

GET TO KNOW THOSE COUSINS

How great it was to be able to attend the NZSG conference in Wellington. It gave me the incentive to visit some wonderful folk along the way, who have been researching the GOUGH family – my dad's maternal line.

Perhaps the following will give an idea of why those distant cousins are worth knowing.

First stop was to Chrissie MANKELOW in Te Awamutu. Chrissie's husband is my 2nd cousin. I first communicated with Chrissie in the late 1990's as a result of her registering her family names in the NZSG magazine. She gave me copies of photos that included my grandparents and great grandparents and 7 of my grandmother's siblings. This was the first time I had seen a photo of my grandfather as a younger man. He was the only person from these photos that I remember ever knowing.

Then through to Taupo to visit with Rosemary TIDSWELL. She is a 3rd cousin. Chrissie first mentioned Rosemary to me. They had been communicating but weren't sure of the connection because of the way names were listed in different records. I contacted her by phone first and we found the connection of our families. She gave me a photo of her great grandmother – my great grand-aunt.

Following Taupo – a double whammy! Visited with both Ruth LAWRENCE and Janine MCINTYRE in Waipukurau. Ruth, my first cousin, Lloyd's wife, I had found because of her GRD entry in 2002 and we had kept in touch since. She had a booklet from the Sacred Heart Church in Petone which showed my father and his siblings being baptised and several of the Gough family. Another story answered – my Dad had told me he went to a Catholic school but I had never seen any evidence of him being Roman Catholic - here it was!

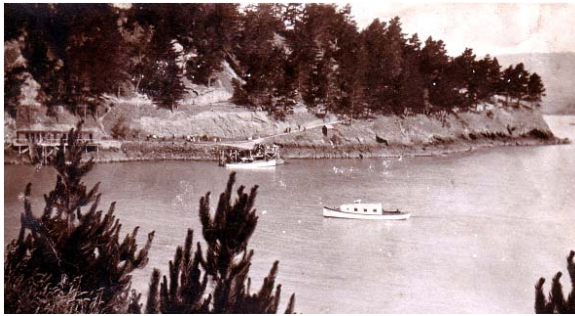
Janine, a 3rd cousin, whose contact details had also been given to me by Chrissie. I phoned her in January 2007 and exchanged information by email ever since. Lucky I had a voice recorder with me because Janine had many stories to relate about her family. Modern technology meant we were able to copy our whole databases and images of certificates and photographs from one computer to the next via a flash drive.

In Palmerston North I met up with Jeanette KINGSFORD, 2nd cousin. This was a result of being registered at the GenesReunited site. She gave me a digital copy of the marriage certificate of her grandparents, his birth certificate and both of their death certificates. She also had some interesting information about our 3rd great grand-uncle who was an architect in London. Her son had found this information a few years previous but she didn't know if he fitted into this family. I had found him on census records as an architect. Now that I could see he was more than "just an architect" I was led to an entry in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. That gave me his death date and that he was buried in the Highgate Cemetery in London – known to have the

finest collection of Victorian funerary architecture in the country. Very fitting for an architect of many London churches and schools to be buried there.

Then over to Ashhurst to meet up with another 3rd cousin Vivienne RETTER. We have been communicating for many years as she is related to me through my Dad's mother and her husband is related to me through my Mum's mother.

Ruth had given me some contact details for my 1st cousin once removed, Brian BOESON in Greytown. He is a generation earlier than the rest of us as his Mum was the youngest of James GOUGH's 11 children. What a wealth of knowledge he had. His mother was very close to my grandmother and he remembers the family well. A shame I didn't follow up with him a few years ago – his mother lived until she was 6 days short of being 102 years old in 1999 and had a very sharp mind. As he has never married he figured no one else is going to come asking him for information so he just removed original photos from his Mums album and gave them to me.



These included my Dad as a boy with his siblings, my grandfather's boat in Wellington harbour,

Albert BITTLE's boat near Somes Island, Wellington harbour

and our mystery man – Timothy GOUGH, who is said to have met the younger Gough's when they came to Wellington 34 years after him.



Timothy GOUGH – arrived in Wellington 12 December 1840 on the London – this Timothy Gough might be his son

Lucky I had my voice recorder with me because he also had many stories to tell. One he told about my Uncle taking lilacs to my grandmother when she was ill, and then asking her to pay for them. He told me how much my grandfather loved boats and used to make miniature yachts. My mother gave me a ship in a bottle that my Grandfather had given her in the early 1940's. From listening to Brian it is likely my grandfather actually made the ship before putting it into its bottle.

Up to Otaki to meet with 3rd cousin Lyall PAYNE. Because I had written some articles for this magazine while I was in Salt Lake City and mentioned the family of Gough's in one of them, he emailed me and we have been exchanging information ever since. He also has stories passed down to him from his mother. He has since visited another older Gough in Marton and found more information plus the names to most of those photos Chrissie shared.

What did those cousins –1st, 1st once removed, 2nd, and 3rd contribute to my family history in just one week that I did not have before?

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Photos | 30 different people from my father and his siblings back 2 generations |
| Gravestone photos | 18 different family members |
| Stories | numerous relating to all parts of the family |
| Certificates | Over 45 New Zealand and England; Birth, Death and Marriage – saving me at least \$900 |
| Articles | at least 14 relating to the lives of several Gough's |
| Clues | leading to a biography of Alexander Dick Gough |
| Relationships | I now have a larger family on my father's side than I ever knew as a child. |

Where did I find these cousins?

NZ Genealogist - members' interests
Genealogical Research Directory
GenesReunited
White Pages
Referrals
Having my articles published in the NZ Genealogist

Not one of these cousins has the Gough name. As our oldest Gough in New Zealand – Joseph Alexander, had 4 sons and his oldest son had 5 sons who lived to adults we would assume there are many more Gough's out there.

As a result of these visits we now have our Gough family tree online at www.gough.tribalpages.com