



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



**Number 229**

**November 2009**

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

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

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

**Meetings:** 1<sup>st</sup> **Tuesday** each month at  
 Branch Rooms **7.30pm**, Moturoa  
 Shopping Centre  
 access off Whiteley Street Carpark  
**Email:** [newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every 2nd month at 1.30pm in the Branch Rooms  
 starting from January 2010. No meeting in November and December 2009. Open to anyone - \$2  
 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

## **Branch News** **Last Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Members at the meeting were privileged to have as guest speaker, Colonel (Retired) Ray Seymour, the Director of the National Army Museum at Waiouru.

The Colonel's talk was divided into sections - the Army Museum, Medals, Service Records, Official War Histories and WW1 Embarkation Rolls.

The Museum was established in 1978, is open almost the year round, has world class exhibitions and contains our treasures. A particular feature is the life sized dioramas depicting scenes from the army's engagements in the past.

The Museum Archives are huge but as yet there is no database available online, although there is an archivist who will do paid research in the growing genealogy section. Researchers need to make prior

arrangement if they wish to do research at the Archives and a fee is payable.

Medals were described by the Colonel as 'someone's CV' building up a personal story. WW1 medals were inscribed with a recipient's name, regimental number, and unit but WW2 medals were not inscribed. Of particular interest were the WW1 'death pennies' made from melted-down battlefield rubbish and presented to the female next of kin of dead Commonwealth soldiers.

Service records up to and including those of WW1 are to be found at National Archives. The NZ Defence Forces archives hold records from WW2 onwards. The Colonel said Service Records are being digitised and are to be made free online.

The Official war histories have limitations as often their writers had not seen active service and did not know the full story. WW1 histories are not indexed but those for

WW2 are indexed and are now online. Regimental Histories are held at National Archives.

WW1 embarkation rolls are available on a NZSG CD but there are no rolls for those who served in Vietnam.

Personal Diaries are an important source for researchers as they tell the real story. Some the Colonel recommended are *The Devil's Own War*, *In Flanders Fields*, *Rough Riders at War*, Richard Stower's *The NZ Medal*, *Prisoners of War* and W. Wynne Mason's *WW1 Official War History*.

In answering several questions, Colonel Seymour noted that records of the Land Wars Militia are held at National Archives: WW2 photos of soldiers were not official photos: if a soldier was killed his photo might be in the paper about a month later: Conscientious Objectors' records (restricted for 100 years from birth) are held at NZ Archives: Military academies are becoming more common and cadets are alive and well in New Zealand.

(Thanks to Annette Larsen for providing these notes on the Colonel's talk.)

### **For your Information**

**Next Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 7.30pm**

A 'Pot Pourri' Evening with members invited to contribute interesting items they have discovered in their recent research. Annette Larsen will offer a postscript to her earlier GenesReunited presentation.

**Welcome to new members of the Branch:**  
Beverley Lynch, Garth and Helen Worthington.

**Branch Library Closing and Opening Dates:**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> of December** will be the last day open this year. The Library re-opens in 2010 on **Monday January 11<sup>th</sup>**

**No Branch end of year function in December.**

With the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Dinner and Open Day taking place towards the end of November it has been decided not to hold a further function or Branch meeting in December.

**FHC Opening Hours:** 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month 10am to 2pm: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays 1.30pm to 4.30pm: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 2.30pm to 5pm. Contact Lois Smith on 751 2750

### **On the Branch Library Shelves**

**The Family Tree magazine for Autumn 2009 has these articles of interest:**

- Genealogy reviews: latest developments in Family History for Ireland
- Continental Connections: Neil Storey looks at the Netherlands.
- Census Know-how: John Henson focuses on England & Wales.
- Non-Conformist Registers
- Free Online Records – Caernarfonshire & Huntingdon

### **The New Zealand Memories Magazine for October/November**

**2009** has an interesting

selection of articles including:

- The Regions: Marlborough's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Taranaki.
- John Milligan recalls the Murchison Earthquake.
- Blackberry picking in the 1940s for pies and jelly - remembered by June Spragg.
- New Zealand's first airline 75 years ago..
- The Farmers' Trading Company Catalogue of the 1930s.

### **Book Review:**

*Uncovering Your Ancestry through Family Photographs*. Taylor, Maureen. Betterway Books, Ohio, USA 2000 edition.

Maureen Taylor has lengthy experience in writing about Family History. She currently contributes to *Family Tree Magazine* USA and is the author of several books *Scrapbooking Your Family History* 2003, *Through the Eyes of Your Ancestors* 1999 and *Preserving Your Family Photographs*

*Uncovering your Ancestry through Family Photographs* has been written mainly about American family photography and the author's comments about clothing and fashion styles reflect this.

However there is still value in this book for the researcher outside America. Not only do the skills and techniques Taylor employs in explaining how to gain information from family photographs have a general relevance but also American fashions (and those in New Zealand) tended to follow what was fashionable in Paris and London.

The author has a strong belief that researching family photographs goes beyond just identifying and dating. Taylor says that family photographs 'are a time capsule in the lives of our ancestors' and that the researcher can uncover information about what people held to be important in their lives, their personalities and their feelings. The author cautions that the family historian must always consider the subject of the family photo in the context of the period in which that family member lived.

Good case studies, information about all photo types from the Daguerreotype to the present day and identification charts for women's and men's fashions, are some of the features which make this a useful book for the family historian. Available from the Puke Ariki Library: Genealogy section. 929.1072 TAY (Refer also to *Dating Old Photographs* by Robert Pols available in our NPNZSG Branch Library)

### **Of Interest**

#### **New Legacy Version coming**

Legacy Version 7 users may have heard that Legacy Family Tree is planning the release of Version 7.5. The new version is the result of planning to provide users 'with a web application which will enable researchers to interact with a very large, unified database of connected genealogical information.'

Version 7.5 will add new tools to help researchers collaborate, backup and synchronise their Legacy family files with the data in the FamilySearch database. Upgrading to Legacy 7.5 will be free for users of Legacy 7 Standard and De Luxe.

Legacy Family Tree suggests that all Legacy 7 users should download the new version, as new features have been added and error 'bugs' removed from the previous versions.

Legacy 7.5 is being released first with LDS Church members before a general release promised for before the end of 2009.

#### **Looking for Black Sheep?**

York Castle Prison has a pay site database which lists almost 5,000 convicted criminals, imprisoned debtors and victims of crime, mostly from the 1700s.

The database is searchable under any name, keyword or phrase. People's names have been entered with the different spellings and aliases that appear for them in the documentation.

However it is worthwhile covering all possibilities, such as Dealtry for Daltry, or Helliwell for Halliwell.

<http://www.yorkcastleprison.org.uk/family-history.html>

#### **Tired of forgetting website URLs or having to type them into search boxes?**

You can download for free the MLFHS Genealogy Toolbar and have immediate access to over 120 genealogy databases and websites at the click of a key. These include archives, publications, BDMs, Irish and Scottish sites, NZ and Australian sites and Genealogy societies. The toolbar fits easily into your existing web browser.

<http://www.MLFHS.OurToolbar.com/>



### **Is there a 'Cloud' on your horizon?**

One of the newest developments in Information technology and one which may well revolutionise personal computing is what is known variously as 'Cloud Storage' or 'Cloud Computing'.

Spencer Kelly in *'Harnessing the Power of 'Clouds''* (BBC News 20/6/'08), gives a useful definition of "Cloud Computing" as 'Data storage and processing online rather than in the beige box under your desk'- the term 'Cloud' simply being a convenient metaphor for the Internet.

In the new technology a company provides (usually for a monthly fee) a software program which enables the customer to access the online resources of a remote computer and carry out all the tasks that would have been done normally at home on a personal computer. In effect the customer's computer becomes a remote terminal for connecting to the online computer on which data can be stored, retrieved and processed. The new, lower-powered and lower-priced Netbooks appear to be suited for this role.

In this system there are advantages for the user, who is relieved of the cost and need to purchase new programs, carry out upgrades, back up data and maintain security. These are all part

of the service offered by the providing company. The user can also make the data available to relatives and invite them to make modifications.

The technology has become available for the genealogist and family historian through two cloud computing applications one offered by [OneGreatFamily.com](http://www.OneGreatFamily.com) which has a single database in which all data is shared and the other by [FamilyTreeExplorer](http://www.FamilyTreeExplorer.com). The latter has a separate database for each user who is able to allow access to his/her data by others. Both these applications appear to offer an additional means by which the genealogist and family historian can ensure preservation of their accumulated genealogical data.

However one concern with online data storage is highlighted by the recent SideKick case where despite backup assurances from the Microsoft subsidiary, T-Phone owners lost their stored information as the result of a major power outage.

More detailed information about the advantages and disadvantages of Cloud Computing, its future, reviews of the technology and service providers available, can be found on the following websites.

#### **Understanding Cloud Computing**

<http://www.technologyreview.com/briefings/cloud/>

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/140864>

#### **Genealogy sites:**

OneGreatFamily.com: <http://www.OneGreatFamily.com>

FamilyTreeExplorer; <http://www.FamilyTreeExplorer.com>

### **Useful Websites**

#### **190,000 Welsh Wills Online**

The National Library of Wales has digitised over 190,000 Welsh wills and these are free to view on the Library's website <http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?=2>

The Library explains that the Wills, which were proved in the Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the introduction of Civil Probate on 11 January 1858, have been deposited for some time at the Library with an online index providing opportunity for digital viewing within the Library. Now the release of a new site on 16 October 2009 extends this facility to the remote viewer.

Viewing of documents is free of charge and the only charge made by the Library is for the provision of copies.

#### **PRONI makes available online 19<sup>th</sup> Century Street Directories for Belfast** - noted by Marjorie McMahon.

The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland has produced a new online resource which features 29 digitised street directories from 1819 to 1900 covering thousands of people in Belfast and the province of Ulster's main towns including Lisburn, Newry, Portadown and Londonderry. Not

all directories for the years up to 1852 are held and there are also gaps in the directories in the years up to 1900.

As well as names and addresses of commercial firms, manufacturers, merchants and tradesmen, the provincial sections often include churches, schools, courts, the local constabulary, post offices, infirmaries, asylums and workhouses.

A search facility enables the researcher to enter a keyword or phrase in a particular directory or across all the directories.

The website [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archive/s/street\\_directories.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archive/s/street_directories.htm) provides search hints and tips, the History and Content of the Directories and their research value.

**FreeUKGEN** is as the name suggests a free site which has extensive genealogy records of interest to any researcher with UK roots.

The records are of three types:

**FreeBMD** -200 million births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales 1837-1983

**FreeCEN**- 15 million records of UK Census 1841-1891

**FreeREG** - 9 million records covering parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials back to pre-1500s

<http://freeukgen.rootsweb.com/>



## **New Plymouth Branch NZSG 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

### **Branch Dinner Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November - Book Now!**

Bookings for this are coming in steadily. We are limited to 70 places at the Barracks Restaurant at the RSA in Strandon. If you wish to attend, fill in the booking form which can be downloaded from the Branch website. <http://www.genealogynp.com> and post the completed form and cheque to 40<sup>th</sup> Treasurer, c/- PO Box 429, New Plymouth 4340.

The Committee hopes that as many Branch Members as possible will attend to make this a memorable occasion.

Remember bookings **close on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November**, so to avoid disappointment post your booking in now.

Robyn Williams from NZSG will be attending and will speak at the Dinner.

### **Christmas Hamper**

The Organising Committee welcomes donations from Members for a Christmas Hamper which will be raffled over the Anniversary weekend. Donations can be brought to the Branch Meeting on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November or left at the Branch Rooms during Library hours.

### **Jan Gow – Guest speaker at the Branch 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> November.**

A profile of Jan Gow is included below so that Members can read about her background and interests in Genealogy.



In 1981 Jan won a trip to the USA. With a tiny interest in Family History, she included Salt Lake City on her itinerary - and left 4 days later, hooked on Genealogy!

In the next 10 years she was Treasurer and then President of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists; she purchased Beehive Books, THE genealogy bookshop in New Zealand; started the Panmure and St Helier's NZSG Branches and began teaching 'How to find the Roots & Fruits of Your Family Tree' at Glendowie and Tamaki Colleges.

In the next decade Jan began to take the Hooked on Genealogy annual Tours to Salt Lake City and to the UK for Family History Research. Jan is now teaching at Pakuranga College, Manurewa High as well as at Glendowie and Selwyn Colleges and other Auckland Community centres.

Jan has spoken at local, national and International Meetings, Seminars and Conferences and on Cruise Ships. She has written for National and International magazines.

The advent of the Information Highway has seen Jan 'Rushing Forward to the Past,' speaking and advising on 'Playing Happy Families'- using the Internet for Family History. Recent

involvement has been with radio and the NetGuide magazine. Jan has tutorials on the NetGuide website, a monthly column in the magazine and an annual feature article.

Changes - and challenges - for this decade include preparing those coming on the Hooked on Genealogy Tours to make the best use of the notebook computers 95% bring with them! And to make sure they know the websites to use during that preparation; answering a call from BBC Scotland to find NZ and Scottish families in two days; and being the Australasian expert on FindMyPast website. Being a member of the special Users's Group Committee for Scotland's People website is a most interesting position for Jan.

Jan's teaching at Community Colleges and the NZ Society of Genealogist always includes using computers and the Internet now.

In 2006 Jan received the AFFHO Award for Meritorious Service to Family History.

Jan's family history? She is half Irish, quarter Scottish and quarter English. Jan was born in Australia, married in England and her children were born in New Zealand. She has one interesting family member (Charles Darwin is a cousin) and 'Yes' (she says) she does have some skeletons in her cupboard!

Email contributions for the Newsletter to [wickv.family@ihug.co.nz](mailto:wickv.family@ihug.co.nz)