



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 228

October 2009

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: John Berntsen Ph 753 9188
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

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

Committee: Lea Bellini, Judy Berntsen,
 Michael Butler,
 Elly Harrison, Charles Le Breton,
 Marjorie McMahon, Bev Mulqueen,
 Marilyn Reid, Peter Wicky

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at
 Branch Rooms **7.30pm**, Moturoa
 Shopping Centre
 access off Whiteley Street Carpark
Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website:
<http://www.genealogynp.com>

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm; **Wednesday:** 12 noon to 3pm
Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon
Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday every second month at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except
 December and January. Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** -
 Lea Bellini.

Branch News

Last Meeting Tuesday 1st September

Annette Larsen, our Branch Convenor, used a power-point presentation in speaking to a good attendance of Members, about her experiences in using the Genes Reunited site as a resource in tracing her family tree.

Genes Reunited claims to be the United Kingdom's number one family history site with 10 million members and 676 million family trees, birth, marriage, death, census and military records.

Annette said she had been a member for six months using a single standard subscription costing her \$19.95 for six months. This had enabled her to browse records for free but it did not allow her to use these on-site records. Membership however did enable her contact other people with similar family trees.

She was also able to put her own family tree on the Genes Reunited site with the normal restriction that no living family members could be included.

The site automatically provides members with 'Hot Matches' - persons with the same family name - but Annette found that many of these were not relevant.

Some advantages Annette found in using the site were the Community Message Board, the chance to exchange useful information about family, the possibility of identifying a Parish Church for further research using the LDS FamilySearch site and the relatively low cost.

Disadvantages of the site included, inaccuracies in family trees, the lack of quoted sources, a refusal to share by some members and members with thousands strong trees.

A number of Branch Members also shared their own experiences in using Genes Reunited. It was useful to have a second email address just for security on the site; disappointment was experienced when emails to a member were not acknowledged; the excellent onsite mapping service was useful and the price of searching was reasonable with NZ\$10 obtaining about seventy units.

For your information

Next Branch Meeting

**Tuesday 6th
October at 7.30pm.**



The guest speaker will be Colonel (Retired) Ray Seymour, Director of the National Army Museum, Waiouru.

Colonel Seymour came to the National War Museum in 2007 with 45 years Army experience after joining as a Regular Force Cadet in 1963.

During his career the Colonel served in Vietnam, East Timor, Malaysia and Indonesia and he was Commander for the Army Training Group in Waiouru from 1995-96. He has also held the position of Director of Infantry and SAS.

Colonel Seymour will talk to members about "Researching your military ancestors"

Welcome to recent New Members: Sarah Knowles, Jim and Jane Logan, Denise and Steven Hodson.

Additions to FHC Hours

The Family History centre on Mangorei Rd will now be open on the first Saturday of each month from 10am – 2pm.

Opening hours otherwise continue as usual:

1st & 3rd Thursdays

1.30pm to 4.30pm

2nd & 4th Thursdays

2.30pm to 5pm.

The contact person is Lois Smith at 7512750

Up-date on our 40th Anniversary preparations

The Organising Committee has been busy working to:

- finalise the program for the 21st and 22nd November particularly in regard to the topics which Jan Gow, our Guest Speaker will speak on.
- finding former Branch Members to advise them of the celebrations.
- obtaining the participation of other Taranaki NZSG Branches, the NZSG itself and commercial firms.

The finalised Anniversary Weekend program, including a Booking Form for attending the Anniversary Dinner is now available at: <http://www.genealogynp.com/40years.html>

Christmas Hamper - your help requested

The Branch plans to run a raffle over the 40th Anniversary weekend to help with funding. This will take the form of a Christmas Hamper.

Members are asked to donate items suitable for the Hamper and these can be brought to the meeting on the 6th October or left at the Branch Rooms during Library Opening times.

On the Library Shelves

The Family Tree and Practical Family History Magazines for October include the following

of interest:

Family Tree

- Chris Pomery discusses DNA and Genealogy.
- Continental connections – Belgium.
- Top Ten Records for Cumbria – Carlisle Record Office.
- Free Online Records- Census for Isle of Man & Dorset.
- Criminal Ancestors – How to track down the Blacksheep in families.

Practical Family History

- Web resources for Irish research.
- How to do your family history in a weekend.
- A-Z of Genealogy- H is for Hearth Tax
- Tracing your forebears in Central Scotland
- How to use County Records Offices.
- The Quaker Movement and its records

Newsletters received this month from other NZSG Branches

Blenheim; Canterbury, Hawke's Bay; Hutt Valley; Motueka; Nelson; Wairarapa; Wellington; Whakatane and from Canada, the Ontario Genealogical Society Brant County Newsletter.

Donations to the Branch Library:

Thanks go to Michael Butler who has recently donated microfiche for Oxford Parish Records, a Microfiche Reader and a number of Scrapbooks.

Of Interest

World War 2 POW Records

Branch Member Roger Hawkins draws attention to British Army WW2 Prisoner of War 1939 - 1945 records which have been recently placed online by Ancestry.co.uk. A direct link to this database is:

<http://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=1601>

This may be useful for those who are researching WW2 military ancestors who became POWs in Germany.

The Ancestry site also has a useful article which explains the differences between POW camps and the nomenclature which the Germans used to number and identify camps in different military districts.

During the war period over 100,000 soldiers of the British Army were captured and placed in POW camps.

Genealogy Toolbar

The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society has announced the availability of its Genealogy Toolbar which is downloadable and integrates seamlessly with your default browser. The toolbar is free to download and provides the user with immediate access to 120 links to British and Irish research sites. The Toolbar is able to be used with Windows/ Vista/XP/2000.

Among the toolbar buttons are – Pay per View, BMD, Archives, Ireland, Scotland, Publications, Societies, Black Sheep, Overseas, and others.

The toolbar can be downloaded at <http://www.MLFHS.OurToolbar.com/>

Find that Missing Marriage Record

Do you have a UK ancestor who married overseas and you can't find their record?

BMDRegisters.co.uk has just added Miscellaneous *Foreign Marriage Returns from 1861 to 1921* to their online service. More than 38,000 British marriages worldwide are covered.

This collection includes marriages recorded by foreign registration authorities, churches and British embassies.

Marriages by British servicemen abroad, including First World War servicemen and also prisoners of war, are also listed. The site is searchable by surname. Select RG34 at the website: <http://www.BMDRegisters.co.uk>

Palmerston North Public Library

John Pickering reports that digital copies of images from the Library's online collection, Pataka Ipurangi-Manawatu Memory Online can be made online. The site is word searchable. Charges apply. View the online 'order a print' form at: <http://digitallibrary.pncc.govt.nz> All digital images are scanned as JPEGs, at 300dpi, unless requested otherwise. Delivery options are via e-mail, at no extra cost (up to 3 images, or by CD from the Library at \$2.50 each.



Bombay Army Soldiers Records go online

On September 18th 2009, The Families in British India Society (FIBIS) successfully uploaded the details of some 15,000 European soldiers, who enlisted to serve in the Bombay Army (now Mumbai) of the Honourable East India Company from 1793 -1860.

The records of service (drawn from those of the British Indian Office Records L/MIL/12/109), can include, in addition to name and rank, place of origin, date of Attestation, term of enlistment, date of arrival in India, and ship arrived on, date of death (if in service), promotions, transfers and when pensioned.

The records are freely available at: www.fibis.org Click on **Search** on Home Page and browse **Military Records – Soldiers' Service Records**

The India Connection

Fourteen Imperial Regiments of Foot served in New Zealand from 1840 to 1870. Like the 65th (2nd Yorkshire North Riding) Regiment, some had served in the British Army in India before arriving in New Zealand. During the 65th Regiment's service in New Zealand, 1100 men took their discharge here some to become settlers or join the Militia Forces. In total 3,600 men from the Imperial regiments took discharge here.

The main sources for the British Army in India are held at The National Archives:

www.nationalarchives.co.uk

Some records - mainly for officers - are also available at: www.indiafamily.bl.uk

Useful Websites

Gisborne District Council Cemeteries Database

The Gisborne DC is responsible for twelve cemeteries in Gisborne City and throughout the Gisborne District. The Council has put many of its burial records and cemetery maps online and is working to put further records on line.

The Council's website also includes cremation records up until March 1998.

The database is available at: <http://www.gdc.govt.nz>

Charles Booth Archive Online

Charles Booth, a successful Victorian businessman, 1840 – 1916, was greatly concerned at the widespread poverty in British society during the Victorian era. He saw that philanthropy and charity was not the key to successfully changing the situation of the poor. At his own expense he organized and carried out social surveys of life in London over the period 1886- 1903 in an effort to effect changes in social policy by the governments of the day.

The original records from his survey into life and labour in London in that period are contained in the Booth Collection at the London School of Economics. This Online Archive is searchable and is now available at <http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

Scotland, Angus Council Burial records now Online

Angus County is the first Scottish authority to place its burial records online with more than 200,000 of these dating from the 1800s now available to the researcher at its website. <http://www.DeceasedOnline.com>

Burial records at the authority's 71 cemeteries have been digitised and maps showing the exact location of graves and digital photos of headstones will be provided in the future. The records will cover cemeteries in Forfar, Arbroath, and Montrose.

London Parish Records Online

In mid-September 2009, in partnership with London Metropolitan Archives, Ancestry.co.uk placed online all London Parish Records since 1538 when the parish registers system was first begun by Thomas Cromwell, the Earl of Essex, who served as Henry VIII's chief minister.

The collection of 18 million records from over 1000 Greater London Parishes includes Baptisms, marriages, deaths and burials from 1538 to 1980. Although some of the earliest records have not survived, those from the 1600s on have done so in good condition..

You can now search registers for Baptisms and Burials from 1812 onwards and marriages after 1754, by forename, surname, locality and type of event.

Earlier registers can be browsed as digital imaged databases. Indexes will be available during 2010. <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> is a pay site.

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed. Email these to wicky.family@ihug.co.nz

Notices

The Branch's 40th Anniversary Dinner on Saturday 21st November 2009 at the *Barracks Restaurant* RSA, Devon St East, Strandon, **must** be booked for, using a Booking Form which can be obtained at present from the website:

www.genealogynp.com/40years.html

Only 70 places are available. Bookings close on 12th November.

Genes Reunited

Follow-up

Charles Le Breton reports that he wrote to Genes Reunited and has received a reply which acknowledges that it is not possible at present to print a map or a part of one. The matter has been referred to its management team for consideration

Miscellaneous

Long-lived

The recent death of Britain's oldest WW1 veteran at the age of 111, prompted Ailsa McCrone to offer this interesting snippet found while she was researching UK death records.

'December 22nd in Lurnabarson near Pomeroy (Northern Ireland), Mary McGaratay, at the advanced age of 115 years. Not many weeks since she was known to spin a hank of yarn daily.'

From the Liverpool Mercury, Friday January 5th 1849

Some half million people in the United Kingdom have the surname Smith. In Scotland the most common names are Wilson, Brown and Smith.