



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 209

February 2008

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Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

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New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
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Meetings: 1st Tuesday each
month at Branch Rooms,
Moturoa Shopping Centre
access off Whiteley St Carpark

Email:
newplymouth@genealogy.co.nz

Website:
<http://www.genealogynp.com>

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

Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm: **Wednesday:** 12noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except in
December and January. All welcome- \$2 door charge. **Convenor-** John Bernsten.
Secretary- Bruce Bellini.

BRANCH NEWS

A Happy New Year to all Branch members and a warm welcome to our
newest member Geraldine Verry.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 5th. Our guest speaker will be Des McMahon.
Des will talk about his experiences in researching and recording the history of his
family's 110 year old villa in Westown.

Christmas Dinner. This was held in December and attended by thirty five members
who enjoyed a very pleasant meal and evening at the RSA clubrooms.

Meetings Coming Up

4th March – Meeting at Branch Rooms.

!5th March – Taranaki Regional Meeting in Stratford

Branch Projects

Marilyn Reid and Annette Larsen visited Spotswood College recently to gain approval for beginning the process of setting up a database of the school's admissions. This has particular significance as the College will celebrate its 50th Jubilee in 2010.

Reminder: Subs are due for the 6 month period to 31st March 2008. Single subscription - \$15; Joint - \$20; Outside Taranaki - \$10. Contact Lea at 758 0130 or bbellini@clear.net.nz. Forms can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.genealogynp.com>

NZSG MATTERS

- **The NZSG Conference 'From Coast to Coast'** is to be held in Christchurch from May 30th to June 2nd this year. 'Early Bird' registrations are discounted to \$150 if made before 28th February 2008. Information about the Conference programme and accommodation plus registration forms is available from the website www.genealogy.org.nz and also in the Nov/Dec *NZ Genealogist*.
- **Look for NZSG Index Version 5** planned for release in early 2008

From our Branch Library Shelves

Irish Ancestry – a Beginner's Guide: Bill Davis. Published by Family History Societies (UK) Publications Ltd. Bury. UK 2001

This would be a good book for anyone beginning Irish research and having the usual fears about the difficulties which may be involved. Bill Davis is reassuring, saying that 'Irish Research is not impossible...many records have survived'. He takes the beginner through the basics of Irish research beginning with an explanation of the political and geographical divisions in that country and then summarises the major repositories of records not only in Ireland but also in a large number of countries where the Irish have been a major immigrant group.

Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, census records, census substitutes, parish records, civil registration of marriage, estate records are some of the many sources of information for which the author provides details and guidance.

An appendix provides information about contacting Heritage and Research Centres in each of Ireland's Counties as well as useful addresses of archival repositories and organisations holding Irish records in Ireland, the UK, America, Canada, Australia, South Africa and New Zealand. There is a further appendix giving useful websites for many of these sources.

A caution here though; website addresses may have changed in the interval since publication in 2001 although I did log on successfully to the half dozen I tried.

Available from the Branch library under **HOW IRI**.

Newly arrived

Practical Family History – January 2008: Illegitimacy; dating old photos; Edinburgh & Lothian research; In prison on census night; using the Ellis Island website

Family Tree Magazine – February 2008: Bastardy Examination documents; 1723 Oath of Allegiance Rolls; Births at sea & tracing seafarers

OF INTEREST

UK Phone Books 1880 – 1984 on-line at ancestry.co.uk.

The home phone numbers of former dignitaries such as ex-Prime Minister Harold MacMillan and the composer Edward Elgar are now able to be found on a database made available online recently in the UK. Ancestry.co.uk has placed the contents of nearly 2000 old phone books on the net in a three year project, enabling researchers to trace where their ancestors once lived and explore social history. (adapted from a Taranaki Herald article supplied by Karen Crowe)

Was your 2xgreat grandfather (or grandmother) a gold-miner? Find out at this website- <http://www.kaelewis.com/goldminers/gold.searchpage.htm>

A follow up to a clue that a relative had ‘gone north to live in Auckland’ for a time’ during the 1860s, a decade of gold rushes in New Zealand, led to the discovery of this excellent site where you can search by name for a possible gold miner among your ancestors..

Kae Lewis produced the database from handwritten records of applications for Miner’s Right over the years 1861 to 1868 in both the North and South Islands and the index contains the names of 20,000 gold miners, their Miner’s Right number, the date issued, the location, province, country and comments (in some instances).

Difficulty in reading some of the handwriting in the records led Kae Lewis to include just the first name and surname in the index. She cites the convention of the time to name nearly all boys William, James, or John in the small colony as a reason for any researcher to confirm the identity of an individual with a name such as ‘Brown’ or ‘Jones’ through other records such as those for births, deaths, marriages, court cases and ship’s passenger lists. A search for “William Smith’ as a test of this came up with 34 results!

The site has a special reference to the Thames goldfields with names transcribed for 5720 Miners’ Rights over the period 12th May to 5th September 1868. The notes and map of the Thames goldfields on the same website are also very worthwhile reading.

Papers Past site:

You will find three recent additions to those papers which are searchable – these are:

Nelson Examiner & NZ Chronicle 1842 – 1874

Hawera and Normanby Star 1880 – 1910

North Otago Times 1883-1887

Who Do You Think You Are?

A reminder that the new series of this programme is appearing on Sky UK TV at 9.30pm on Sundays

A New Year Tip – Your New Year Resolution! (Supplied by Annette Larsen)

Review your research regularly especially the stuff you did when you were brand new to all of this. Going back over things you did several months or years ago can enable you to see things with a fresh set of eyes and possibly give you ideas for new search paths to follow!

Useful Websites

UKI Search www.ukisearch.com is a new site which has links to family history sites in England, Scotland Ireland and Wales on a county basis and includes the Isle of Man and Channel Islands. It is claimed that about 85% of the linked sites are free. (from Practical Family History Jan 2008)

Irish census records have begun to come online beginning with that for County Dublin in 1911. The National Archives of Ireland and Library and Archives Canada are digitising and making the 1901 and 1911 records available free as PDF images at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/> The 1911 records are being digitised first. The order in which each county's records will be digitised is available onsite. The data base is searchable by name. Information includes status in household, religion, literacy, age, occupation, marital status, number of children and place of birth. (From Wairarapa Branch Newsletter December 2007)

The New Zealand Ministry of Culture and Heritage site www.nzhistory.net.nz/handsonhistory/genealogy-links contains an extensive list of New Zealand website addresses covering the following: General, BDMs, Shipping Lists, Cemetery Records, Whakapapa, Forums, Guides, and Immigrant Groups.

New Developments at the Puke Ariki Research Centre

Under the New Zealand Digital Strategy, Peoples' Network units are being established in a number of the district's libraries including Puke Ariki, Oakura, Waitara, Bell Block, Inglewood and Urenui. The aim is to give greater numbers of people access to computers and the internet at their libraries.

At the Puke Ariki Research Centre a suite of 10 computer terminals is being installed giving users free access to a large number of databases including Archives NZ, Familysearch, NZ Defence Force Personnel Records, Dictionary of NZ Biography, Auckland Cenotaph Database, Maori Land Court Index, Ancestry.com. and others. The project completion date is 15th February when it will be opened by the Prime Minister

A BIT OF HUMOUR (At least unusual names make the researcher's task easier) **NAMING the BABY**

They talked of Medora, Aurora, and
Flora;
Of Mabel, and Marcia, and Mildred
and May,
Debated the question of Helen, Honor,
Clarissa, Camilla, and Phyllis and Fay.
They thought of Marcella, Estella and
Bella,
Even considered Cecilia, Jeanette and
Pauline;
Alicia, Adelia, Annette, Arabella

And Ethel, and Eunice, Hortense and
Irene.

One liked Theodora, another Leonora.
Some argued for Edith and some for
Elaine,

For Madeline, Adeline, Lily and Laura.
And then after all, they decided on-

Jane!

Supplied by Judy Bernsten

From Bay Of Plenty Times May 3 1895

*Your contributions for this newsletter
are welcomed. Email to Peter Wicky
Editor: wicky.family@ihug.co.nz*