



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 214

July 2008

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

Committee: Marilyn Armitstead, Judy Berntsen,
 John Berntsen, Michael Butler,
 Karen Crowe, Elly Harrison,
 Marjorie McMahon, Mike Merrick,
 Marilyn Reid

Editor: Peter Wicky
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New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

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:** 12 noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except December and
 January. All welcome- \$2 door charge. **Convenor-** Peter Hewett **Secretary/Treasurer-** John
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Branch News

Last Meeting

Meeting June 3rd

Janet Murdoch guest speaker at the Branch meeting on June 3rd took members back in time to a small community where everyone knew each other, where mothers were at home doing daily chores, where children played safely in quarter acre sections, where the residents spent their leisure time at the settlement's tennis and rugby clubs, where the local school became the centre for card and social evenings and where there was a neighbourly concern and help available for any family under stress.

This community was the Railway Settlement in what is now the suburb of Welbourn in New Plymouth. It became the focus of Janet's study about its history and sociology when she spent a year away from teaching under a Fellowship and with sponsorship from Puke Ariki. The results of her study were published in a book entitled 'The Railway Leads to Welbourn'

The Railway Settlement was built in 1927 in the area bounded by Coronation Avenue, Oriental and Aotea Streets. The 38 houses constructed there for Railways Department employee families were identical in design, floorplan and layout - being built in kitset form by the Railways Department at their factory in Frankton Junction. Railway employees could always guarantee that their furniture would fit when they shifted to another Railways' house anywhere in New Zealand. Each house had five rooms consisting of a lounge, three bedrooms, a combined kitchen dining room and scullery, a bathroom and an outside toilet.

Janet interviewed a number of people who had lived at the settlement during its 60 year existence. All looked back with nostalgia to a vanished life marked by friendliness, safety and sense of community. The reforms of the 1980s which included the sale of the Railways with subsequent job losses, caused major upheavals in the lives of the Settlement's inhabitants. Many people shifted away to find work elsewhere, a few remained and bought their Railway house. Today the remaining railway houses are readily recognisable among their neighbours.

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 1st post-Conference report by Marilyn Armitstead.

Programme 2008

5th Aug	Sharing Evening – Skeletons, Black Sheep and Heirlooms.
2nd Sep	Finale of 'This is Your Past'
Oct/Nov	To be arranged

Sharing Evening 5th August Members are encouraged to 'dig up' any family skeletons, bring along any heirlooms or memorabilia, 'unearth' any ancestors - famous or infamous – all of which may have associated stories you may wish to share with fellow genealogists and family historians. Absolute discretion guaranteed! If you would like to share a story - please contact any member of the Committee and let them know so that a programme can be arranged.

Branch History. Any photos, letters or other items relating to the history of our Branch which you may have would be gratefully accepted on loan for photocopying for the Branch archives. Contact Annette Larsen 758 3320

Members' Subscriptions are now overdue: Single - \$30; Double: \$40 and Outside Taranaki \$20. The door charge of \$2 remains the same. Payment can be made to Lea Bellini at a meeting or by post to P.O. Box 429 New Plymouth 4340.

From our Branch Library

Newly arrived on the shelves - the Summer issues of:

Practical Family History

Finding those forbears in Devon.
Newspaper research & where to begin.
Dissenters in the family? Where to look for Nonconformist ancestors.
Coroner's inquests: what can be found?
A description of brewery workers & where to find records.

Family Tree Magazine

Memories & Memoirs- How a reader turned to an elderly uncle to begin her family research.
Key London records pre-1841.
DNA latest – Q & A Special.
Step by step research back to 1700s.
How & where to search for pauper ancestors.

Family History Centre hours

The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3pm. However you should contact Joy Okey (753 4831) on the morning before you plan to visit.

NZSG Matters

Version 5 NZSG Index now available from the NZSG Bookshop.

Over 7½ million records from 164 sources! The Members version is available for \$60 or you can upgrade for only \$30 by sending in your Version 4 set to Publication Sales, PO Box 14036, Panmure, Auckland 1741, with your order. See *The Genealogist* May/June 2008 issue for further details and order form.

Next Regional Meeting: will be hosted by Hawera Branch NZSG on Saturday July 19th at their new Branch Rooms – Storage 4U, 48 Union Street Hawera..

AFFHO Congress 2009: Online registration for the 2009 AFFHO Congress in Auckland is now live for your use. Visit the site, read the programme and see what is on offer. The website is: www.affhocongress2009.org

Of Interest

Scots, Dalmatians and Nonconformists

Northland saw the arrival of a number of groups of settlers in the 19th Century all seeking the opportunity to make a better life for themselves. Two of these – the Scots at Waipu and the Nonconformists in Albertland were the result of organised settlement though only the first was entirely successful. The Dalmatians were a third group who arrived independently over a number of years hoping to make their fortunes on the gumfields.

The origins of the Waipu settlement are to be found in the Highland Clearances of the early 1800s. Led by their charismatic minister Norman McLeod, a large number of Gaelic speaking Scots made their way first to Nova Scotia and then to Australia before arriving in Northland - a migration which took forty years. A total of six ships brought over 900 Scots to Waipu in the 1850s.

The Albertland venture, the last of the organised British settlements, was the brainchild of William Rawson Brame a journalist who dreamed of establishing a classless and Nonconformist society in New Zealand. His advertisements in Birmingham press in August 1861 resulted in the departure of some 3000 settlers in eleven ships for Port Albert on the Kaipara Harbour in the early 1860s.

The Dalmatians arrived in the North towards the end of the 1800s and worked in the kauri gum industry until this declined. Many then shifted south to Auckland to establish orchards and become pioneers in the production of wine.

If you have ancestors who might have been among these groups of settlers in Northland there are a number of museums, websites and archival collections of which you can make use in your research. These include the following:

Far North Regional Museum, Kaitia

Holds collections of letters, early newspapers, biographical and subject card indexes, records, photos, maps, journals, births, deaths, marriage and baptismal records (Anglican and Methodist) for European and Maori as well as School Registers.

An archivist is available to do research for an initial fee of \$10 and deeper research at the rate of \$20 an hour

Website: <http://www.farnorthmuseum.co.nz/ArchivesFamilyHistory.htm>

Email: curator@paradise.net.nz

Postal: Far North Regional Museum, PO Box 94, Kaitia, 0441, Northland.

Waipu Museum

The Museum has a database of family records for almost all the 940 people who were in the original migration to Waipu. Museum staff will carry out a search using information you provide and they will begin preparation for a family tree with an initial deposit of \$15. The Museum website provides information about the settlement's history and offers opportunity to purchase books about this such as *The Gael Sets Forth* and *The Pride of the Lion*. The Waipu Genealogy Group meets at the Museum and is willing to assist enquirers with their research. The Group's website is:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.co/~wendyh65/WaipuIGG.htm>

The Museum website is: <http://waipumuseum.com/>

Email: info@waipumuseum.com

Postal: Waipu Museum, 36 The Centre, Waipu, 2054, Northland Telephone 094320746

Albertland Museum

The Museum holds extensive genealogical records, memorabilia, historic photos, diaries, letters, family histories and school admission records. Historic books such as the 2003 edition of *The Albertlanders*, *Brave Pioneers of the 1860s* are available for sale

The Museum will carry out research of their records or alternatively there is a searchable online Passenger and Shipping list.

Website: <http://www.albertland.co.nz>

Email: enquiries@albertland.co.nz

Postal: PO Box 128, Wellsford, 1242. Telephone: 094238181

The Wellsford Branch NZSG email address is: Wellsford@genealogy.org.nz

Useful NZ Websites

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Park/7572/nzrgo.htm> This site provides information about what may be found on New Zealand birth, death and marriage certificates from prior to 1875 through to the present. However remember that a Printout will often provide more information than what is on a Certificate.

<http://www.nzsg.hamilton.co.nz/NZ.htm> This has numerous links to sites for NZ & worldwide research. NZ links include library archives; Museums; Family history research resources by region.

<http://geocities.com/madderngenealogy/cemeteriesNZ> an online New Zealand Cemetery Database Links page enabling you to search cemetery records online by region in many parts of New Zealand.

Auckland City Council Archives

www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/introduction/archives/Default.asp This site is one recommended by Annette Larsen for anyone who has Auckland family research interests. Annette has had good success in finding information about her grandparents using the site and says it is easily searchable. It includes:

Burgess Rolls for the City of Auckland 1872/73 & 1882/83

City Engineers Dept-Register of employees 1901-1930

City of Auckland Licensing District Register of Applicants 1901-1920

City Property Book circa 1880

Eden Terrace Road Board Valuation Rolls 1885-1903

Karangahape Highway Board Valuation Book 1883

Lock Hospital Register Book 1883-1886

Mt Albert Highway District Rate Books 1867-1872

Orakei Road Board Valuation Rolls 1912 & 1920

Otahuhu Borough Council Valuation Rolls 1886-1908

Ponsonby Highway District Board Valuation List 1882-1883

Publicans' Licences 1903-1962

Register of Licences: Drivers, Porters, Carriages, Carters 1895 -1899

Waikaraka Cemetery Record Book 1890-1906

New Release from Ancestry.co.uk

On June 4th Ancestry.co.uk launched its 'comprehensive collection of Australian Free Settler records–**The Australian Free Settler Collection**, starting with the **New South Wales Free Settlers, 1826-1922**, which documents the names and journeys of millions of people who travelled to the new colony and later the new country, in search of a better life, in the 19th and early 20th centuries.' The collection contains 8.9 million names and includes those of three million assisted and unassisted free settlers who settled in New South Wales; 2.2 million of these came from Britain. It also includes international and domestic travellers as well as crew who came to Australia over nearly a century.

For more information go to: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/about/default.aspx> Click on *Press Releases*.

Celtic Day

The Kapiti Branch is running a Celtic Day (Irish & Scottish) on Sunday 20th July, 10am to 4pm, at the Kapiti Community Centre, Ngahina Road, Paraparaumu. The cost is \$10 pay at the door – no prior registration. Open to the public.

Plenty of free parking near to the Centre. Bring your own lunch (or Coastlands Shopping Mall is nearby). Tea, coffee and sugar provided.

Jenny Martin – Lower Nth Island Irish Interest Group and Pen Brown – Wellington Scottish Interest Group. On-line research facilities, specialist reference books and expert research help all available.

For further information contact Jackie Holland 04 293 2296 or Derek Griffis 04 293 1092

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