



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 217

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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 7.30pm, Moturoa
 Shopping Centre
 access off Whiteley St Carpark

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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:

Mike Merrick reported to members on the Branch Project "This is Your Past" which began earlier in April this year. The project aimed to promote an increased awareness in the community of the goals, resources, skills and activities of the New Plymouth Branch NZSG and by doing so encourage people to take up membership.

Its success relied in part upon a partnership with the Midweek Newspaper which provided space for regular reporting on the project under the feature title *Family Lines*. Mike acknowledged with thanks the help given by Midweek Editor Gordon Brown and his staff.

Two teams of researchers drawn from Branch members used a wide range of research methods and resources to identify ancestors of the two families, the Slaters and the Robertshawes, who were chosen from a number of applicants. In each case research began with interviews to establish what the families knew already about their family trees. From there the research teams made use of many resources including among others the TBI; shipping passenger lists; censuses; electoral records; birth, death and marriage records; Papers Past; the IGI and Ancestry.com to find more information about each family tree. Mike paid tribute to the skilled work of the New Plymouth Branch research teams.

Presentations have been made to both families of the results of the research. In the case of the Robertshawes' Chilman ancestors, a Legacy booklet was produced and copies of this were lodged in the Branch and Puke Ariki Libraries. as well as with the NZSG Panmure Research

Centre. A booklet of research findings was presented to the Slater family by Marilyn Armitstead and John Berntsen

Interest generated among the public had been high and was reflected in the large number of applicants for the Branch's Introductory Course in Genealogy currently being run by Michael Butler.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 7th October 7.30pm. Lea & Bruce Bellini, Marjorie McMahon, John Pickering and Annette Larsen will report on their experiences from trips overseas this year.

Programme for remainder of 2008.

4th Nov 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.

Branch Introductory Course in Genealogy

The course began on Monday 15th September with a roll of 24 of whom only four are Branch members. This illustrates the value of the Branch Project this year in creating interest in Genealogy among the public of New Plymouth.

Welcome to new Branch members Sheryl Knox and John Campion.

NZSG Matters

The NZSG AGM 2009 will be held on Saturday July 4th in Tauranga and will include a Research weekend. **Note** that with the AFFHO Congress being hosted by NZSG in Auckland in January 2009 there will not be an NZSG Conference in 2009.

Family History Month is scheduled for March 2009.

Look Out For

The October 2008 issue of *NetGuide* which has an article by Jan Gow entitled *Finding a Forebear*. In this, Jan goes through the steps of researching for a family ancestor from medieval times.

FROM OUR BRANCH LIBRARY

Newly arrived is the September issue of the *Practical Family History* magazine with a number of articles of interest including:

Back to basics guide to using parish registers.

Finding your forebears in Oxfordshire.

Ways of finding your ancestors on electoral registers.

A reader's Irish ancestry and how they were forced to leave Ireland during the Great Famine.

How to use ships list online.

Web focus on the textile industry and its workers.

On the Shelves

Family historians are often on the lookout for resources which will provide information about social and economic forces existing during the lifetimes of ancestors. Often these forces can offer explanations for people moving elsewhere or changing their occupation and lifestyle. Two resources which give this insight into life in New Zealand in earlier years (among many similar on the Branch library shelves) are:

New Zealand Memories which is a bi-monthly magazine featuring in articles and photographs, a wide range of New Zealand life from the 1800s to the 1970s of interest to the genealogist and family historian alike. Often there are the personal memories of people about their work and recreation from almost forgotten lifestyles in the pioneering days of our country's European settlers.

Selections are diverse and have included: a Milking Shed in the 1920s, the days of the Northland Kauri Industry, the Napier Earthquake, Hydro-electric Dam construction camps,

Bathing traditions and costumes in the 1920s, Life in a Lighthouse, Aunt Daisy, Cattle droving, and the Rawleigh's Man.

Each issue contains articles and photo essays covering two regions in New Zealand. The August/September 2008 issue features Taranaki and Nelson, has an article on an immigrant family's voyage to New Zealand by Sailing Ship in 1872 and recounts a New Brighton childhood.

A very useful feature for the researcher is the full topic index to all articles from past issues of *Memories*. This is available on the magazine's website: <http://www.memories.co.nz>

Our Lesser Stars – Twelve New Zealand Family Biographies. Edited by Colleen P Main. Published by NZSG 1990.

This collection of essays originated from a competition set up in 1987 by NZSG to mark New Zealand's Sesquicentennial by encouraging members to write up the results of their research into the lives of their pioneer families before 1940. One hundred and one entries were received and twelve were selected for publication in *Our Lesser Stars*.

The twelve essays span pioneer life from Raoul (Sunday) Island in the Kermadecs, to the Forty Mile Bush and the South Island West Coast, providing the family historian with accounts of settler life and the struggle to establish themselves amid extreme hardship and setbacks.

The collection provides the researcher with an understanding of how ordinary men and women, contemporaries of many of our own ancestors, lived and worked during the 19th and early 20th centuries in New Zealand.

Useful Websites

<http://www.rsa.org.nz/utilities/links.html>

A site which includes numerous links to Ex-service personnel organisations and to the NZ military including: NZ Military History, the South African War, World Wars 1 & 2 etc, Victoria Cross recipients, New Zealand POWs.

http://fhr.kiwicelts.com/Cemeteries/NZ_Cem.html

The site is a collection of web links to sites of interest on New Zealand cemeteries and cemetery databases. Access to cemeteries by region can be had by clicking on a NZ map. There is a facility to search many cemetery databases and also down load photos of gravestones.

Of Interest

Te Papa launches new Website

On the 17th September this year Te Papa launched the **NZMuseums** website www.nzmuseums.co.nz. The site features 358 New Zealand museums and their collections. It is also a directory of museum locations, opening hours and exhibitions.

The term **museum** is used to include museums, art galleries, whare taonga, tribal museums, cultural centres, historic places, science centres, interpretative centres and exhibition centres.

The site is designed to allow smaller museums to place objects, images and exhibitions from their collections on line and so reach a wider audience.

Once logged on you are able to search for museums by:

- Region - such as Coromandel
- Type - such as Military, History, Agriculture
- Lists - All, North Island or South Island

Having selected a museum you are able to browse Objects, Collections, Museum directory and 'What's on.'

National Library of New Zealand establishes the Index New Zealand - INNZ

Index New Zealand describes over 500,000 articles published in New Zealand during the last 20 years. The titles indexed range from popular magazines such as North and South to specialised Journals such as New Zealand Law Review and the NZSG's own *Genealogist*.

Index New Zealand is updated daily and approximately 2,500 articles are added monthly. Articles covered include general interest material, social research, current affairs, the arts and humanities.

The content of articles is not available on the index but a description of these is contained in accompanying abstracts. There is also a search facility 'Find library holdings for this journal' so that copies of articles can be obtained.

The full list of magazines and journals can be viewed on *Journals Currently Indexed* while the list is also grouped by subject area on *Index New Zealand Titles by Subject*

Entering the key word 'Coromandel' for example, in the Search field, brings up 968 results. These are displayed in columns give information on item-relevance, source, an abstract, and item type.

INNz can be found at: <http://innz.natlib.govt.nz>

Thanks to Karen Crowe for contributing this item.

Those 'removed' cousins?

The relationship between cousins is described by the terms *degree* and *remove*. The *degree* of a relationship is indicated by 1st 2nd or 3rd and so on to describe cousins and refers to the number of generations back you need to go to find a common ancestor for a pair of cousins. A common grandparent (but not a shared parent) indicates 1st cousins; a common great grandparent (but not a common grandparent) indicates 2nd cousins; a common great, great grandparent (but not a common great grandparent) indicates 3rd cousins.

Remove indicates that two people in a relationship are from different generations.

If your 1st cousin has a child, this child is described as your 1st cousin *once removed* since the one generation separating you and the child represents one *remove*. *Twice removed* indicates a difference of two generations from being a first cousin. The grandchild of your first cousin is your 1st cousin twice removed.

If you would like to delve further into this topic and find out what double first cousins and sixth cousins twice removed are – try the Wikipedia site <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cousin> or Dick Eastman's Feb 19th 2008 Genealogy Newsletter Online at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/02/what-is-second.html

Desperate Times - Desperate Measures.

Elly Harrison came across this story with a macabre twist while researching Thingwall Hall, Knotty Ash, near Liverpool.

'Thingwall Hall like most Halls of a century or so old has a story. There is a legend connected with the house which J Hoult author of a book entitled *West Derby and Old Swan - Historical and Topographical*, heard on two separate occasions. It is to the effect that an occupier of the Hall died whilst insolvent and as the custom was then the creditors tried to seize the body for the purpose of selling it to the surgeons, hoping thereby to make their losses a little less.

The old man's relatives however, took the body, buried it at midnight and so thwarted the creditors.'

Thanks Elly.

NZSG Branch Newsletters have been received recently from: Blenheim, Canterbury, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Stratford, Wairarapa and Wellington branches. These offer good reading with helpful hints and advice about resources, activities and websites of interest to the researcher. Copies are filed in folders in our Branch library.

Thoughts on Genealogy

Genealogists never lose their jobs; they just go to another branch!

Genealogy: it's all relative in the end, anyway.

Life is lived forwards, but only fully understood backwards.

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