



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 218

November 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 7.30pm, 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: At the October 7th Branch Meeting reports were given by several Branch members who had travelled to the UK, Europe and Northern Ireland to research family ancestors.

Bruce Bellini gave a power point presentation of a visit to the Hampshire village of Liphook in search of information about Lea's Windibank family. Wisely, before leaving NZ they had pre-ordered documents from the Hampshire Record Office to have on hand. After a visit to the Brockenhurst Cemetery where they found there is an annual Anzac Day service to commemorate 93 NZ soldiers buried there, Bruce and Lea travelled to Denmark to research Bruce's Krogh family ancestors.

John Pickering gave a power point presentation about a visit to Suffolk with his wife Sue to research Pickering ancestors. His research indicated the family had Yorkshire origins with a number of ancestors who were clergymen in the Church. John found a memorial in Ely Cathedral to a later family member killed on the construction of the Norfolk railway line. From here they travelled to Spain to the birthplace of St Teresa in Avila.

Marjorie McMahon spoke about her visit to Northern Ireland where with definite proof of family from previous research of Church records and the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, she and Des were able to meet members of her Campbell and McIntyre families during a whirlwind week's tour. There was also a memorable visit to the farm at Ballinderry where Marjorie's mother was born.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th November 7.30pm

Computer Programmes (Legacy and Family Treemaker) and sites for building your Family Tree.

Programme coming up.

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| 7th December 2008 | Pot-Luck dinner at the Branch Rooms. Arrive & mingle at 5.30 for meal at 6pm. Bring own plates, cutlery, food and drink. |
| 3rd February 2009 | Outdoor walk at Te Henui Cemetery |

Welcome to a number of new members who have joined the Branch recently:

Laurie Jorgensen, Fay Eaton, Markham Grey, Sue Davies, Fay Bridger, Ron Gilbert and Margaret Bingley

From Our Branch Library -On the Shelves

Newly arrived: the October issues of Family Tree and Practical Family History magazines which have a number of interesting articles including the following:

Family Tree

Return to Civvy Street WW1.
Isle of Man resources.
New happenings in family history.
How to order WW1 service records.
Manchester Archives & Local Studies.

Practical Family History

Discover WW1 Service Records.
Foundling Hospitals & research.
Top research tips for time challenged.
Polish Ancestry.
Military hat and cap badges.

Book Review – *Discover Your Roots- 52 brilliant ideas for exploring your family and local history.* Paul Blake & Maggie Loughran. The Infinite Ideas Co. Ltd. Oxford. UK. 2006

Paul Blake is a professional researcher and lecturer in family history while Maggie Loughran is the Administrator for the Federation of Family History Societies and also a writer and adviser to the History Channel's Family History Project.

This book provides inspiring ideas for the very beginner in family history. There are four features in each chapter – Here's an Idea for you; Try another Idea; A Defining Idea from an Expert and a Question and Answer section designed to solve commonly met problems for the genealogist/family historian.

The authors discuss the differing but complementary roles of family history and local history societies and how the resources of each can help in building your family tree with a better understanding of how your ancestors lived the way they did and why.

There is helpful cross-referencing of ideas plus a good index. A bonus is the Resources List containing useful contacts and websites.

Available from Puke Ariki Library – Genealogy section. ISBN No. 1-904902-67-7

Of Interest

A Milestone for Papers Past

Since the Papers Past website (<http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>) was re-launched in September 2007 with full-text searching, it has had over half a million visitors. The site now features 1.2 million newspaper pages with seven and a half million searchable articles covering the years 1839 to 1920. In the year ahead the aim is to make all existing material searchable with the addition of 100,000 further pages from the following newspapers:

- Ashburton Guardian 1887-1889, 1896,1898, 1910,1921
- Ellesmere Guardian 1891-1899,1904-1906
- NZ Truth 1906-1930
- Otautau Standard and Wallace County Chronicle 1905-1930
- Oxford Observer and Canterbury Democrat 1889-1901
- Victoria Times 1841

'He who laughs last probably made a back-up.'

From Dick Eastman's Online Newsletter - October 11th 2008

New Zealand History Online

Oral History – a Guide to recording this.

Oral history is defined as ‘the gathering of information by the recording of an interview with someone who speaks from personal experience.’ Oral history is unique in having eyewitness accounts of events and processes which can provide personal viewpoints and understandings of the past quite different from what may be found in official records.

New Zealand History Online offers the Family historian a guide to the recording of Oral History covering Interview Methods, Questions, Providing a Suitable Context, and the Ethics of Interviewing. A pdf (74k) is downloadable and includes suggested questions for a life history interview. As well the site has a *From Memory* section which has questions to use when interviewing veterans of World War 2.

<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/hands/a-guide-to-recording-oral-history>

From ‘*A guide to recording oral history.*’ Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Updated 1-Jun-2007

The National Archives (UK) news.

Passenger Lists

A partnership between Archives and Ancestry.co.uk has resulted in the launch of digitised records for **UK Incoming Passenger Lists** from 1878 to 1960. These provide information on both immigrants and tourists arriving by boat from outside Europe and the Mediterranean before the era of large scale commercial airline flights. The information may include name of passenger, birth date or age, port of departure, port of arrival, date of arrival and vessel name.

The records are free to search but there is a charge to view the full entry and download images of the passenger lists.

The website is: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk>

WW1 History –resources and guides: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/militaryhistory>

With the 90th Anniversary of the end of World War 1 being commemorated on November 11th this year, National Archives (UK) has provided an online Guide to those Military History resources which are available for the researcher who has a particular interest in tracing an ancestor serving in the Great War. These include:

- Podcasts which provide talks by experts on Tracing World War 1 ancestors and sources for First World War army ancestry.
- Research guides for tracing Officer Records in the Army and Navy, Service Records for those serving in the British Army, the RFC, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Naval Air Service.
- Guides to resources held at National Archives for all the Services including the Merchant Navy.
- Index cards for World War 1 medals.

A forgotten WW1 War artist has finally had his work recognised. Infantryman Len Smith began to draw everyday life in the trenches for his own amusement but when his superiors noticed his skill they sent him out to sketch enemy troop positions. Day after day he risked his life crawling into No Man’s Land with his pad and pencil. Now 25 years after his death in 1983, Smith’s wartime journal which contains hundreds of drawings has been published online at www.greatwarartist.com Thanks to John Pickering for this contribution.

New Release of Irish Records by Familyrelatives.com

One of the largest collections of Irish records is being made available online by www.familyrelatives.com with 10 million more by the end of 2008. These will include indexes to;

- Irish Wills 1536-1857(5 volumes)
- Irish Genealogical Guide
- Quaker Records for Dublin
- Abstracts of Wills
- Land Records Ireland
- MacDonald’s Directory (5 Counties)
- Alumnii Dublinense
- The Medical Register for Ireland (3 volumes)

Contributions from Members

Service Personnel – Australia. Roy Komene recommends this gateway site for its very extensive list of links to databases which cover the involvement of Australian (and a few New Zealand) forces in conflicts ranging from the Anglo-Boer Wars, Boxer Uprising, Sudan War, World Wars 1 and 2, the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Gulf War. Service Personnel, service records, medal lists, campaign diaries, commanders, campaign strategies and rolls of honour are all accessible to the researcher. The site is to be found at: <http://www.coraweb.com.au/index.htm> Click on Service Personnel

NZGDB- New Zealand Genealogy Database

Tony Gellen came across this New Zealand Database recently and although he has not made use of it himself, he thought that other Branch Members might wish to investigate the site.

The latest news release from NZGDB (14th October 2008) claims over 10,000,000 records for the site. According to a statement on the website (31/12/2007) the aim is ‘to create a complete genealogy program on the web, combining the advantages that you find in genealogy programs for your personal computer with the advantage the web brings of instant publication, shared access and the ability to link to the work others.’ Registration is free as is access to your own records over which you retain control for access by others. However a subscription applies after a free period, when you want to have full access to another person’s Genealogy database.

Fuller information can be found at the website itself: <http://www.nzgdb.co.nz>

Useful Websites

Index of Places in England and Wales 1837 - 1930 giving County and District. Useful for finding which county and registration district villages and towns were situated in over the period 1837 to 1930. <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/eng/civreg/places/>

Genealogy Guide a Beginner’s Guide to Genealogy. Interesting and colourful presentation. <http://www.genealogy-guide.org.uk>

Genealogy Software Review 2008 Top Ten If you are looking to purchase a new genealogy program or update your present one, this site is useful as it compares ten top programmes, listing the features of each and rating each program on ease of use.

<http://www.genealogy-software-review.toptenreviews.com>

Notices:

- **WITT Family History/Memoir Writing - 2 day Workshop** 8-9th Nov 9am-4pm at Bell St Campus. Contact Jane Voss at 757-3100 ext 8755
- **Den Jenkins** (jenks.ryde@virgin.net) interested in finding out more about his Great Aunt Martha CHAMPNESS (nee PHILLIPS) from Shoeburyness in Essex who settled in Taranaki about 1900. Her husband was Albert (Bim) CHAMPNESS.
- **Richard Birch** (birch@wise.net.nz) is keen to find out more about members of his BIRCH family from St Erth in Cornwall who came to New Plymouth circa 1865 or were born here including: John Berriman, Elizabeth Ann, Benjamin Shugg, Martha Jane, Edward James, Sarah, Richard William, Worley, Ernest Hampton and William Hampton BIRCH plus families associated by marriage in New Plymouth - STANLEY, LANGTON, HALES, CROZIER and ALLAN.

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