an opportunity for other members to get help with research. Interest group meetings will be held in the magazine area of the library leaving the Archives Room area available in order to make use of our library and to have access to a library computer for Ancestry. The member of the committee available to help with research is noted in the programme below. Research times will be from 2 – 4pm allowing time for those at the interest group meeting to access the library from 3.30 to 4pm. You can let us know how you think this is working at the AGM in May.

#### **PROGRAMME THROUGH TO THE AGM IN MAY**

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> – Irish Group, 2pm at the Wanaka Library. (Judy ) Find your Irish Records on line. Checking out brick walls. Help with Research – Doreen.

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Scottish Group, 2pm at the Wanaka Library. (Neil) 'Why They Came'. Why did my ancestors leave Scotland and come to New Zealand or go to Australia or Canada? Research – Help with Research Louise.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – 1.30pm at the Wanaka Library. Setting up a Military/ Anzac Display on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Members asked to contribute family histories/ photos (relating to all wars) to add to the display and then discuss these at the meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at the Wanaka Library.

May 1<sup>st</sup> – AGM 2pm, St John's Meeting Room, 4 Link Way, Wanaka. Followed by a talk by Ken Allan - "The importance of checking family histories and stories for errors".

### **Doreen's Snippets:**

#### **USA**

**Ellis Island** passenger records (from 1892)- the free site of ellisland.org was updated and now accessible by registration and signing in. Remains free access. <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org>

## **Newspapers**

US Library of Congress, Newspaper Directory

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles/>

Choose State/Counties/Cities/date from/date to. Click 'search' and use arrows or page numbers to navigate the pages. Click the hyperlink to see alternative titles etc. etc. Etc

**LDSGenealogy**<https://ldsgenealogy.com> a free website listing websites for US Records, searchable by town and county and/or Record type

## **Scotland**

Angus Antiquarian Burial Grounds – Searchable by a general search or by surname. Bonus for me is 3 generations on one Inscription including their ages plus the occupation of the grandfather plus maiden names of the ladies! How good is that! Another (dated 1639) included the coat of arms.

<http://graveyards.angus-antiquarian.info/index.php>

## **NZ**

Early NZ books <http://www.enzb.auckland.ac.nz>

Access via the 'Enter', top right. Thank you to the University of Auckland.

NZ Fencibles Society <http://nzfenciblesociety.org.nz> Ships and Names

Canterbury Transcriptions [www.transcriptions.nz](http://www.transcriptions.nz) Many thanks to Beverley Evans. Please observe copyright note. Site includes Cemeteries and Gravestones, Passenger Lists, BDM's, Obituaries & Inquests etc.

## **Dating Old Photographs -**

[www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm](http://www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm)

Google "Dating Old Photographs" for a choice of good websites

## **London**

Old Bailey Online <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org>

Old & New London

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/old-new-london>

Collage - Images from 1500 - <https://collage.cityoflondon.gov.uk>

London Lives – 1690-1800 Searchable by name <https://www.londonlives.org>

London's Pulse - Medical Health Reports 1848-1972 searchable by place or word  
<https://wellcomelibrary.org/moh/>

**DNA**<https://dna-explained.com> a free site

## **UK**

The General Register Office has a site <https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/login.asp>  
Use the UK GRO for births before 1910 to get mother's maiden name, also GRO gives age at death, but watch out because it doesn't distinguish between months and years for children

England & Wales: <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/search.pl>

### **The UK Census:**

1921 Census will become available online on 01 Jan 2022 with the contract going to FindmyPast, probably on a pay per view system with purchasing credits to enable as many possible to have access without a subscription.

1931 Census was destroyed during the war

1941 No census was taken because of the war

After the release in Jan 2022 we will have to wait until 2052 for the 1951 Census.

### **USA**

Genealogy 101 [www.genealogy101.com](http://www.genealogy101.com)

Happy hunting

E&OE

### **Committee**

President - Louise Primrose. On leave.

Acting President - Margaret Thomlinson (03) 443 7084 [ktmt@actrix.co.nz](mailto:ktmt@actrix.co.nz)

Secretary - Judy Thompson 027 557 7212 [judy.thompson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:judy.thompson@xtra.co.nz)

Treasurer - Kay Curtis 021 0267 1175 [curkaynz@gmail.com](mailto:curkaynz@gmail.com)

Erena Barker 027 213 2112 [erena.barker@gmail.com](mailto:erena.barker@gmail.com)

Neal Brown 027 200 7791 [brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz](mailto:brown.hawea@actrix.co.nz)

Doreen Hale 027 4726 001 [rosemaryhale@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rosemaryhale@xtra.co.nz)

Email address - [wanareilly@gmail.com](mailto:wanareilly@gmail.com)