

Family history research

by Andrew Matheson

Magazines

Trawling through websites can be a great way of tapping into other people's family history research, but wouldn't it be great if people did the digging for you and presented curated results of their work?

Well, they have. In this digital age it's easy to forget about old-fashioned magazines, but family history magazines can alert you to a lot of helpful information. And even if not all of the material is relevant to your quest for ancestors and other relatives, it's interesting just to learn how others have gone about their work.

With Scottish ancestors, UK magazines are the first place to start. Two monthly publications dominate the market: [Who do you think you are?](#) and [Family Tree](#).

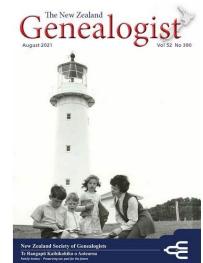


Each magazine is linked to a website and Facebook page, and in one case links to a TV series of the same name. You can subscribe to paper or digital copies, or borrow these from many libraries. Their websites have free articles as 'teasers', and links to useful sites.

The [New Zealand Genealogist](#) is published every two months by the New Zealand Society of Genealogists. It's sent to members and is available in many libraries.

Sneak preview

In the next issue we'll look at online family history databases. Many require a subscription, though access is often free at your local library. Because of lockdown disruptions, many libraries are offering free access to Ancestry.com from home until the end of 2021. Check out your library's website.



Certificate or printout?

An important tool for family history research in New Zealand are the [historical records](#) available online for births, deaths and marriages. You can search online for:

- births that occurred at least 100 years ago and stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago,
- marriages that occurred 80 years ago,
- deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago, or for which the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

You can search the entries at no cost, and careful searching can yield valuable results.

At times you need to bite the bullet and pay for a full record. This isn't cheap, at \$25 for a printout and \$33 for a certificate, but this can sometimes be crucial for breaking through a brick wall in your research. But which product should you order?

You're best to get a printout. This is a copy of the information from the registration, and can be either handwritten or typed. Not only is a printout cheaper, it has more information than is included on a certificate so is much more suitable for research purposes. Certificates are needed for official purposes, such as dealing with estates, but aren't the right choice for family history research.

