



## Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

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Evening Meeting	7.30pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting:	9.30am, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, February to November
Research Evening:	6.00pm, last Thursday each month. Library open
Computer Interest Group:	7:30pm, last Thursday very second month.
Venue:	Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt
Postal Address:	PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Website:	<a href="http://www.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrg/">www.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrg/</a>
Convenor:	Janice Price
Secretary:	Deb Beban <a href="mailto:HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz">HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz</a>
Editor:	Suzanne Sutton-Cummings <a href="mailto:sjsc@clear.net.nz">sjsc@clear.net.nz</a>

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### COMING EVENTS

- 06 Mar: All things Irish – Jenny Martin – Researching in Ireland  
20 Mar: All things Irish – Jenny Martin – Further Researching in Ireland  
03 Apr: War – John Sullivan Alexander Turnbull Library - War Pictures  
17 Apr: War  
24 Apr: Research & Computer Interest Group - NZ Gazettes & Branch DVD collection.  
01 May: Royal ancestry & Heraldry  
15 May: Royal ancestry & Heraldry  
29 May: Research & beginners sessions  
05 Jun: Display your tree on DVD  
19 Jun: Display your tree on DVD  
26 Jun: Research and Computer Interest Group
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### THIS MONTH

- *On 17 March it is St Patrick's Day. The theme for March's meetings is "All things Irish". Our speaker will be Jenny MARTIN who is convenor of the Wellington Irish Interest Group. She will include in her talks Parish registers, Censuses, Civil registration, Tithe plotment 1820-1830, Griffith evaluation and wills. The 2 sessions will not be the same so come along to both if you can!*
- *The library will also be open until 1pm on Thursday morning meeting days.*
- *Cups of tea and coffee or tea will be available before the evening meeting*

**BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN EVERY MONDAY 9AM - 1PM FOR RESEARCH**

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## RESEARCH BEGINNER SESSION

For those beginners who are interested and require help we would like to offer research sessions two-monthly after the Thursday committee meetings. Anyone interested please contact Lynly Yates at the next branch meeting.

## PROPOSED THEMES FOR APRIL BRANCH MONTHLY MEETING

April theme and speaker

On 25 April each year we commemorate Anzac day. The theme for April's meetings is "War". Our speaker will be *John SULLIVAN* from Alexander Turnbull Library who will talk about War photographs and collections.

## INVITATION TO ALL BRANCH MEMBERS

Please remember that if any branch member would like to share their research and ancestor with other members in regard to any of our monthly themes then:

- We invite you to write a short article to place in the branch magazine

Please forward your article to the magazine editor Suzanne Cummings

- We also invite you to give a short 5-minute max talk at the beginning of the March meeting before a main speaker

Please contact Lynly Yates so we can allocate a time slot for you.

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## *NATIONS, DIASPORAS, IDENTITIES: CONFERENCE 27-30 MARCH 2008, VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON*

This conference is organised by the Irish-Scottish Studies Programme of the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University, in association with the Centre of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen.

The Conference examines the 'diasporas' of emigrants who left Ireland and Scotland and what their relationship is with an Irish or Scottish 'identity' today.

What continuing relationship do these 'diasporic' identities have with the identities of the nations to which they are attached? Are national identities themselves being transformed by feedback from their diasporas?

A provisional programme is now up on the conference website: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/research-units/issp/conferences/conf-nations.aspx>.

Final confirmations and any changes will be included as they come to hand.

Kind Regards,

Judy McKoy

Administrator/Researcher

Irish-Scottish Studies Programme

Stout Research Centre

Victoria University of Wellington

14 Wai-te-ata Road, Kelburn

PO Box 600, Wellington, NZ

Tel: +64 4 4636439

Fax: +64 4 4635439

Email: [judy.mckoy@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:judy.mckoy@vuw.ac.nz)

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## EXPO 2008 KIBIRNIE BRANCH

Planning is well under way for this event which will take place on Saturday 19th April 2008, from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Venue St Patrick's Parish Hall, Rongotai Road, Kilbirnie, (right in the heart of the Kilbirnie shops), right at bus transport - cafes and shops across the road.

There will be a full house of stalls displays, bookstalls and workshops. There will be advertising within greater Wellington.

All members are welcome, Branches are invited to seek a table, participation would be welcome.

Featuring Beehive Books & Jan Gow, FRC Books & Peter Nash, Irish, Scottish, Australian, London Interest Groups, Computer & other Help desks, participation by Findmypast.

Hanley Hoffmann Co Convenor Kilbirnie Branch NZSG [hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz](mailto:hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz) or Beverley Keall Secretary [bkeall@paradise.net.nz](mailto:bkeall@paradise.net.nz)

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## FROM COAST TO COAST NZSG CONFERENCE & AGM, QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND, 30 MAY-2 JUN 2008

Canterbury, Bishopdale, Riccarton, Waimakariri and Darfield Branches are hosting this conference at St Bede's College, Main North Rd, Papanui.

Registration forms are now available and NZSG members will have received one with their Nov/Dec issue of The NZ Genealogist. Haven't got a form? Download one from the NZSG Website [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz), [email 2008conference@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:2008conference@genealogy.org.nz) or write to PO Box 20506 Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543

Not planning to attend Conference? Please pass your registration form onto a friend or hand it in to your local Branch for use by other members.

Not a member of NZSG? You are still most welcome to attend at no extra cost.

Can't spare all that time for conference? Daily registration is available @\$70.00 per day. Friday night and Saturday morning count as a single day. The AGM is held Saturday afternoon. Send for a Registration form today to see who is speaking and their topic.

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## SPEAKER'S NOTES – Dawn Chambers - How to get the most out of Google

The powerpoint file for this presentation can be downloaded via the following link (35MB) [http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/hutt\\_google28feb2008.ppt](http://www.nzpictures.co.nz/hutt_google28feb2008.ppt)

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## THOMAS GRAHAM FREEMAN by Jan Walker

My great great grandfather, Thomas Graham Freeman, was born in Ramsgate, Kent, England, on 24 September 1802. He, like his father and ancestors trained as a shipwright.

The family business, begun in the early 1700's in Kent expanded to Holland, Belgium and France and from about 1750 some of the families who had travelled frequently between the countries settled in those countries.

Thomas married Margretha Schweitzer who was born in Saarbrucken, Alsace Lorraine in 1805. In 1840 he was living with his wife and family of seven in Middelburg, Zeeland, Holland.

Due to the economic situation in Europe from about mid 1835 there was little demand for ships and small boats. Ship builders in both England and the Netherlands found life very difficult and Thomas and others in the trade were declared bankrupt in 1841. Members of

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the family were in Kent at the time of the 1841 UK Census and about that time 'The New Zealand Company' was seeking settlers for a new colony in Nelson, New Zealand so perhaps this prompted the decision to emigrate.

Thomas Graham Freeman and his family were accepted for immigration to the new Colony of Nelson and travelled aboard the barque "LONDON", 388 tons under the command of Captain Joshua Gibson. The eldest daughter, Ann Elizabeth, was 15 so travelled as an adult. The ship sailed from Gravesend, England on 17 November 1841 and from the Downs, 23 November 1841 arriving in Nelson, N.Z. on 10 April 1842. Passengers disembarked on 12 April 1842.

Thomas had been allocated land in Russell Street and built his home there. He established a boat yard between Auckland Point and Russell Street Nelson and as his sons became of an age to serve an apprenticeship they too trained as shipwrights and carpenters.

The names of Thomas Graham Freeman and members of the family appear on the plaques (at a cost of \$250 per name!) on the memorial wall on the waterfront at Nelson which was dedicated on 4 February 2008.

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### SEARCHING FOR ANN NULTY by Alistair Hardy

Some members will recall my presentation three years ago on my Hardy family research in Victoria, Australia. We know that Ann Nulty, my great -grandmother, was born in County Wicklow, Ireland, about 1830 and married James Hardy in 1853 near Melbourne. She gave birth to 12 children between 1850 and 1872. We believe she arrived in Victoria in the late 1840's. All efforts to date have failed to identify her family details and her arrival in Victoria. She remains my mystery woman.

In January we found her in a manner of speaking - in an unmarked grave in the Echuca Cemetery in the north of Victoria, almost on the banks of the Murray River. She was buried in 1898 with a grand-daughter Alice Burke(1889) and her husband (1895). There is neither headstone nor marker, but the undulating nature of the ground suggests 6 or 8 plots are located in the area between two graves with headstones. Another Burke grand-daughter is buried in an unmarked grave just a few rows back from the Hardy plot. Bush fires have swept the cemetery over the years so wooden markers would not have survived. We were the first NZ clan to visit the grave in over 50 years.

We received great help from the Echuca Historical Society and the cemetery staff.

At the Maldon Cemetery the grave of young James Hardy had been identified by the cemetery manager using original records as the grave had disappeared under a gum tree. We could not have found it on our own as there was nothing to indicate a grave was located there.

Anyone researching family history in Victoria would do well to get in touch with the local historical society which may well have early burial records and have a close relationship with the local cemetery trust.

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### THE 1821 CENSUS AND OTHER THINGS IRISH by Graeme McVerry

"All things Irish" don't normally include 19th-century censuses, which have generally been destroyed. As an exception, a rare and uniquely Irish set of records, a detailed 1821 census listing, has recently become readily available for my great-grandfather's parish of Forkhill in Armagh. The information includes name, age, occupation and relationship to the head of the household, a degree of detail first recorded for the rest of Britain in 1851. The 1821 records were discovered in a bound manuscript in the study of the Church of Ireland rector by a Canadian history student of Forkhill ancestry. Internet discussions refer to their inclusion in a locally compiled parish history, *Kick Any Stone*, published by the Mullaghbawn Community

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Association in 2003. I was delighted a few weeks ago to discover that [www.emeraldancestors.com](http://www.emeraldancestors.com) now list this census of nearly 6500 entries.

I was particularly excited about the prospect of finding the unknown family of my great-grandfather John McVerry, who was born about 1819 according to the age of 75 on his memorial in the Mullaghbawn graveyard. Surviving Roman Catholic baptism records for Forkhill begin in 1845, and the record of his 1855 marriage to Bridget Quinn in Lower Killeavy unhelpfully lists the fathers of the bride and groom only by their surnames.

The 1821 entries for my family name indicate how few of the population are listed in the various census substitutes used for Ireland in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Freeholders' records of 1813 to 1832 ([www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)) listed those qualified to vote, either by owning land outright, or holding it by lease for one or more lives. Poorer leaseholders or sub-tenants with short-term tenure did not qualify. Only two McVerrys (or variants) were listed in Forkhill, Patrick and John in the townland of Aughanduff. The 1828 Tithe Applotment Books, listing those required to pay tithes, added only nine more, all in Cashel townland.

Given the meager numbers in these records closest to contemporary with the 1821 census, I was amazed to discover 64 census entries for McVary and McVarry. Most were in Cashel townland, where the 41 McVarry census entries far exceed the nine occurrences in the Tithe Applotments and the eight (again, the most) in the later Griffith's Valuations.

Patrick aged 63 and John aged 30, both farmers, were the two heads of McVarry households in Aughanduff, with thirteen family members spread across three generations. Patrick's household included three spinners among his daughters, and one unmarried son, Bryan aged 18, perhaps the Bryan in Griffith's Valuation printed in 1864. Was Anne, Griffith's only other McVarry entry for Aughanduff, John's wife, who was 28 in 1821?

The disappointment is that I have not located my great-grandfather in 1821. His tiny 1864 townland of Carnacally, only 100 acres, is one of only two not occurring in the census. The youngest John McVarry listed in Forkhill in 1821 was ten. The good news is that the Canadian history student, Kyla Madden, has published a critically acclaimed book on her research, *Forkhill Protestants and Forkhill Catholics 1787-1858*, a period that overlaps with the first half of my great-grandfather's lifetime.

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## WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

UKTV is currently broadcasting the 4th session of this series. Sundays 9:30pm.

While in the UK last year, I search high and low but could only get the 1st and 2nd series along with a 'How to' DVD. It appears the 3<sup>rd</sup> series is still not available even in the UK and none of these DVDs have been available in New Zealand to date.

However, the next best thing for those who have missed any of the episodes is the 'Who do you think you are' website: <http://www.bbcwhodoyouthinkyouare.com/stories.php>

The website has summaries of the programmes, comments on the episodes and unseen footage - the comments especially can be quite interesting ... and some rather scathing!

## SEARCHING FOR THOSE ELLUSIVE IRISH ANCESTORS - Editor

I am always on the look out for clues to help me find out more about my ancestors. I have ancestors who were born in counties West Tryone and Donegal in Ireland.

William and Isabella (nee McCausland) Stevenson migrated to NZ in 1877 on the ship *Waikato* and William spent the rest of his working life working in Christchurch as a railway carpenter.

My great-grandfather, John Alexander Stevenson, was only 5 or 6 years old when he arrived in NZ. I found his birth on the IGI ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)) and his birth date was stated as 22 February 1872 (actual birth date 13 Feb). When looking at the microfilm at the Family

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History Centre, I also found that his father was a carpenter, the informant was Isabella McCausland (his grandmother?) and that they lived in Sion near Newtown Stewart. By examining NZ births and deaths, I established that they were married 20<sup>th</sup> January 1871 in West Tyrone and that William was born in Donegal around 1842.

Purchasing the civil registration certificates of John's birth and his parents' marriage were to be the next steps but as yet I have not got around to it. It seems Stevenson is not a particularly Irish name and rather common at that. It also seems they were very Protestant.

So it was with great interest that I watched the episode about Graham Norton on 'Who do you think you are' wishing someone would pay for me to go to these places and hire professional genealogist and historians along the way to fill in the gaps!

## GRAHAM NORTON

Growing up in the South of Ireland, Graham Norton (who was born Graham William Walker), felt as though he was not really Irish because he was raised as a Protestant in an overwhelmingly Catholic country. Yet as far as the comedian was aware, his ancestors were Irish on both sides.

His mother, Rhoda Graham, was from Belfast and by going to the GRO in Belfast he was able to find the marriage certificate of his great grand-parents, (one of them having 2 surnames from being illegitimate). By going to their villages of origin he was able to look through parish records and find siblings and other interesting information.

On his father's side, the Walkers lived in Carnew, Co Wicklow. Even today, it is a Protestant enclave. Through land valuation records, Graham discovers the Walkers were tenant farmers, renting land from the Fitzwilliam Estate founded in the 1630s by Thomas Wentworth. This takes him into a dark area of English-Irish relations, the English establishment of 'plantations' in Ireland by confiscating land from the Irish and bringing in Protestant settlers. The Wentworth/Fitzwilliam family ended up owning a 5<sup>th</sup> of Co. Cork.

The Walkers, it gradually becomes clear, were pillars of Carnew society. Graham's great-great-grandfather Joseph, for instance, was a churchwarden and "overseer of deserted children": his role in society was equivalent to that of a local councillor today. There had to be "a huge amount of resentment" towards such figures, because the Anglican Church of Ireland had the power to levy taxes on both Protestant and Catholic.

Going back another generation, Graham finds Thomas Walker, born in 1773. The date is significant. It means Thomas would have lived through and even fought in, the bloody 1798 rebellion, when the Society of United Irishmen rose up against English rule.

At Carnew, one of the conflict's most infamous events took place, when 41 untried Catholic prisoners were massacred. He also learnt that one of his distant relatives, John Walker was shot and piked fighting for the royalists' cause.

Nearing the end of his journey, Graham visits the Fitzwilliam-Wentworth Archive in Sheffield to learn that it was Yorkshireman John Walker, born in 1691, who first crossed the water with his 2 sons.

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## IRISH WEBSITES

Gateways, search engines, genealogy sites etc

- <http://scripts.ireland.com/ancestor> The best starting point for Irish genealogy, with descriptions of the most important types of record plus information about Irish places and parishes. More detailed information is available to subscribers.
  - Genuki Ireland [www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl](http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl)
  - Cindis List [www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm](http://www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm)
  - [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)
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- [www.irelandgenweb.com/](http://www.irelandgenweb.com/)
- Official records of births marriages and deaths [www.genealogy.ie/categories/bmd/](http://www.genealogy.ie/categories/bmd/)
- [www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/county/churches.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/county/churches.html) churches and searches
- [www.local.ie/content/25647.shtml/genealogy](http://www.local.ie/content/25647.shtml/genealogy) church of Ireland parish registers general introduction
- parish register copies in the library of the SOG: Ireland [www.sog.org.uk/prc/irl.html](http://www.sog.org.uk/prc/irl.html)

### Public record offices and archives

- Public record office of Northern Ireland [www.proni.gov.uk/](http://www.proni.gov.uk/)
- Records of births marriages and deaths [www.nationalarchives.ie/birthsmarrdeaths.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/birthsmarrdeaths.htm) from the National Archives
- <http://www.groireland.ie> Below is a copy of instructions for an application for a birth certificate from the General Register office in Eire. LDS libraries have a lot of Irish BMD indexes so it is a good idea to check them out as well ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)).

## Application for a Birth Certificate

### How Do I Apply?

**In Person:** Complete details below and present at public counter.

**By Post:** Complete details below and send to *Civil Registration Office,  
Office of the Registrar General,  
Government Offices,  
Convent Road,  
Roscommon,  
Co. Roscommon,  
Ireland.*

**By Fax:** Complete details below and fax to +353 906632999.

### Types and Costs of Certificates

Type	Description	Cost €
Full (Long Form)	This is a full copy of the registered entry and can be used for most legal and administrative purposes.	€10.00
Additional Copies	Additional copies when requested as part of this order	€8.00
Specified Services (Social Welfare Cert)	This is a full copy of the registered entry. Proof that the certificate is needed for such purpose will be required from the relevant office/agency. These certificates can be obtained from any Civil Registration Office. See Note 3.	€1.00
Authenticated	This is required in certain circumstances (in addition to the copy of the registered entry) and is available on request from the Civil Registration Office, Convent Road, Roscommon, Ireland.	€10.00

**Note 1** If the record you have requested cannot be found, a search fee of €4.00 will be charged.

**Note 2** Photocopies of entries in the registers are also available at a cost of €6.00, (additional copies -€4.00). These contain exactly the same information as a Certificate but are only of use for research purposes.

**Note 3** Specified Services Certificates from the Adopted Children's Register are only available from the Civil Registration Office, Convent Road, Roscommon.

## How Do I Pay?

- Cash:** Personal applications only please. **Only Euro Cash will be accepted.**
- Cheque:** Please note that cheques should be made payable to **The Registration Office**  
**Only Euro cheques drawn on an Irish bank will be accepted.**
- CreditCard:** MasterCard and Visa credit cards are accepted. The name of the applicant and the name on the credit card must be the same.
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### INTERESTING BITS AND PIECES

- From Suffolk Roots Vol 33 # 3 December 2007

July 20th 1776 - At Ipswich Quarter Sessions - John Cheny for stealing fowls from the parish of Wetheringsett and Brockford-sentenced to get sand and gravel and cleanse the river Thames for 7 years.

- From Paper's Past - Daily Southern Cross

14 February 1872 - A grave-digger who had buried a Mr Button, sent the following bill to his widow "To making a button-hole, 2s.

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