



⇐ BRANCH LINES ⇒

Newsletter of the Southland Branch
New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Issue No. 52 – April 2015



WWI commemorations are well underway with many groups and organisations producing publications or profiles of local soldiers.

We cannot avoid knowing the high price many families paid in sending their sons (and daughters) to war. Killed in action...memorials to the men whose bodies were never found... amputations...mustard gas...shell shock...letters arriving home after being notified of their death... the delivery of an unwelcome telegram...tears and pain...demobbed and attempts to return to a 'normal life' haunted by unspoken sights and sounds.

*Pictures and lives treasured and not forgotten.
A 'thank you' does not seem enough.*

Branch Meeting and Topics

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|------------------------|---|
| 15 th April | Topic: Gallipoli stories
Speaker: Bryce Horrell |
| 20 th May | AGM – followed by stories/pictures of ancestral homes. Bring your pictures and tell us about them |
| 23 rd May | Computing Group at SeniorNet rooms |
| 27 th May | Committee planning meeting |
| 17 th June | Soup and bun shared meal followed by Elder and Sister Harding talking about what is happening on Family Search |

Included in this newsletter is a WW1 timeline for April and May 1915
Plus the story of how the red poppy became an international symbol of remembrance



About Branch Lines

Branch Lines is a periodic magazine, issued for the members of the Southland Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists.

The views expressed are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Branch of the Society.

It is intended to be produced bi monthly to keep you up to date with events. Wendy Shaw is currently filling the position of Editor.

FRC Temporary Closure

Planned alterations to the physical layout of the FRC, the opportunity to further develop some education updates for FRC volunteers, and a re look at the focus of the new library coordinator have lead to a decision to close the FRC to unplanned casual visitors/researchers for a period of six weeks. (15th May until early July).

This will NOT impact on any regular services to members offered from the FRC or by NZSG office holders, and normal arrangements for use of the FRC (meetings etc) or any planned activities over the period of 15th May to early July. We will certainly be open in time for celebrating August Family History month.

Any queries should be addressed to the NZSG Manager. (nzsgmanager@genealogy.org.nz)

2015 NZ Family History Fair in Auckland that was due to be held 7-9th August has now been cancelled due to insufficient sponsorship and funding. The NZSG Council regrets it could no longer proceed with holding the fair this year.

Calling all Davidson Families and the Septs associated with this Clan



Clan Davidson invites you to the inauguration of their new Chief of the Clan in Christchurch on 9th August 2015. As Clan Davidson is the only clan with a New Zealander as its worldwide Chief, this ceremony is very rarely to be held here in New Zealand.

Our clan holds a very extensive database of material relating to Davidsons and Davisons and our experienced clan genealogist enjoys assisting our members with researching their families both here and overseas.

Septs of Clan Davidson are: Davie, Davis, Davison, Davy, Daw, Dawson, Day, Dea, Dean, Deane, Deas, Deason, Dey, Dhai, Dow, Dye, Dyson, Kay, Keay, Key, Keys, MacDade, MacDagny, MacDaid, MacDavid, MacDavitt, MacDhai, McKeddie, Slora, Slorach, Slory, Mackay (Moray only).

Contact: maureenmac@xtra.co.nz for further information

Overseas News

Australia's Trove's historical newspaper collection is world class. 14 million pages from over 700 Australian newspapers. And it's FREE! What's not to love? And as with most things, it is a work in progress, so it is continuously growing as more newspapers are scanned.

Trove has just uploaded yet another 71 titles to their historical newspaper collection. Covering newspapers from New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia – with many of them being regional ones, I know there will be M-A-N-Y, many happy researchers who will be burning the midnight oil hunting for their relatives in the newly released newspapers.

Website to check out if you have Australian research: <http://pandora.nla.gov.au>
Click on Family History or Local History for a large number of topics/interest areas.

Scotlands People:

Valuation Rolls for 1865 have been added. Searching is free.

Family Search:

UK, WW1 Service Records 1914-1920
Australia, Queensland Cemetery Indexes 1802-1990
England, Westminster Rate Books 1634-1900
NZ Archives Probate Records 1843-1999

Ancestry new additions and updates:

Bexley, Kent and Gloucestershire, England
Australian Electoral Rolls new additions
New York Passenger Lists

Find My Past:

London, Bethlem Hospital Patient

Admission Registers and Casebooks

Was your ancestor admitted to Bethlem hospital? Or maybe your relative helped to treat the patients in the famous mental hospital? Explore thousands of historic records from admission registers, staff books, governors' minutes and even patients' casebooks. Read descriptions of your ancestor's behaviour, physicians' notes and medical histories. The records also include those of the criminally insane. Discover where and when your ancestor was convicted and the duration of his/her stay in Bethlem. The records also include the names of some famous assassins. The records include the name of James Norris, the American seaman who spent ten years in confinement and restraint in Bethlem in appalling conditions. His story led to a government enquiry and the passing of England's Mad House Act of 1828.

The Registers are from 1683 – 1932.

Introducing the 1939 Register

What were your ancestors doing at the outbreak of World War 2? In 2015, for the first time, Findmypast in partnership with The National Archives are publishing the 1939 Register online. This is a comprehensive look at the population of England and Wales on the verge of war and provides an unprecedented insight into the nation at the time.

Ireland Census 1901

Find ancestors from all over Ireland in the earliest surviving complete census of Ireland. A census is a great way to flesh out your family tree and find out more about how your ancestors lived. You can find out who they lived with, what they did for a living, how well off they were. For the first time online you can search

the Ireland 1901 Census for more than one ancestor at the same time and by year of birth. Findmypast's powerful search will also look for name variants so you have even more chance of finding the right person.



WW1 Facts: sourced from www.thegazette.co.uk

- The oldest known combatant victim was Lt Henry Webber who died in battle in 1916 aged 67 years of age.
- The youngest serving soldier was Private Sidney Lewis who joined the Army aged 12, fought in battle but was sent home when his mother sent his birth certificate to the War Office demanding his return.
- The last surviving UK soldier of the trenches – Private John ‘Harry’ Patch died in 2009 aged 111. He fought in the battle of Passchendale 1917.
- 9 out of 10 soldiers survived the trenches. Though conditions were often harsh and demoralising, ‘waterlogged and knee deep in mud and slush’, life in the trenches mostly entailed routine and fighting low morale. Most spent no more than 2 weeks at a time on the front line.
- Whistling for a taxi was illegal as was buying binoculars, flying a kite, feeding bread to horses and chickens and loitering near bridges and tunnels under the 1914 Defence of the Realm Act.



We Shall Keep the Faith

by Moina Michael, November 1918

Oh! you who sleep in Flanders Fields,
Sleep sweet - to rise anew!
We caught the torch you threw
And holding high, we keep the Faith
With All who died.

We cherish, too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led;
It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies,
But lends a lustre to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders Fields.

And now the Torch and Poppy Red
We wear in honor of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught;
We'll teach the lesson that ye wrought
In Flanders Fields.

The story behind the internationally recognized symbol of Remembrance of the red field poppy was through the inspiration of one American woman, Moina Michael. The above poem was written by her after being deeply moved by reading John McCrae's 'In Flanders Fields'. This delicate flower has become synonymous with the Remembrance of those who lost their lives in war. Expanding on Moina's idea of the Memorial Poppy, it was a French woman by the name of Anna Guérin who developed the idea of using the poppy to raise funds for supporting those affected by war.

3rd April

- Russian Imperial ukase issued granting municipal self-government to Russian Poland (see August 14th, 1914 and November 5th, 1916).
- Indecisive action in Black Sea between the "Goeben" and part of the Russian Fleet. Turkish cruiser "Medjidieh" sunk by mine off Odessa.
- Dover Straits barrage completed.

7th April

- First Indian units of Indian Expeditionary Force "G" (formed from Force "E") sail from Egypt for the Dardanelles (see December 31st).

8th April

- Deportations and massacres of Armenians by order of the Turkish Government commence [Approximate date.] (see May 24th).
- German armed merchant cruiser "Prinz Eitel Friedrich" interned at Newport News, Va. (see January 28th).

9th April

- General Sir John Nixon relieves General Sir Arthur Barrett as Commander-in-Chief Indian Expeditionary Force "D" Mesopotamia (see November 13th, 1914, March 18th, 1915, and January 19th, 1916).

12th April

- Battle of Shaiba (Mesopotamia) begins (see 14th).
- First Allied advance on Yaunde (Cameroons) begins (see June 7th and 28th).
- Entente Governments make offer to Greece of Smyrna and hinterland in return for immediate action against Turkey (see 14th, and January 24th).
- French Government notify Russian Government of their acceptance of Russian claims to Constantinople (see March 12th).

14th April

- Germans accuse French of using poison gas near Verdun (see 22nd).
- Battle of Shaiba (Mesopotamia) ends (see 12th).
- Greek Government reject Entente offer of Smyrna (see 12th).
- British Secretary for the Colonies (Mr. Harcourt) states that Dominions will be consulted as to peace terms (see July 14th).
- Japanese Government inform British Government of German overtures for separate peace.

16th April

- Urmia (North Persia) occupied by Turkish regular forces (see January 2nd and May 24th).
- General Tighe succeeds General Wapshare in command of British Forces in East Africa (see December 4th, 1914, and February 19th, 1916).

17th April

- **Capture of Hill 60** (Ypres) (April 17th/22nd).

Battles of the Western Front: 1915 Battles for a Breakthrough

- Operations of Allied Force for capture of Garua (Cameroons) begin (see May 31st).
- First Affair of Hafiz Kor (North-West Frontier of India).

20th April

- Armenian revolt at Van: Armenian defence of Van begins (see May 19th).

22nd April

- **Battles of Ypres, 1915**, begin. Also known as **The Second Battle of Ypres** (see November 22nd, 1914 and May 25th, 1915). **First German gas cloud attack** on the Western Front (see 14th).

Battles of the Western Front: 1915 Battles for a Breakthrough

Battle Study: The Second Battle of Ypres 1915

The Second Battle of Ypres consisted of four battles starting with the surprise gas attack by the Germans in the **Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge**. The following three battles were counter-attacks by the allied troops to try to regain the ground lost to the Germans. The three battles were: The **Battle of St Julien** (See 24th), The **Battle of Frezenburg Ridge** (See 8th May) and **The Battle of Bellewarde Ridge** (See 24th May)

- **Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge** begins (Ypres) (22nd/23rd).

Battle Study: Battle of Gravenstafel Ridge 1915, 5pm-midnight

23rd April

- British blockade of the Cameroons commences (see February 29th, 1916).

24th April

- **Battle of St. Julien** (Ypres) begins (see May 4th).

25th April

- Allied Forces effect landing at the Dardanelles (25th/26th).
- Bosphorus forts shelled by Russian Black Sea Fleet (see March 27th).
- Action of Gibeon (25th/26th) (German South-West Africa).

26th April

- Secret agreement signed in London between Italian Government and the Entente for Italian co-operation in the war and declarations by which Italy adheres to the Pact of London (see September 5th, 1914, and May 4th, November 30th, and December 1st, 1915).
- The last German raider overseas (armed merchant cruiser "Kron prinz Wilhelm") interned at Newport News (United States of America) (see March 14th).
- French cruiser "Léon Gambetta" sunk by Austrian submarine in Straits of Otranto.
- Mushir ed Douleh, Persian Prime Minister, resigns (see March 14th and April 27th).
- Muavin ed Douleh, Persian Foreign Minister, resigns (see February 20th and April 27th).

27th April

- Ain ed Douleh appointed Persian Prime Minister (see 26th, and August 17th).
- Mohtashem ed Douleh appointed Persian foreign Minister (see 26th, and March 5th, 1916).

28th April

- First Battle of Krithia (Dardanelles) (see May 6th).
- British Government conclude a treaty with the Idrisi for co-operation against the Turks (see January 31st).

30th April

- Shavli (Baltic Provinces) occupied by German forces (see May 11th).

1st May

- Austro-German Spring Offensive in Galicia: Battle of Gorlice-Tarnow begins (see 5th).
- Battle of Dilman (North Persia).
- S.S. "Gulflight" torpedoed without warning: damaged, but reaches port. First United States ship attacked by German submarine (see February 19th and March 13th).

4th May

- Italy denounces the Triple Alliance (see April 26th).
- Battle of St. Julien (Ypres) ends (see April 24th).

5th May

- Battle of Gorlice-Tarnow ends (see 1st).

6th May

- Second Battle of Krithia (Dardanelles) begins (see 8th, and April 28th).

7th May

- Libau (Baltic Provinces) taken by German forces (see April 30th).
- **S.S. "Lusitania" sunk by German submarine "U.-20"** off Queenstown (see February 6th).
- British Foreign Minister (Sir E. Grey) gives conditional guarantee to Serbian Minister of eventual cession of Bosnia and Herzegovina with "wide access to the Adriatic" (see August 15th and 30th).
- Japan presents ultimatum to China demanding territorial concessions (see 9th).

8th May

- **Battle of Frezenberg Ridge** (Ypres) begins (see 13th).
- Second Battle of Krithia ends (see 6th and June 4th).
- Battle of Sanok and Rzeszow begins (see 14th).

9th May

- **Allied Spring Offensive** begins: **Battle of Aubers Ridge**.
- **Second Battle of Artois** begins (see June 18th).

[Battles of the Western Front: 1915 Battles for a Breakthrough](#)

- The leading division of the British New Armies leaves England for France (see August 21st, 1914 and February 24th, 1915).
- President Wilson, in a speech, defines United States policy in regard to the "Lusitania" outrage (see 7th).
- Chinese Government yield to Japanese demands (see 7th and 25th).

10th May

- Naval Convention signed between Great Britain, France, and Italy.

11th May

- Shavli evacuated by German forces (see April 30th).

13th May

- Battle of Frezenberg Ridge (Ypres) ends (see May 8th).
- Windhuk (German South-West Africa) occupied by South African Northern Force.
- H.M.S. "Goliath" sunk by Turkish destroyer in the Dardanelles.
- Signor Salandra, Italian Premier, tenders his resignation (see 16th and October 30th, 1914).
- Baron Sonnino, Italian Foreign Minister, tenders his resignation (see May 16th, and November 3rd, 1914).

14th May

- Jaroslaw taken by Austro-German forces (see September 21st, 1914).
- Last meeting of British War Council (see August 5th, 1914 and June 7th, 1915).
- General da Castro, Portuguese Premier, resigns (see 15th and January 25th).
- Battle of Sanok and Rzeszow ends (see 8th).

15th May

- **Battle of Festubert** begins (see 25th).

Battles of the Western Front: 1915 Battles for a Breakthrough

- Senhor J. Pinheiro Chagas appointed Portuguese Premier (see 14th and June 19th).
- Lord Fisher, First Sea Lord, Great Britain, tenders his resignation (see 28th and October 30th, 1914).

16th May

- Battle of the San (Galicia) begins (see 23rd).
- Signor Salandra reappointed Italian Premier on reconstruction of Cabinet, with Baron Sonnino as Foreign Minister (see 13th and June 11th, 1916).

18th May

- Battles of Stryj and Drohobycz begin (see June 3rd).

19th May

- Van (Armenia) taken by Russian forces. Armenian garrison relieved (see April 20th and August 3rd, 1915 and April 5th, 1918).

21st May

- Russian Expeditionary Force to West Persia lands at Enzeli (see February 17th, 1918).

23rd May

- Battle of the San ends (see 16th).
- **Italian Government order Mobilisation and declare war against Austria.**
- General Cadorna appointed Commander-in-Chief [Officially designated " Chief of Staff," the King being the nominal Commander-in-Chief.] of Italian Armies in the Field (see November 7th, 1917).

24th May

- **Battle of Bellewaerde Ridge** (Ypres) (24th/25th).

Battles of the Western Front: 1915 Battles for a Breakthrough

- Battle of Przemysl begins (see June 3rd and 11th).
- Battle of the Stryj (Galicia) begins (see June 11th).
- Italian forces cross Austrian frontier (midnight 24th/25th).
- Germany severs diplomatic relations with Italy [For the purposes of the Treaty of Versailles it was subsequently assumed that this rupture took place on the 27th, which date was accepted as that of the commencement of Italy's belligerence against Germany.] (see August 28th, 1916).
- Urmia (North Persia) retaken by Russian forces (see April 16th).
- Entente Governments declare that they will hold Turkish Ministers personally responsible for the Armenian massacres (see April 8th).

25th May

- Battles of Ypres 1915 end (see April 22nd, 1915 and July 31st, 1917).
- Battle of Festubert ends (see 15th).
- H.M.S. "Triumph" sunk by submarine off the Dardanelles.
- Italian fleet commences operations in the Adriatic (see 26th).
- Coalition Ministry formed in Great Britain by Mr. Asquith (see December 11th, 1916).

26th May

- Italian Government announce blockade of Austro-Hungarian coast.
- British battle squadron concentrates at Malta prior to joining Italian fleet in Adriatic (see 27th).

27th May

- British squadron joins Italian fleet in the Adriatic (see 26th).
- H.M.S. "Majestic" sunk by submarine at the Dardanelles.
- Mr. Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty, Great Britain, resigns (appointed October 24th, 1911) (see 28th).
- British minelayer "Princess Irene" destroyed by internal explosion in Sheerness harbour.

28th May

- Mr Arthur Balfour appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, Great Britain (see 27th, and December 11th, 1916).
- Sir Henry Jackson appointed First Sea Lord, Great Britain (see 15th, and December 3rd, 1916).
- Dr. Joaquim T. Braga elected President of Portugal (see 29th, and October 5th).

29th May

- Valona formally occupied by Italian forces (see December 26th, 1914).
- Dr. Manoel Arriaga, Portuguese President, resigns (appointed August 24th, 1911) (see 28th).

30th May

- Affair of Sphinxhaven (Lake Nyassa). British command of the lake secured.

31st May

- Siege of Garua (Cameroons) begins (see April 18th and June 10th).
- **First German airship raid on London area** (see January 19th 1915, October 19th, 1917 and August 5th, 1918).
- Second action of Qurna (Mesopotamia).





Genealogical Computing Group

Special Interest Group of the
New Zealand Society of Genealogists
INVERCARGILL Sub-Group



Venue: SeniorNet rooms, WEA building, Esk St opposite Invercargill City Council offices.

Time: 7pm on 4th Thursday of month Feb-Nov

All are welcomed to the group - there is no subscription, but members pay \$2 per person to cover room hire and supper

Contact is GCG secretary Sandy Byers-Evitt (03 218 9344) or Convenor Wendy Smith (03 217 3595)

Branch Library/ Resource Room:

Venue: 1st floor Invercargill Library, past the computers towards Dee St window on the left

Hours: Currently open 3rd Wednesday each month Feb-Nov from 6-6:50pm but hours of opening will be reviewed.

Other times can be made by arrangement through the Committee



Branch Contacts

Convenor: Lesley Instone	217-8825
Treasurer: John McManus	217-4200
Secretary: John McManus	217-4200
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Directory

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Meetings
Third Wednesday of each month
Meeting Room, Invercargill Public Library
In the central city at 7 p.m.
[Research facilities from 6 p.m.]

Branch website ~
<http://www.nzsgsouthland.com/>

NZSG website ~
<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/>

Genealogical Computing Group website ~
<http://www.gencom.org.nz/>

