



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 216

September 2008

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

New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

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

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at
 Branch Rooms, Moturoa Shopping
 Centre
 access off Whiteley St Carpark

Editor: Peter Wicky
 Email- wicky.family@ihug.co.nz

Email:
newplymouth@genealogy.org.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; **Acting Secretary** - Bruce
 Bellini; **Acting Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

Branch News

Last Meeting 5th August.

A number of members gave very interesting talks to the Branch Meeting and illustrated these with a wide variety of family heirlooms, mementos, memoirs, autograph books and diaries which they had brought along. There was general agreement about the value of these in not only providing valuable insights into the lives of our ancestors but also their importance in representing something of a grandmother's or a grandfather's self left behind for descendants.

This theme of 'Putting Flesh on Bones' was also echoed by a member who provided an examples of the value of using Google search to locate shipboard diaries of voyages made by ancestors and another who had found value in locating histories of local areas in the UK to provide backgrounds for family history

Next Meeting: Tuesday 2nd September: Finale and presentation of a report on 'This is Your Past' project.

Programme 2008.

7th Oct	Lea/Bruce Bellini, Marjorie McMahon, John Pickering and Annette Larsen will report to members on their experiences from trips overseas earlier this year.
4th Nov	Different computer programmes & sites for building your family tree.
7th Dec	Pot-Luck dinner at the Branch Rooms. Arrive & mingle at 5.30 for meal at 6pm.

Coming Up

The Branch will run its popular **Introductory and Refresher Course in Genealogy** during September this year and Michael Butler will be the Course Tutor. It is planned as a course occupying a two-hour session (7.30pm to 9.30pm) once a week over four weeks plus a further evening at the Puke Ariki Research Centre. The course is suitable for beginners in genealogy as well as for those wishing to refresh their skills. The course timetable is: Mondays. September 15th 22nd 29th October 6th and an evening at Puke Ariki on Wednesday October 8th 7pm.

The cost of the Course (including a full set of course notes) is \$20 payable upon registration on the first evening. Please 'phone Michael Butler 753 2449 as soon as possible to register your interest so that he can have an indication of likely course numbers.

Welcome to New Members who have joined the Branch recently:

Jill Jackson, Adrienne Duff, John Putt and Glynis Taylor-Manu who has rejoined.

Thanks for donations to the Branch Library: Michael Butler for a book *The Wanganui River*; John Putt for a copy of his Family History.

NZSG Matters – January 2009 Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry

The Congress will be held at King's College Auckland from the 16th to the 20th January and will be hosted by the NZSG.

The programme will have four streams – Migration, History, Technology and Preservation and is organised to include lectures as well as workshops. Participants will in some instances be able to attend a lecture and then follow this up with a two hour workshop on the same topic.

Topics covered will include:

- Pacific Island research
- The British in India
- Polish and European re-search
- Family Crests
- DNA
- Making a Family video
- Huguenot research
- Use of a wide range of online resources
- Convict research
- And much more...

More information together with registration details is available on the Congress website www.affhocongress2009.org

Proposed Qualifications in Genealogy/Family History – your response sought.

In the May/June issue of the *Genealogist* the NZSG Council announced the setting up of a Committee to investigate the development of qualifications in Genealogy/Family History. The qualifications envisaged, will acknowledge that the level of skills acquired by those carrying out their research in Genealogy and Family History is a discipline worthy of formal recognition. Those undertaking course studies will be able do so at a Certificate level or at a higher Diploma. The courses will be available under the auspices of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) and so will have national and international recognition.

In order to satisfy NZQA guidelines for recognition of the proposed NZSG Qualifications the Committee is required to survey Branch members to find out the likely numbers interested in taking up one or both of the proposed Courses.

An email and attachment will be sent out to NP Branch members in early September. This will contain an Update on progress by the Qualifications Committee as well as a Survey Document on which you are asked to respond to by email or by post. The closing date for responses is the 26th September 2008.

Look Out For

The September 2008 issue of *NetGuide* which has an article by Jan Gow on using the Internet to trace your family tree as well as an interview with Dick Eastman a leading genealogist.

Useful Websites

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/archives/googlegenealogy.html> an interactive site for improving your genealogy search engine queries and achieving better results using Google.
<http://www.freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchNumbers.htm> learn how to make use of Hugh Wallis' website to search the IGI by parish, surname and middle names.
<http://norwayheritage.com/ships/names.htm> Tips about Norwegian names for the researcher.

FROM OUR BRANCH LIBRARY

Newly arrived on the library shelves are issues of *Family Tree* and *Practical Family History* magazines with many articles of interest including:

September Family Tree Magazine

A new forum – familyhistoryforum.co.uk
Finding family using free resources.
The National Library of Wales a new series.
Churchyards outside the city of London.
DNA testing for family historians.
Using newspapers & periodicals.
Top research tips for busy people.

August Practical Family History

Census returns- how they can help.
Understanding Calendar changes.
Did your ancestor work on the Tube?
Finding forebears in Monmouthshire.
Memorial inscriptions on the web.
Memorial inscriptions and burial records.
Dating old photographs.

Of Interest

Scandinavian Settlers in New Zealand

The arrival of this group of settlers in New Zealand had its origins in the expansionist policies of Sir Julius Vogel who took up the post of Treasurer during the Premiership of William Fox in 1869. Vogel recognised the urgent need for the building of roads, bridges, telegraph and railway lines if the Colony was to progress. Under the Immigration and Public Works Act of 1870 he arranged a loan of £20 million on the London Finance Market and instituted a vigorous scheme to attract partly or fully assisted immigrants to carry out the development planned for the country.

As a result, 100,000 immigrants flooded into the Colony over the decade of the seventies, the majority of these being, English, Scots and Irish. The Scandinavian countries however were also seen as a good source of immigrants having the requisite skills needed to carry out road building and bush felling in the Hawke's Bay area. The result was that 3,300 Danes, Norwegians and Swedes were settled in the Seventy Mile Bush area on the Hawke's Bay/ Wellington boundary.

Their legacy is apparent not only in the Scandinavian surnames of many New Zealand families today but also in the towns of Dannevirke (Danes' Work), Norsewood and Eketahuna, (once known as Mellemskov.)

For anyone wishing to research their Scandinavian ancestry a particularly good website is to be found at <http://www.norsewoodcemetery.co.nz>

The site provides the researcher with access to a List of Family Trees; a List of Grave Sites; information about the Immigrant Ships and details of their voyages and a list of the First Male Settlers. In addition the site has a Forum (for which you are required to register) where genealogical and family history queries may be posted.

A further site worth investigating is that of *Norway~Heritage* which provides excellent information about shipboard life for 19th century emigrants, has a Forum for posting queries and an article by R E (Bob) Hansen about Norsewood's history. You will find this at <http://www.norwayheritage.com>

Annette Larsen, our Branch Convenor, has Norwegian Research interests and is able to offer help to anyone doing research there. Annette emphasizes the value of using the 1865 census in Norway as it pre-dates by only a few years, the departure of the Norwegian emigrants for New Zealand. The 1900 and 1875 censuses are also available although the latter is still being added to. These censuses are best reached for the first time through <http://www.cyndislist.com/norway.htm>

If your ancestors became naturalised in New Zealand there are the microfiche *Aliens*

registered in NZ and Persons naturalised in NZ pre 1948 to search. National Archives NZ also holds naturalisation records.

Annette recommends the following two websites as useful for obtaining passenger lists and useful information about the voyage - including a letter of complaint by the passengers of the *Hovding*.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/Hovding73.htm>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~ourstuff/Clarence.htm>

Book review by Annette Larsen. *Johanna's World*: Oystein Molstad Andresen

This book is based on a true story about Johanna leaving Norway in 1873 with her family to emigrate to New Zealand where she and her husband settled at Norsewood. It recreates the early days of Norsewood and the settlers' life in that area of New Zealand - one of poverty, loneliness and hard work. It is a moving account of Johanna's life. The author met Johanna when she was 92 and in her final years.

A must read if you have a Scandinavian background in that part of the world. I highly recommend it. Available at Puke Ariki Library.

Scandinavian Festival

From March 27th to 29th 2009, a Scandinavian Festival will take place in Auckland at the Alexandra Park Function Centre, Green Lane. The purpose of the Festival is to celebrate Scandinavian heritage, life and culture in New Zealand. The programme will include lectures, workshops on history, language, literature, **genealogy** and displays of culture. Further information can be obtained by visiting the website www.scandinavianfestival.org.nz

Bonnets and Roses

Christina Henri, an Australian artist, has requested that her project *Roses from the Heart* which is a memorial and tribute to all the 22,566 female convicts transported to Australia be brought to the attention of anyone who might be interested in taking part in this special tribute.

'Her unique project has taken the humble, colonial servant's bonnet and transformed this to represent the convict women whose lives contributed both economically and socially to the Australian way of life...'

Over 11,000 bonnets have been made so far, many by New Zealand women wishing to remember those convict women who moved here from Australia and contributed to New Zealand life. Christina aims to bring her project to New Zealand in 2011 with a Blessing of the Bonnets and a series of displays.

If you are interested in being involved check Christina Henri's website:

www.christinahenri.co.au for more information.

Wanganui Family History Research Day

The Wanganui Branch NZSG is holding a Research Day with the theme "Early Settlers of W(h)anganui" on Saturday 13th September 2008 from 10am to 4pm in the Heritage Room at the Alexandra Library, Wanganui. This is located in Queen's Park - opposite St Mary's Catholic Church on the corner of Campbell Street and Cameron Terrace. The cost is \$5 per person.

Resources available include: Talks, demonstrations, displays, research-facilities, Wanganui Biographical Index, books, microfiche/films, CDs (including London's Dockyard Area CDs, NSW Migration & others), computers with Internet access & some laptops.

The day's programme is:

- Irish Genealogy Resources- Jenny Martin (Irish Interest Group)
- Scottish Genealogy Records- Diane Frazer
- 1pm Talk on The Early Settlers of Whanganui - Sandy Nepia
- 2pm Illustrated presentation on the house at Putiki, known as 'Tikitiki' the Treaty Signatory's house - by Wendy Pettigrew and Mark Southcombe.

Tea/coffee available. Bring your own lunch. Contact Heather Burney 06 344 3367 email: burney@xtra.co.nz or Judith Amer 06 343 7172 email: judith.amer@xtra.co.nz if you are interested in attending or require further information.

Contributions for this Newsletter are welcomed but need to be sent in before the end of the third week of each month to the Editor at wicky.family@ihug.co.nz