



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 233

April 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.

Last Meeting: 2nd March 2010

The topic for the evening was 'Setting out Your Family History Records' and some thirty members who attended were introduced to a variety of methods for recording family information from two genealogists who have worked at their projects methodically over a number of years.

Sheryl Guthrie became interested as a youngster in the history of her family and had recorded this information in a folder. She took up the interest again as twenty year old and used notebooks for recording each family line. In 1987 she began using a computer, first with Family Tree maker and then later with the Legacy program.

Within each family folder, Sheryl includes a wide range of record types including pedigree and ancestor charts, location indexes, family group sheets, descendant charts and hard copy of databases.

In her Guthrie folder, are kept copies of records such as information from Parish registers, digital copies of certificates, various census, maps, wills and background material.

Noreen Potts began her research in 1979 and also maintains separate folders for each family line. She has produced a book for each of her children and grandchildren. These include ancestor charts accompanied by stories and photos for each generation. Noreen uses the Family Treemaker program.

In addition Noreen carries out a One Name Study of her Moorby (and variants of this name) line of which she now has 54 separate trees. Through Genes Reunited she has been able to help many others researching the same name.

Welcome - to Carol Leigh who is rejoining the Branch and to new member Angela Gates of New Plymouth.

Next Branch Meeting

NOTE: This will be on **Wednesday 7th April 2010**. Assemble at **7.15pm** in the foyer at **Puke Ariki Museum** for a tour of Puke Ariki's Land Wars Exhibition. The Branch Rooms and Library will be open for those members not wishing to visit Puke Ariki.

Family History Centre Mangorei Road

Opening Hours:

1st and 3rd Thursdays
1.30 to 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Thursdays
2.30 to 5pm

1st and 2nd Saturdays
1 to 3pm

Enquiries to Lois Smith
Ph 7512750

NZSG MATTERS

Notice of Special General Meeting

All NZSG members should have received a mail-out which gives full details of the calling of a Special General Meeting and the 4 Motions tabled for consideration at the meeting.

Note that the mail-out incorrectly gave the meeting day as Saturday 30th April and this should **be Friday 30th April.**

NZSG members are reminded to read the mail-out in full as this gives the reasons for the proposed motions as well as the NZSG Council's response to these.

If as a NZSG member you are unable to attend the Special General Meeting at the Hickling

Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Auckland, you are asked to vote on each motion on the form provided, appoint a proxy and return your form to the Office Manager at the address provided by **Thursday 15th April 2010**.

Further information about these issues, including details of attempted mediation, is available on the NZSG website: www.genealogy.org.nz

OUR BRANCH LIBRARY

New on the Shelves

The Family Tree and Practical Family History Magazines for March 2010 contain many articles of interest some of which are:

Family Tree Magazine

- Census returns and Census substitutes.
- Tales of Interment - early burial registers.
- Scottish Poor Law records: in search of the poor.
- Discovering documents: Coroners' records.
- Top 10 records for Bristol.

Practical Family History Magazine

- Free – online data for Lancashire & Worcestershire.
- Discover Scottish Church records.
- A road less travelled: ancestors who migrated for work.
- Back to your roots: a journey to the Scottish Borders.
- How to write a family biography.

Branch Library Resources

***'White Wings'* by Sir Henry Brett: Copper Press. 1976, Christchurch, New Zealand.**

Brett's history of the many ships which visited New Zealand between 1850 and 1900 is a useful reference for the family historian who might be seeking to discover the background to those long and often dangerous voyages which immigrant ancestors made during the 19th Century.

Published in two volumes, *White Wings* is a collection made personally by Brett and includes, gossip, extracts from diaries and newspapers, stories and anecdotes. Brett was well situated in his job as a shipping reporter to gather such information from new arrivals, crews and ships' officers.

Volume One has accounts of voyages and the dangers faced, the history of many ships, as well as the many wrecks which occurred.

Volume Two records the history of the separate European settlements in New Zealand and the passenger ships which arrived at various ports. His writing covers the discharge of passengers and cargo. He lists passenger ships to 1885 and the names of many passengers are included.

Shipping Intelligence Index

This has been compiled from the Taranaki Herald's shipping intelligence columns which appeared in the paper's first edition in 1852 and continued through to the early 1900s.

The Shipping Intelligence Index covers the period 1852 to 1870 and includes not only immigrant shipping but also local shipping - listing passengers who sailed between New Plymouth and other New Zealand ports such as Wanganui, Wellington, Nelson and Manukau.

Information in the Index includes: date of the shipping report in the Taranaki Herald, date of ship's arrival or departure, port of arrival or departure, destination, ship's name, passenger's surname and first name.

Regional Museums

The Timaru Museum

This South Canterbury museum provides an online research facility for those interested in the history and genealogy associated with this region.

The Museum's collections are catalogued on a collections management database and include archives, local history, publications, photographs, newspapers, maps and plans. The Museum has produced a range of databases and finding aids covering records such as births, marriage and death notices, church records and rate rolls (which cover various years between 1865 and 1895). Many of these records are available online at the Museum's website.

Museum Staff are able to undertake research for family historians and genealogists who are unable to visit the Museum itself. The fees for this service are available on the Museum's attractive and easy to use website to be found at <http://www.timaru.govt.nz/services/museum/Home.aspx/>

OF INTEREST

Digitisation of 1911 Scottish Census

For those of you wondering about the progress of this project, Chris Paton in the Scottish Genealogy News and Events (SGNE) reports that work is underway for the digitisation of the 1911 Scottish Census. He says that unlike the 1911 Census for England Wales and Ireland, where the actual household schedules survived and were able to be digitised, the same schedules have not survived in the case of Scotland.

Fortunately the enumerators' returns have survived though. These are spread across two pages and provide information on the length of the marriage, the number of children born from the marriage as well as the number who have survived.

It is expected that the returns will be out on line in April of 2011.

Release of National Burial Index 3

by FFHS

The recently released database on CD, by the Federation of Family History Societies (UK) contains over 18.4 million burial records taken from Anglican parish, non-Conformist, Quaker, Roman Catholic and cemetery burial registers throughout England and Wales. The database is fully searchable and can be printed out or exported.

The NBI is designed to assist family historians find burial records and complements the International Geographical Index (IGI). The NBI 3 does not however contain monumental inscriptions.

The full price for the CD (including VAT, postage and packing) is £30 or £15 if you are upgrading.

The NBI 3 CD is suitable for Windows 98/XP/Vista and Windows 7 but not for Apple Mac.

Visit the FFHS website at: <http://www.ffhs.org.uk> for further information - including an order form.

Useful Websites

<http://www.parloc.pwp.bluevonder.co.uk>

On this website you are able to download for free a **Parish Locator Program (PARLOC)** which enables you to locate any one of 15,000 parishes in the United Kingdom.

Version 3 of Parloc (13th August 2009) occupies only 12Mb of disk space and runs on Windows 95/98, ME, NT, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Vista and Windows 7.

The program provides a simple means of locating a parish and those surrounding it in a County at set intervals for example at a 5 or 10 mile radius. The parishes listed are those in existence at some time during the period from the mid 1500s to about 1837 when civil registration began.

Information for a village includes County and Country names, OS references and East/ Northings

The program has the facility to link to www.streetmap.co.uk which in turn gives you detailed maps of the parish selected and the surrounding countryside.

References for a parish can then be used to research further on the IGI for any records available for that parish.

http://www.pbenvon1.plus.com/PR_index.html

This is an Index of Transcriptions and Extracts of Parish Registers and Bishop's Transcripts covering some 30

mainly Anglican Parishes in Somerset, Berkshire, Suffolk, Kent, Singapore and Athens.

The index covers banns, baptisms, marriages and deaths. Information for Baptisms includes surname, Christian name, mother's & father's names, date of baptism, Registration number, occupation of Father, and Comments.

For marriages for example, the names of witnesses, residential status of groom and home village/town, marriage status of bride and groom are given.

The Index has a useful search facility.

<http://homepages.ihug.co.nz/~ashleigh/>

Judy Berntsen came across Beverley Evans' website which has transcriptions of Birth, Marriage and Death notices from the daily newspapers of Christchurch – the Star and the Press from 1869 – 1972. As well there are transcriptions of Passenger Lists from 1861 – 1919. For anyone with Canterbury connections the site may well be worthwhile, particularly the search function. I used this and found new and useful information about a family ancestor.

Chelsea Pensioners' Service Records Online

Again, Judy Berntsen brings to our attention the fact that **Findmypast.co.uk** in association with The National Archives (UK) and Family Search has recently launched *The Chelsea Pensioners' British Army Service Records*. Included are over 6 million colour images of the service records of soldiers in the British Army who received a pension administered by the Royal Hospital Chelsea and who were discharged between 1760 and 1913.

The records only list those soldiers who completed their term of service or who were wounded and pensioned out of the Army. Deserters, those killed and officers are not included in the records.

An individual's records include the usual details of physique and physical features but as well may hold many other details some of which are medical history, conduct and character notes, service history and details of marriage and children.

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>

NOTICES

A possible crisis looms.

Nominations urgently needed

Only four of the present Branch Committee will be offering themselves for

re-election to the new Branch Committee at the AGM on May 4th 2010. The key positions of Branch Convenor and Branch Secretary will need to be filled as will the positions of Projects Officer and Newsletter Editor.

Experience has shown that a Committee of about twelve is required if all the responsibilities of running an effective Branch are to be met adequately.

There is an obvious and urgent need for Branch Members to make themselves available for election to the new Committee to ensure that the New Plymouth Branch continues in existence.

Bear in mind that Committee Members are required to be NZSG members but it would still be possible for non-NZSG Members to undertake roles outside the Committee – such as Projects or Editorship of the Newsletter. Initial support would be given in these.

If you are willing to step forward you can contact either Annette Larsen 758 3320 or John Berntsen 753 9188. Your nomination will need to be put forward and seconded at the AGM.

Branch Library Hours over the Easter Holidays

The Library will be closed Easter Friday and Monday but will be open on Saturday 3rd April from 10 am to 12 noon.

Newsletters received from other NZSG Branches

Newsletters have been received recently from these Branches:

Canterbury; Palmerston North; Wellington; Stratford; Wanganui; Hutt Valley; Blenheim and Wairarapa.

Branch Newsletters – including our own – are filed in folders on the last bay of shelves in the library.

FREE Genealogy Beginners' Course

Puke Ariki is offering a free Beginners' Course in Genealogy on each of the four Wednesdays during May of this year beginning on the 5th May at 6pm.

The Course Tutor is Michael Butler whom many will remember from his successful courses at our Branch Rooms in previous years.

The Course venue is the Research Centre in Puke Ariki Library.

To book a place on the Course phone Puke Ariki at 759 6060.

BRANCH AGM NOTICE

THE NEW PLYMOUTH BRANCH OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS INC.

NOTICE of the 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2010

TO THE MEMBERS

THIRTY DAYS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 40th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NEW PLYMOUTH BRANCH OF NEW ZEALAND GENEALOGY SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN THE BRANCH ROOMS, MOTUROA, NEW PLYMOUTH AT 7.30PM ON 4TH MAY 2010.

Please note that proposing & seconding of nominations and voting on the election of Branch committee members is restricted to only Society members who are also members of the Branch.

Branch members wishing to move a Motion at the AGM shall provide a written copy to the Secretary prior to the meeting day.

Items on the AGENDA include:-

- Confirmation of the Minutes of the 39th AGM held on 5th March 2009.
- Receipt of the Convener's Annual Report for the Year ended 31 March 2010.
- Treasurer's Financial Report and Adoption of the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010 reviewed by Mr Lial Bredin, CA. the Independent Reviewer.
- Appointment of an Independent Financial Reviewer for the ensuing year.
- Setting of the Annual subscriptions and Meeting attendance door charge for the year ending on 31 March 2011.
- Election of Branch Committee including Convener, Secretary, Treasurer and two or more other members.
- Notices of Motion; Presentation of Service Awards; General Business
- Closure of the AGM followed by a presentation by Diane Woods, Field Librarian from the Alexander Turnbull Library.

J.L.PICKERING.

BRANCH SECRETARY

25TH March 2010

Contributions to this Newsletter are welcomed. Email to: pamwic@gmail.com