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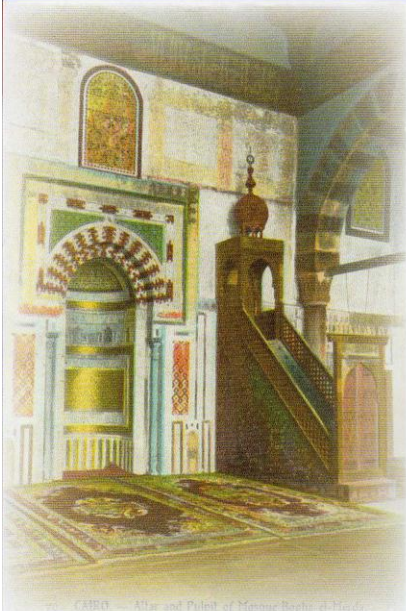
Uncovering grandfather's secret:

RESEARCHING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS:

Census and census substitutes

8 cards from Cairo

New Zealand Society of Genealogists • Preserving our past for the future



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COVER STORY

KATHY CALLAGHAN'S family grew up with the story that their Norwegian grandfather Harold Oscar ANDERSEN, a seaman, born May 2, 1881, in Nannestad, Norway, had jumped ship in New Zealand in 1904 and that the ship he sailed in never made it back to Norway.

The last entry in Harold's Certificate of Discharge shows that the ship SS *Tomoana* left London on October 21, 1904, from Victoria Dock E.

In the space left for "Date and Place of Discharge" is handwritten: "Failed to Complete Voyage".

However, it was not the ship that failed to complete the voyage, as Kathy was to discover during a visit to Archives New Zealand in Wellington.

On page 58 Kathy tells how, by searching the naturalisation papers for her grandfather, she discovered that he had served time in prison shortly after arriving in New Zealand.

Coincidentally Trish McCormack, of Archives New Zealand looks at using police, court and coroners records to uncover our criminal past, on page 54.

Our criminal history provides a fascinating window to our past, but it is not always easy to research, writes Trish, who uses three case histories, to explore the records and illustrate the strengths and weaknesses of the collections.



UNCOVERING GRANDFATHER'S SECRET
AT ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND:

Naturalisation files and the treasures within



By KATHY CALLAGHAN

OUR family grew up with the story that our Norwegian grandfather Harold Oscar ANDERSEN, a seaman, born May 2, 1881, Nannestad, Norway, had jumped ship in New Zealand in 1904 and that the ship he sailed in never made it back to Norway.

We all believed the story and repeated it often, as it sounded very daring and exciting to know that we would never have existed had not our grandfather "jumped ship".

The last entry in Harold's Certificate of Discharge shows that the ship SS *Tomoana* left London on October 21,

1904, from Victoria Dock E. In the space left for "Date and Place of Discharge" is handwritten: "Failed to Complete Voyage".

After Harold's death in 1962, various family members tried to find information about his arrival and his early years in New Zealand, but very little was gleaned.

When I took up family history in 2006, I left the Norwegian side of the family in the "too hard basket".

I joined the Kapiti branch in 2008 and it was with this group that I went on a tour of Archives New Zealand in Wellington, and discovered that Naturalisation Files were kept there. There was no time to request the file that day, but on a return visit with two of my sisters we ordered it.

When it arrived, we sat there and looked at the file with a sense of awe and anticipation. We did not know that the story we had known all our lives was about to be challenged.

We discovered that he first applied for naturalisation in December 22, 1914 at the age of 35. How wonderful it was to see our grandfather's handwriting and read character references from his employers. World War One meant that his application was put on hold and he was listed among other Aliens until the war was over. In his original naturalisation application he stated that he arrived around 1900 aboard SS *Rakaia*.

He initially worked on various ships around New Zealand and then worked as a platelayer (a workman who lays and repairs railway tracks). On October 13, 1916, he married Anderina Gertrude Louise SANDISON at the Registry Office in Auckland. He then went on to work as a labourer in the bush around Pukemako, Mangapehi. He had five children who were brought up deep in the New Zealand forest.

On August 4, 1936 he reapplied for naturalisation. This time he stated he arrived in New Zealand on the vessel SS *Tomoana* in 1905. As his application was processed, the conflicting information was discovered and inquiries made.

What a shock it was for us to read in

I. A. 20
1905. MEMORIAL LA 20
1906

To His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand.

The Memorial of *Harold Oscar Andersen*
of *Mangapehi* in the Dominion of New Zealand,
Occupation: *fisherman*, made in conformity with the provisions
of the Aliens Act, 1908,—

Humbly Sheweth:

Name: *Harold Oscar Andersen*
Age: *35* years of age.
Birthplace: *Christiania Norway.*
Residence: *Mangapehi*
Married or single: *Single*
Length of residence and desire to settle: *Auckland*, per s.s. "*Rakaia*," on the *22 December 1900*, and has resided in New Zealand since that date, and is desirous of settling therein.
Prayer: And your Memorialist prays that Letters of Naturalization may be granted to him.
Signature of Memorialist: *H. O. Andersen*

DECLARATION VERIFYING MEMORIAL.

Harold Anderson's application for naturalisation, 1914.

[ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND]

NEW ZEALAND POLICE, *Auckland* District. Photo No. 3000

NAME and alias: *Harold Anderson*

Place of birth: *Auckland* (at *Auckland* on *22 December 1880*)
Shiff (at *Wairoa* on *2 November 1880*)

Arrived in colony: *When* *24. 12. 04*
Where from *London*
Height: *5* feet *7* inches.
Weight: *12* stone *1* lb.
Hair: *Brown* Eyes: *Grey*
Occupation: *Seaman*

Female residing at: *Norway*
Date of issue: *Auckland* on *1. 12. 1914*

Mark and peculiarities: *Upper thumb, index, right forefinger, middle, ring, right fingers and thumb, thumb, index, ring and left forefinger, lower teeth, between left fingers causes discol.*

Police file for Harold Anderson, December 29, 1904.

[ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND]

30/11/1914
 The Hon. the Minister for Internal Affairs
 Sir,
 I wish to take out Naturalisation papers for the Dominion & would be greatly obliged if you could send me the same so as to enable me to be enrolled in time for the forthcoming election.
 Name Harold Oscar Anderson
 born Christiania, Norway
 age 35 years
 Single
 Occupation Bushman
 14 years in New Zealand
 2/6 enclosed
 Yours truly
 H.O. Anderson
 Prisoner of the War in New Zealand

...this boat and was sentenced to two months imprisonment at Auckland. He could not remember the date but informed me it would be in December 1904 or early in January 1905.

I searched the Police Gazette and found that he was identical with Harold Anderson, F.G. 1905 Page 94, who was sentenced to two months on 29/12/04 for theft at Auckland and was discharged on 26/2/05.

It was not until I had almost completed Andersen's statement that I questioned him as to whether he had ever been convicted of any offence in New Zealand or elsewhere. He was very sensitive about talking about this conviction, which he said had been the only mistake in his life, and that he did not want it brought up again for the sake of his wife and children, as he did not want them to know about it. That was why he had at first stated in his statement that he had deserted the ship and went into the country.

I have verified the dates of his employment with Ellis & Barrand, Mangapehi, from their Secretary, Mr. H. P. Burns. Owing to the wages books being destroyed in a fire prior to May 1912 they cannot give the exact date of his commencement to work for that firm, but Mr James Galbraith, Bush Manager, has confirmed his statement that he was with them from 1910. The dates given by the applicant are substantially correct, while employed by this firm.

Mr Burns also sent me a covering letter, as to the

Left: Harold Anderson's first application for naturalisation in 1914 was put on hold because of World War One. **Right:** A police interview file of 1936 reveals that he did not want his wife and children to know that he had been imprisoned in 1904. **Below:** In October 1936, the Under-secretary of Internal Affairs recommended

a police report that our grandfather had had a "short term of imprisonment"! As we investigated the file, we read that he had indeed "jumped ship" at Auckland, but that he had stolen the suit of another member of the crew. He was caught and for this crime was sentenced to two months' jail from December 24, 1904. Happy Christmas and welcome to New Zealand. He served his sentence in Auckland (probably Mt Eden Gaol). We can only imagine the conditions in which he served his sentence and how traumatic this would have been to a 22-year-old young man with limited English.

Further reading of the file revealed much more than this. In the police interview with Harold he gave a detailed description of his work and social history. This is something we would never have known, but for this minor indiscretion. Also high-quality "mug shots" were taken with a detailed description of his appearance. We now have these as the earliest photographs of our grandfather.

In the police interview it was recorded that Harold did not want his wife or children to know of his jail term, as it was his only encounter with the law. When we, his grandchildren, read this, we could feel his shame more than 100 years later. Thankfully his wife and children never knew, as all died before the discovery of this file.

My grandfather's file is full of details of his life that we would not have otherwise known. I am so grateful

9th October, 1936.

MEMORANDUM For:-
 The Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs.

HAROLD OSCAR ANDERSEN, PIKEPAHO, MANGAPEHI, LABOURER.

The above-named who is of Norwegian nationality is an applicant for a Certificate of Naturalization.

He is a married man aged 55 years and has resided in New Zealand since the year 1904. His wife, with whom he resides is New Zealand born and there are five children all born in New Zealand.

Police enquiries regarding his character have been made and the reports furnished indicate that except for a conviction for theft of a suit of clothes in the year 1904 for which he was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, the applicant is regarded as a hard working steady man, and that there appears to be no reason why a Certificate of Naturalization should not be granted.

RECOMMENDATION:
 In submitting the case for your consideration and decision, I recommend that naturalization be granted, subject to payment of the balance of the fee, namely 24.

J. W. Deane
 Under-Secretary.

for the foresight of generations past in preserving such documents for future generations and allowing us all a glimpse into the life of early New Zealand immigrants.

Sources:
 Digitalarkivet: Digital Archives of Norway.
 Marriage Certificate.
 Certificate of Discharge.
 Register of Aliens World War One:

Archives New Zealand.
 Naturalisation File: Archives New Zealand.
 Photographs of Prisoners: Archives New Zealand.
 New Zealand Police Gazette 1905, Archives New Zealand.
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