

# New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated Newsletter



Number 7

July 2022

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

Reduce risk – Stay safe

New Zealand Government

All events are under Covid-19 protection framework  
Society rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

## 2022/23 Subs

The society subscription for the 2022/23 year is due on 5 July 2022. These funds are used for society expenses, such as rent, power, and other costs. Thank you to everyone who has already paid their subscription!

The banks are no longer accepting cheques, so please pay by bank transfer. Alternatively, you can pay by cash – please bring it along to a meeting.

The [membership form](#) has the instructions for payment by bank transfer. Please be sure to email Sharyn that you have paid, and put your name in the bank transfer.

Society subscriptions for 2022/23:

\$35 single

\$45 double

\$25 living outside Taranaki

Any questions, just ask Sharyn or any committee member, or send us an email.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 5 July 2022

## Using Ancestry

[Ancestry](#) is a major genealogy website, with lots and lots of features. So, it is worth learning how to make the most of these.

This month, Sharyn Guthrie will be covering some of the many features of Ancestry. She will demonstrate some of the ways to improve searching for that elusive ancestor and why it is advantageous to you to have a family tree on their site. Though you need to have a subscription to search on Ancestry at home, you can access it at Puke Ariki for free.

Hosting a tree on Ancestry is also free and it will remain there even if your subscription ends.



<b>Convenor:</b>	Gail Tanner	027 376 0630
<b>Secretary:</b>	Jackie Sewell	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sharyn Guthrie	
<b>Committee:</b>	Lorraine Austin	
	Lea Bellini	
	Karen Crowe	
	Graeme Jury	
	Peter Keegan	
	Annette Larsen	

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc  
c/- Gail Tanner  
122 Wairau Road  
New Plymouth 4314  
**Meetings:** 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month  
at society rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre  
access is off the Whiteley Street car park  
**Email:** [newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

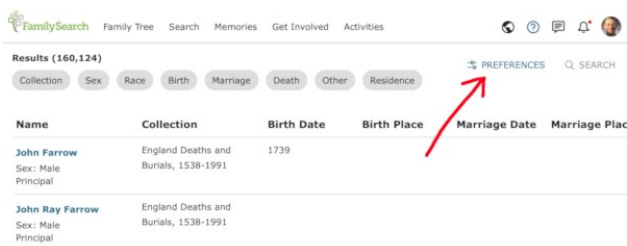
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## June Meeting - Spreadsheets

A spreadsheet (like Microsoft Excel and LibreOffice Calc) can be a great tool for analysing genealogy research information.

At our June meeting, Peter Keegan explained how he has used spreadsheets to gather data which is then sorted and filtered by dates, names, locality, anything that will help to clarify family links and events. This approach enabled him to break down some brick walls and gain new insights into the lives of his ancestors.

For example, search results in [FamilySearch](#) can be downloaded to a spreadsheet. When you have the page of search results, click on “Preferences”.



Then, select the data format (like xls), the number of records (eg 100), and click “export results”.



This should download to your downloads folder, so open it with your spreadsheet software. Next step is to sort or filter the results, such as by name, or date or location.

LibreOffice can handle dates before 1900, but Excel does not. And [LibreOffice](#) is free to download.

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## DNA Interest Group

The DNA Interest group’s next meeting is Sunday 17 July at 1330hrs. This will be covering chromosomes and chromosome browsers. Plus, also please send Sharyn – [sharynjguthrie@gmail.com](mailto:sharynjguthrie@gmail.com) – any queries to do with DNA that you would like help with.

Sharyn Guthrie

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## Convenor’s Report

We are well into winter now, and the second half of the year, where has the last six months gone?

Winter is the perfect time to delve deep into your genealogy research and find those hiding relatives.

It is with pleasure that I notice that our Facebook page is getting new members requesting to join almost every day, which means that our presence is out there, and people want to know what is going on in our Genealogy world. Quite a few new members have joined our group which is also a great sign that we are doing something right.

It has been suggested that we run some beginner’s genealogy lessons to those people new to the obsession (I was going to call it a hobby, but it becomes more than that). These could be run if there is an interest. I give Beginner’s Genealogy classes through U3A, and they have been successful. I start right at the beginning – you may be a bit more advanced than that, but there is always something to pick up. There is always something new to learn.

This Tuesday night, Sharyn is giving a talk on Ancestry. If you don’t use it, you can still gain some knowledge, and if you do have Ancestry – there are always little hints that you possibly don’t know about. So come along and enjoy the company of other family history fanatics and learn something new along the way.

See you Tuesday night. Meeting starts at 7.30pm

Gail Tanner  
Society Convenor

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## And the walls came tumbling down

A valid citation is not always proof of an event, as we shall see.

George Scott is my great grandfather. He was born in Cherhill near Calne in Wiltshire, England. It appears he had the usual depressed life of an agricultural laboring family with the prospect of a future that continued the same way but things happened to change this. He married Susannah Reeves and it appears that her family had had enough of a future-less life and made the decision to emigrate to New Zealand and I imagine that Susannah had



little trouble convincing George they should go along too. By this time George and Susannah had two children, Agnes and Francis and with Susannah pregnant again, they did the family trail blaze by being the first to embark on the *Buckinghamshire* on 11 March 1874 at London and set sail for New Zealand. Susannah's parents and siblings were to travel on a later ship. The voyage was somewhat of a tragedy for them as Francis died on the voyage of hydrocephalus aged just under two years old and to add to the tragedy their baby was born on the voyage and only survived a few hours. George and Susannah arrived at Port Chalmers on 29 May 1874. There good records of the voyage with passenger list and diaries and the arrival was well written up in the Otago newspapers.

The Reeves family arrived later, work was available for all and they prospered in new home town of Dunedin. George and Susannah had more children, Beatrice, Marion, Albert, Ellen and Lillian who in the future became my grandmother. Her interesting life is a story in itself. I recall grandma telling me how she loved her mother who was not in particularly good health and how tragic it was for her when while she was approaching 5 years of age her mother died of endometriosis and it is easy to imagine what an unbearably painful death it would have been. If only modern treatment had been available. George with the help of the older girls raised the family and the last real information on him was with a photo with the family as teenagers and Susannah was superimposed into the group.

George met someone and married although I have found no marriage record but I recall grandma saying that she did not get along with her and she left Dunedin along with her brother Albert and moved to Stratford. George went to ground. There was no electoral information, he did not appear in street directories or any other record that I perused and the only information was his burial at Anderson's Bay Cemetery in Dunedin. Every on line family tree had his burial location recorded at this spot and the burial records were available along with photos of the grave and in particular was a footer on the grave that said "SCOTT" which exactly matched the "SCOTT" footer on Susannah's grave which was in Port Chalmers Cemetery. The two locations were plausible as the second wife who died 5 years earlier probably wanted him buried with her in his new family's plot and indeed a grandson named Terrence Gaiger and some others were subsequently buried there too so I guessed that the woman he married was from the Gaiger family.

I was never easy about this burial in spite of all family members that I had contacted assuring me that this was correct although one of my cousins was less sure. For a start, this George Scott was 2 years younger and was purported to have been born in London not Cherrill. Hey, come on Graeme, burial records are notoriously flaky and a two year date difference is nothing – but is it? I decided to dig and really got the bit between my teeth. I had one bit of information to go on as I remembered my mother telling me that when she was around 5 or 6 which would have been around 1920, she and her sister were sent to visit her grandfather at a little green house on Devon St West near town and when they arrived, he turned them away and she never heard anything about him from that day on so I decided to approach the search from the premise that he did not die in Dunedin. My next move was to go through the Wisers Street Directory and sure enough George Scott was listed at 80 Devon St West from 1918 to 1920 and once again he disappeared. Okay he was alive in 1920, getting on a bit by then and probably would have died before 1930 so lets bite the bullet and get all the death certificates for George Scott over that time frame. There were not too many so I picked on the most likely one and paid the usurious \$25 and bingo, it was him first pop.

George died in New Plymouth Public Hospital of cancer and on his death certificate was his wife's maiden name; Margaret Roy Courtney. Well that won't be hard to track down. Silly boy, Roy was a family name and she was married to a Courtney. Notice the different spelling. NZ Historic BDM is very picky about name spelling so initially I missed the marriage but when I tried some alternate spellings and got it I discovered that she was actually born Margaret McGowan. To further confuse the issue, she alternated these names on different electoral rolls and it seems that Grandma was not the only one who did not get on with her as she was at a different address from George for a lot of them. Once I had a death date and place I was able to locate his will and from there discovered all sorts of things. There is one perplexing but not particularly unusual aspect which is that on the death certificate it stated that George was buried at Te Henui cemetery and there is a record of this in the New Zealand Cemetery Records 1800-2007 (Taranaki) but no grave record. He wouldn't have been a pauper as he left his house to Margaret and she is listed as being buried in Te Henui too but again no grave record. In spite of that missing piece I am satisfied that the wall is down and I know what

happened to my great grandfather whatever the online trees say.

Graeme Jury

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### Library Roster: July

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm

Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 2 July Karen Crowe  
Mon 4 July Charles Le Breton  
Sat 9 July Sharyn Guthrie  
Mon 11 July Lorraine Austin  
Sat 16 July Lea Bellini  
Mon 18 July Annette Larsen  
Sat 23 July Graeme Jury  
Mon 25 July Jill Jackson  
Sat 30 July Sharyn Guthrie  
Mon 1 Aug Charles Le Breton  
Sat 6 Aug Karen Crowe

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### Covid-19 Protection Framework

Covid-19 is still about and is still capable of causing severe illness. Please follow the Covid-19 rules and keep everyone healthy.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Wear a face mask when at the branch rooms.
- Please get vaccinated. A vaccine pass is no longer required when you visit the rooms.



There is more information on the Covid response at the official website [covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz).

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### Facebook Group

Remember the New Plymouth genealogy Facebook group. This now has over 120 members, and is a great place to find help and learn from others researching our part of the world. On Facebook, search for New Plymouth Genealogy Society.

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### Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primo.



Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

[primo.nz](https://primo.nz)

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### Descendants of William & Jane Black

Robyn Black of the Nelson branch is seeking descendants of William and Jane Black, who arrived on the *Amelia Thompson* into New Plymouth in 1841. Robyn is a descendant of William and Jane's son Alexander. If you are a descendant and would like to make contact, please get in touch. Robyn is currently writing a family history. Her email address is [robyn.black@xtra.co.nz](mailto:robyn.black@xtra.co.nz).

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### Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (June, July)

Who Do You Think You Are (July)



Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Gore, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Papakura, Papamoa, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, Stratford, Wellington, Whanganui

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett.

### Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at [peter.hewett@gmail.com](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).