



NZSG New Plymouth Branch
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NZSG
New Plymouth
Branch

NUMBER 203

July 2007

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Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at the branch rooms, *Moturoa Shopping Centre*.
 Access from the Whiteley St car park.

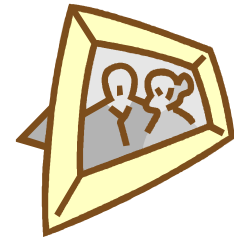
Branch Library is open free to all members and to visitors for a small charge.

Library Hours: Monday 10am to 3pm; Wednesday 12 noon to 3pm;
 Friday & Saturday 10am to 12 noon.

Next meeting:

July **Tuesday 3rd 7.30pm**
Ron Lambert from Puke Ariki will speak about 'Dating Old Photos'.

So, start looking out those old photos. Bring them to the meeting and Ron will help you date them.



Coming up:

August **7th** *Adrienne and Mike Nightingale* on 'Recording Oral History'. A very important topic for all genealogists.

September **4th** *Ocean Reeves* from Zenith Publishing.

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GENEALOGY: WHERE YOU CONFUSE THE DEAD AND IRRITATE THE LIVING

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Contributions from members are always welcome for this newsletter.
 Janice Goldsworthy, Editor; email janjon@infofen.net.nz

News:

June meeting: Our speaker this month was *Else Churchill*, from the Society of Genealogists in London. She was touring the country speaking to NZSG branches after the annual conference. Her topic was: "I'm Stuck! Techniques for localizing that elusive English ancestor."

Else is an entertaining and very knowledgeable speaker. The large audience enjoyed her talk and had plenty of questions for her.

She suggested that you need to begin by thinking about 'who, where, when, and what' when you hit a blank wall looking for someone.

Who = Do you have the correct name? Many people used different names at different times.

Where = you need some sense of the place they come from. What country, parish etc?

When = make sensible guesses about when an event may have happened but be prepared to extend your search. For example, guessing a couple married before the first child was born is not always correct.

What = what kind of person are you looking for? Occupation, status etc. will affect the type of records that might mention them.

Else then talked about the resources available to find that ancestor, including the many now accessible online. She especially recommended GENUKI and advised approaching the local registries in the UK.

For more detailed notes on this topic by Else take a look at

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/next_steps/

Genealogy Research Course

Michael Butler will be holding his course on research methods and resources again in July. The course will begin on Monday 23rd July, running for four Mondays from 7pm to 9pm. Fee for the course: \$20.

If you are interested, please contact Michael raymus@xtra.co.nz or ph. 753 2449 as soon as possible.

Projects

Help is still required with checking BDM's etc. If anyone can help with indexing or checking, please contact: Marilyn Reid Ph. 758 6930.



Computer Group

The Computer Group meets at the branch rooms on the **third Sunday of each month**, excluding December and January at 1.30pm. There is a \$2.00 door charge.

All welcome.

Convenor: John Berntsen; **Secretary:** Bruce Bellini



Library news

We have had a donation of the book *My ancestors were Methodists* (1988). This book is part of a series of publications.



We also have in our library

- *My ancestor was a coalminer*
- *My ancestor was a merchant seaman* (also at Puke Ariki)
- *My ancestor was Jewish*

Additional titles held at Puke Ariki:

My ancestor was a bastard (2004)

My ancestor was a Methodist (1982)

Puke Ariki also hold a copy of Collins *Tracing Scottish Ancestors* by Rosemary Bigwood (2001) and they have *The Scottish Family Tree Detective* by Rosemary Bigwood on order.

SWAINSON PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

I understand that there is a newsletter being sent to all interested parties, within the next week or so, on the progress with the processing of this valuable collection. We will keep you informed as we hear further information

Marilyn Armitstead, Librarian.

FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE
322 Mangorei Rd, New Plymouth
Phone 06 758 9646

The Family History Centre is now open **Tuesdays** 12.30 pm to 3pm and **Thursdays** 12.30pm to 3pm.

Anyone wanting to order films or do some research at the Family History Centre at **weekends** is asked to ring Joy Okey on 7534831 to arrange a time, so that she can open up for you.



Useful website

There is plenty of information to be found from local record offices in the UK, as Else Churchill told us.

www.statistics.gov.uk/census2001/bicentenary/bilinks.html gives you the names of all the major record offices, be they county or municipal, plus their phone numbers and often a web address.

HISTORY is CHANGE & CONTINUITY

At Puke Ariki, on June 20th, quite a number of our NPSG members took advantage of the invitation to hear Gavin McLean, well known writer, reviewer and senior historian at the Ministry for Culture and History, give a very practical and succinct power point presentation of his book:

Local History- a short guide to researching, writing and publishing a local history.

As Gavin says, “Local History covers everything. Each place has its own rhythms and themes.”

What he covered in his talk was relevant to those working on family and/or local histories.

Some points covered:

- 1) Making connections with the present as well as the past:
Read, read, read, question, hypothesise, research. Question, quantify, reference. Use the environment.
- 2) Sources & Themes:
Be cautious of information e.g. the *Cyclopaedia* where people paid to put in personal articles, so that they were often embellished a little.
Newspapers are often the richest source
Oral Evidence – time is precious; choose informants carefully, research, then interview.
Photographs or artworks - use imaginatively, not as decorations.
- 3) Structuring & Writing:
Think in tangible terms - imagine the final product

If you remember nothing else:

- Intrigue, invite, inform
- Structure logically (the key to success)
- Write simple, direct prose
- Keep it short
- Have a key theme for each chapter
- Let your narrative flow
- Use main points, put notes in appendices
- Tell reader what is important and why
- Be analytical
- Mix up sentence lengths
- Avoid short paragraphs and chapters
- Place similar topics together
- Avoid having a list of dates
- Put extra effort into introductions & conclusions
- If pictures are good, make captions equally good – take text from body for captions
- Be sparing in the use of key blocks of quotations

REVISE, REVISE & CUT

The overheads for Gavin’s presentation are available in Puke Ariki and would be well worth perusing if you are thinking of publishing your family history. **Contributed by Marjorie McMahon**