



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 232

March 2010

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,
Elly Harrison, Charles Le Breton,
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 2nd month at 1.30pm in the Branch Rooms starting from January 2010. Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

BRANCH NEWS

Last Branch Meeting - 2nd February 2010

The Pot-Pourri and Sharing evening again proved popular and informative for the thirty members who attended.

Charles Le Breton showed members a teapot and plate dating from 1925 and belonging to his Grandmother. This had prompted him to find out more about her and the mystery surrounding the circumstances of her birth. Charles provided childhood reminiscences of his Grandmother and

circulated several family photos.

Jo Fuller presented a treasured original copy of a poem written by an ancestor Captain James Ninnis. The title of 'Captain' became a key fact in Jo's research when she discovered that it was not nautical in this case but a term applied to Cornish Mining Engineers. This led to her discovery of his involvement in the mining of copper on Kawau Island in the Hauraki Gulf.

Malcolm Potts added further detail to the story behind the metal Thermos flask belonging to Kingsford-Smith and the trans-Tasman flight of the Southern Cross. In take-off the plane was damaged as was the flask.

Marilyn Armitstead spoke about the process of obtaining records from the Ministry of Health and Capital Coast Health of several relatives who had been admitted as mental patients in the past. An article, *My Grandmother's House*, in the January 2009 Practical Family Magazine prompted Marilyn to write down her reminiscences of her own Grandmother's house in Otahuhu, when she visited there as a young child.

Welcome to our latest new member Jillian Bellringer of New Plymouth.

Branch Meeting

Programme

- **2nd March:** How to set out family history records.
- **6th April:** Possible link with Puke Ariki's 2010 Exhibition entitled *The Land Wars*
- **4th May:** Branch AGM

REMINDER

There have been two resignations from the Branch Committee recently and several present members have indicated that they will not be seeking election at the May AGM. This may leave only six of the present Committee who will seek re-election. There is an urgent need for Branch members to make themselves available for nomination and election to a new Committee at the AGM. The Branch needs a large and strong Committee if it is to function effectively in the interests of the Branch as a whole.

Note: To be on the Committee you need to be a member of NZSG.

NZSG MATTERS

Elections for Council

Envelopes for returning ballot papers for the NZSG Council Elections have had the space for your name omitted. However as long as you include your address and membership number on the envelope your vote will count.

Voting closes on 31st March.

Family History Fair

16-18 July 2010 in Hamilton

'Early Bird' registrations and payments made by March 31st 2010 cost \$180. Registration made after April 1st is \$200.

Registration can be made on the Registration Form in the January/February 2010 issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* or by visiting the website: www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz

Seminars at the Family History Fair will have four themes:

- Who am I?
- What can I find?
- Where is my family?
- Sharing my past for the future.

Further information about accommodation, the Programme, entry by Door Sales and a Daily Special is available via the website above.

Branch Library

On the Shelves

Practical Family History and Family Tree Magazines for February 2010 are now available.

The two magazines have many interesting articles some of which are:

Practical Family History

- Free online data for Kent and Suffolk.
- Resources for tracing Welsh ancestors.
- The A-Z of genealogy: L is for Latin.
- How to trace workhouse ancestors.
- How to trace your forebears in the Channel Islands.

Family Tree Magazine

- Empire & Commonwealth: Relatives in India
- Tracing your ancestors on Jersey.
- Photographing documents: digital cameras in Archives.
- Top 10 records for Devon.
- Discovering documents: Coroner's records.

New Zealand Memories Magazine

The February/March 2010 Issue features the following articles:

- Regions: West Coast and Auckland.
- Murchison Memories: a story from Sam Newman.
- New Zealand Bridges: a photographic essay.
- 1913 Epidemic: Alwyn Owen tells the story of the 1913 smallpox epidemic in Northland.
- A Wellington Bed-sit: Memories of 1960's Wellington.
- The School Bus.
- Tales from Temuka: Recollections of life and work in Temuka in the 1930s & 40s
- A Pair of Silk Stockings: Patricia Ridding tells of her first pair.

Branch Resources for the Researcher

Two very useful resources in our Branch Library for those doing New Zealand research are:

- **E.S Dollimore's *The New Zealand Guide*** was published as long ago as 1957 but it still remains very useful in finding the whereabouts of those little known places and localities in New Zealand which everyone comes across in the course of their family research.

Not only does **Dollimore's** give details of the location of cities, towns and localities but it also provides information about local occupations and industry, Maori and European settlement and history of these.

• The Regional Research Repositories

These small booklets published in 2007 by the NZSG are an essential aid for anyone who is researching family history in New Zealand.

The booklets cover ten regions of New Zealand and contain listings of archival records and holdings in libraries and museums, ethnic and regional museums and societies, as well as church records and district cemeteries.

The holdings and records of NZSG Branches and Informal groups are included.

Physical and postal addresses are provided for each listing as well as email and website addresses.

Useful Websites

Australian Cemeteries Index

This online inscriptions index originally focused only on cemeteries in New South Wales but now includes nearly one hundred cemeteries in other states.

The Index contains photos and details from headstones and these can be downloaded.

Maps are also available and researchers are able to provide suggestions for additions and corrections to Index information where necessary.

A link enables the researcher to find details of what images and information are available at a particular cemetery. Where the researcher is unsure of the cemetery, a map is provided to aid identification of the cemetery in the area wanted.

Further details can be found or a search made at:

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

The Old Bailey (Court) Proceedings Online Project

This website: <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org> is fully digitised and has searchable records of the Old Bailey Proceedings from 1674 to 1913 and the Ordinary of Newgate's Accounts between 1676 and 1772.

The researcher has access to over 190,000 original texts of trials in the London Central Criminal Court. With these are also the biographical details of 2,500 men and women executed at Tyburn.

The site also offers search advice, the history of the Old Bailey and contemporary maps and images.

In January 2010, 40 new Ordinary's Accounts from between 1676 and 1690 and 1740 and 1760 were added and a number of corrections made.

Keyword searching for 3 letter words with the exception of stop words has also been restored.

Access is free of charge for non-commercial use.

Helen's Page of New Zealand History

The Index for this Page provides access to numerous lists of names covering Wellington and the mid to lower North Island.

The lists include directories, rolls, shipping passenger lists, church personnel, cemeteries, employment, military units, diaries and logs to name but a few.

Helen's Page carries the caution - 'Accuracy strived for but not guaranteed.' Nevertheless it is a site worthwhile browsing for anyone with interests in this region. Found at: <http://www.angelfire.com/az/nzgenweb/>

Helpful Hint

If you are planning to purchase copies of records from NZBMD Historic records, it may be useful to download and file the **Timeline** which is available at: <http://www.bdmhistoricalrecords.dia.govt.nz/Home/>

This will enable you to see beforehand, what kinds of information appear on historic BMD records and the additions and changes made to these over the years since 1846.

OF INTEREST

The 1939 Register Service for the UK

On January 29th 2010, The National Health Service Information Centre in the United Kingdom (NHS IC) launched a new service which may be of interest to those researching family members living in England and Wales about 1939. Although data in the Register extends through the decades following, up to 1991, only the original data from 1939 is available for any deceased relative under the seventy year rule.

The register was compiled in the September of 1939 and is basically a snapshot of the whole population in the UK at that time. The purpose of the Register was to identify men and women who could be 'called-up' for service in the Armed Services following the outbreak of war on 3rd September in that year.

The data includes: full names, sex, DOB, profession, house address, marital status, and whether or not the person was a member of the one of the Services or Auxiliary Forces.

Note that this is not yet an online digitised database. Application has to be made on a downloadable Pdf application form and posted to:

The NHS Information Centre, The 1939 Register Team, Smedley Hydro, Room B108, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR82HH

Payment of £42 sterling by cheque is required for making a search of the Register

You can find further information and the downloadable application form at: <http://www.ic.nhs.uk/> Click on News.

Refer also to GRO Scotland for information about the 1939 Scottish National Identity Register:

<http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/famrec>

Cambridge Museum

Many of the museums in our smaller towns have collections and resources which can be of great use to family historians researching a particular area.

One of these is the Cambridge Museum whose attractive website is at <http://www.cambridgemuseum.org.nz>

The home page of the site provides a name search function of its records and a well displayed listing of numerous data banks the Museum holds. These include local School Registers, Military Units of the Waikato Wars, Lodges, Rate Payers from 1900, and Police 1886 - 1930 among many others. These provide access both to name lists and detailed historical information.

The Museum offers a research service for \$20 per half hour plus the cost of copied materials.

MLFHS Catholic Register Index

The Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society is compiling a Catholic Register Index (CRI) from a number of Roman Catholic Church baptisms, marriages and burials registers in Manchester.

The transcriptions have been carried out by members of the Society's Irish Ancestry Branch and details of coverage are available onsite.

The Index is searchable by name with options for exact surname and near matches. Searchers need to be aware that some forenames are recorded both in Latin and in English so that it may be necessary to search Joseph and Josephus for example.

There is a 'More' option alongside each result which gives full details of the event. The MLFHS website is found at: <http://www.mlfhs.org.uk/>

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness. <http://www.raogk.org/> Here you will find volunteers willing to undertake research in various areas for free. Add england, wales, ireland or scotland to the URL to find lists of volunteers in these areas.

A member has noticed a number of old Common Prayerbooks for sale in the Second Hand China Shop in Moturoa. Names inside these include **Bicknell** and **Handley**

Branch Membership subscriptions for the 2010/2011 year will remain as at present and are now due: Single \$30; Joint \$40: Outside Taranaki \$20 and a door charge of \$2 for meetings. Membership forms are available at: www.genealogynp.com

Email contributions to: pamwic@gmail.com