



# NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



**Number 234**

**May 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:** 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. Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

## Branch Matters

### Last Meeting Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010

A good turnout of Members was reported at the Branch visit to the Puke Ariki Exhibition. Jocelyn Millard, Coordinator Community Liaison, from Puke Ariki welcomed the group and explained how the five year plan of annual exhibitions came about. The group was then free to view the exhibition.

In the last half hour before closing time Jocelyn held an informal group discussion in which members were invited to respond with individual comments about the exhibition. It was explained that the exhibition's purpose was to stimulate debate about Maori issues caused by the Taranaki Wars and colonisation during the early 1860s.

A common feeling was that a second visit would be an advantage in understanding all the information and issues presented in this exhibition.

## Next Meeting

**Branch 40th AGM 7.30pm Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010** at the Branch Rooms, Moturoa.

### AGENDA

- Apologies received.
- Confirmation of minutes of 39<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2009
- Convenor's Annual report for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
- Treasurer's Financial Report and Adoption of Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.
- Appointment of Independent Financial Reviewer for ensuing year.
- Setting of Annual Subscriptions and Door Charge for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
- Election of Branch Committee including Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and two or more other members.
- Notices of Motion; Presentation of Service Awards.
- General Business.
- Closure of AGM.
- Guest Speaker

### **Guest Speaker at AGM.**

Following the AGM, Diane Woods, Field Librarian with the Alexander Turnbull Library, will speak to Members.

Diane's role at the Alexander Turnbull Library since 2001 has been that of helping with the building up of 'unpublished' collections of manuscripts, and archives, photographs, ephemera, drawings and paintings.

Diane will make a powerpoint presentation, with a Taranaki focus, about the Alexander Turnbull Library's collections and how to access these over the next couple of years while the Library's services are being run from temporary locations.

Welcome to the latest new Member of the New Plymouth Branch – Richard Walsh from Wanganui.

### **NZSG Matters**

#### **Reminder: Special General Meeting of the NZSG.**

This is to be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April 3.00pm at the Fickling Convention Centre, Hillsborough Room, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland.

#### **GRO Certificate price increase**

As from April 3<sup>rd</sup> this year the cost of ordering a GRO certificate through the NZSG GRO Certificate Purchasing Service has increased to \$30.50

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

##### **Recently received Magazines**

The Practical Family History and the Family Tree issues for April 2010 are now available and contain many interesting features some of which are:

##### **Practical Family History**

- How to share your family tree online.
- Discover web resources for Australia.
- The A-Z of Genealogy: N is for Nonconformity.
- Trace your forebears in West Scotland.
- Taking the Pledge: Temperance ancestors.

##### **Family Tree**

- Fundamental sources online: Parish and Nonconformist registers.
- Find your Welsh ancestors using the National Library of Wales.
- DNA and me. Genetic clues.
- Scottish Islands research: Orkney and Shetland.
- Tips to get you started. Your family history website

### **Two useful Resources in the Branch Library**

#### **Tracing Your Military Ancestors.**

Practical Family History.co.uk

This slim volume is a collection of answers to readers' questions which have previously appeared in the PFH magazine.

The contents are mainly directed towards British Armed Services personnel who have served in the Boer Wars and the two World Wars.

The questions and answers about identification of units served in and service records are handily grouped into categories – Regiments and Units, Army Records, Medals and Awards, Service Abroad, Uniform Identification and Naval Records.

Included is a short list of the main repositories in the United Kingdom for Armed Services Records and their addresses including websites.

This is a handy, pocket sized reference for those researching the military background of their UK ancestors in these wars.

#### **Skandia11 - A history of Scandinavians in early Palmerston**

**North & surrounding districts.** Val A Burr. Published by the Scandinavian Club of Manawatu.1995

This second volume of the history of Scandinavian settlement in the Manawatu sub-titled 'Mosquitoes & Sawdust' follows on from the New Zealand Sesquicentennial publication *Skandia I*.

*Skandia 11* encompasses the whole story of the Settlers who arrived in New Zealand as a result of Julius Vogel's Immigration Scheme of the early 1870s. The author outlines the conditions which drove Scandinavian peoples to emigrate from their homelands, describes the voyages out and the struggle to exist in the early days of settlement and includes the individual stories of many pioneer families. The book is well illustrated with black and white photos and also includes Maps. There is an extensive index.

This is a 'must-read' for those with Scandinavian settler ancestors in the Manawatu.

#### **End of the Floppy Disk.**

Dick Eastman's April 25<sup>th</sup> Newsletter reports that Sony is to cease sales in March of 2011, of their 3.5inch Floppy Disk first produced by the company in 1981

## Of Interest



### CROATIAN SETTLERS IN NEW ZEALAND

Over 100,000 New Zealanders today are able to claim some Croatian ancestry. The first Croatian settlers came from the Dalmatian Coast of Yugoslavia from about 1858 onwards when the area was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Commonly known as 'Dallies' the newcomers were mainly men who came to work in Northland as gumdiggers in the hope of earning sufficient money to bring out wives from home and purchase land.

In the following decades, many set up vineyards and in the process became the pioneers of today's New Zealand wine industry. Others became involved in fishing and the retailing of fresh fish as well as the establishment of restaurants.

Today, the Dalmatian Genealogical & Historical Society whose parent body is the Dalmatian Cultural Society has the aim of preserving the history of Dalmatian settlers in New Zealand.

To achieve this aim the Society has set up a Museum and Archives in Auckland where there are extensive collections of photos of the early days of settlement; a large collection of family history records including births, deaths, marriages, naturalizations and shipping lists as well as a collection of books in Serbo-Croatian and English.

The Archives and Museum are open most Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm and Mondays from 9.30pm to mid-day.

The Dalmatian Centre (Villa Dalmacija) is located at 10 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland.

Contact can be made by: Phone 09 379-7680 or by email: [museum@clear.net.nz](mailto:museum@clear.net.nz) The extensive and attractive website of the Society is: <http://www.dalmatian.org.nz>

## Regional Museums

### Nelson Provincial Museum

The Museum has *A Collections Online* Service which allows a search to be carried out over some of the many collections held. This can be done as a Simple or Advanced Search.

The Collections available are:

- **The Photographic Collection** – covering the region's social history from the 1860s to the present day.
- **The Library and Archives Collection** which includes a range of material from personal papers, diaries, family histories and school admission registers to local government, businesses and organisations.
- **The General Collection** – a range of natural and social history items including Maori taonga and colonial artefacts.

The Museum also provides for Distance Research. The first 5-10 minutes is free but thereafter a charge applies at \$60 per hour or \$15 per quarter hour. Resources cover BDMs, biographies, return of Freeholders 1882, Passenger lists 1840 – 1880, Directories 1859 to 1947 among many others.

For more information visit the Museum website: [www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz](http://www.nelsonmuseum.co.nz) or contact the museum: email [library@museumnp.org.nz](mailto:library@museumnp.org.nz); phone 03547 9740

### New Additions coming to Papers Past

The National Library website *Papers Past* has announced an intention to expand its list of historic newspapers during 2010 in 'three waves' including papers such as the *Lyttelton Times*, *The Thames Star* and the *Otago Daily Times*.

During April 2010 – additions will include *Ashburton Guardian*, *Manawatu Standard* and *Manawatu Times*, *Ohinemuri Gazette*, *Thames Star*, *Waipa Church Times* and the *Waipu Church Gazette*.

During May 2010 – *Poverty Bay Herald*, *Lyttelton Times*, *Thames Star*

In June 2010 - *Albertland Gazette*, *The Colonist*, *Evening Post*, *Otago Daily Times*, and the *Waiapu Church Gazette*.

For the years covered by these new additions visit the website: <http://www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>

### Unique New Visitor Centre in Wales

Anyone researching their South Wales ancestry will not want to miss a visit while in the UK, to the new Family History and Genealogy Visitor Centre which is due to be fully open in July of 1911 at The Works, Ebbw Vale.

According to the news release from The Works, the Centre is the first of its kind in the UK and will link genealogy searches with 'geographically represented data' which will include digitised newspapers from the past, photos, maps, recordings, records and

films. In addition there is a map room offering a 360° immersive experience. The Centre will also have a 5 dimensional Cinema.'

The Centre aims to offer more than just access to data and records and will enable the researcher to 'paint a picture of the world their ancestors lived in and provide a snapshot of Welsh history' all at the same time.

### Useful Websites

#### Free Access Online to Ancestry Magazine

Although Ancestry Magazine was discontinued in recent weeks all past issues are available free of charge through Google Books.

Issues from the past 16 years are to be found at:

<http://books.google.com/books/serial/FTgEAAAAMBAJ?rvie=1&lr=&sa=N&start=0>

#### More Australian Cemetery Databases available online

Robyn Woller has provided this information about several cemeteries in Sydney, New South Wales.

The Rookwood Anglican and Independent cemeteries have searchable online records which include maps. You need to become a member (which is free) before you can access the records. Available at: <http://www.rookwoodcemetery.co.au>

Catholic and Jewish sections of Rookwood have their own websites:

<http://www.catholiccemeteries.org.au/rookwood/rookwood.html>

<http://rookwoodjewishcemetery.co.au/page/search-for-a-grave>

Robyn adds that there is a new addition available – the Woronora General Cemetery/Crematorium database at:

<http://www.woronoracemetery.org.au/name-search.html>

#### Hearth Tax Online

Run by the Centre for Hearth Tax Research at Roehampton University in London, this website provides data and analysis of the records of the Hearth Tax which was imposed during the government of Charles 11 in 1662.

The latest addition to the website is the complete transcription of the Surrey Hearth Tax manuscript. This has a searchable database of over 16,000 householder names with tables showing levels of wealth and poverty.

Similar online databases exist also for Durham, Kent and Yorkshire West Riding on the same site:

<http://hearthtax.org.uk>

#### Atlanta (USA) Newspaper Database Online.

This digital database gives access to 14 Atlanta newspapers published over the years 1847 to 1922. It contains over 67,000 newspaper pages and provides historical images which are both fully text searchable and able to be browsed by date. Many of the newspapers are from the Civil War era.

<http://dig.galileo.usg.edu/MediaTypes/Newspapers>

The database requires that you download a DiVu browser plug-in available onsite for Windows and Mac users.

### RENAME NEW PLYMOUTH? CHANGE IT TO NEW HALIFAX ?

Roger Hawkins has written the following article which will be of interest to many members. (Ed.)

Members may recall that back in late 2001 and early 2002 the Branch undertook, under the discipline of Bruce Bellini, a crash campaign to index the early owners of the 2348 sections of New Plymouth. The indexes were made up from records extracted from the LINZ office records in New Plymouth before they were transferred to Hamilton. While indexing these records, it became apparent that there were a disproportionate number of persons from Halifax, Yorkshire, England.

Recently I was requested to give a talk on the link between Halifax and New Plymouth, to the New Plymouth branch of the NZ Founders Society. I was unable to retrieve my article that had been published both in this Newsletter in 2004 or 2005, and the "The Scrivener", the journal of the Calderdale Family History Society, which covers Halifax and the surrounding area.

Thus I had to retrace my steps, and firstly went to Puke Ariki to retrieve the copy of my article that I had provided in exchange for photographs. Unfortunately it could not be retrieved but Puke Ariki, on searching for Halifax on their new databases, discovered a number of new items that had never been seen before, including two files on two Halifax people mentioned in the article, the Reverend Charles IBBOTSON and Elizabeth

WRIGGLESWORTH. The one on the Reverend Charles IBBOTSON was substantial. Not bad for a man that had never set foot in New Plymouth or even New Zealand!

A copy of the original article was eventually found in the library at the Branch, filed with the Land Information indexes. Once found, I spent an idle moment reading the Chilman family history - recently completed by the Branch. The entry for December 11<sup>th</sup> 1841 says, "It was openly stated during the selection of the Town that a large sum of money remitted for Town Sections was returned to Halifax."

It is possible that once the initial sources of finance and support from Devon and Cornwall had disappeared with the takeover of the New Plymouth Company by the New Zealand Company, then investment was sought from all over England. The probable agent in this was Frederic Alonzo CARRINGTON, who is known to have worked in Halifax.

However there may be other explanations. Have you got an ancestor from Halifax who invested in New Plymouth? It is not even necessary for your ancestor to have set foot in New Zealand! If so I would be pleased to hear from you.

[Roger.Hawkins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Roger.Hawkins@xtra.co.nz)

## Notices

***The Oral History Workshop: Collect and Celebrate the Life Stories of Your Family and Friends.*** Cynthia Hart with Lisa Samson  
**Capture a Living Legacy**

*We all know that we should ask now, before it's too late, before the stories are gone forever. All it takes is one question to jump-start a project that so many of us want to do.*

*Cynthia Hart shows exactly how to collect, record, share and preserve a family member's or a friend's oral history in this practical and inspirational guide.*

*The book breaks down what too often feels like an overwhelming project into a series of easily manageable steps – how to become a better listener, the pros and cons of video recording, four steps to keeping the interview on track- and hundreds of questions designed to cover every aspect of your subject's history.*

*When the answers are pieced together, a mosaic appears- a family archive, a keepsake and a living history.*

This book is available to New Plymouth Branch members in a special offer of \$25 excluding postage and packaging. Enquiries can be sent to Jennie Brockie, Sales Manager, Bookreps, P O Box 34 989, Birkenhead, Auckland, 0626: or Tel. 09 419 2635 or email [jennie@bookreps.co.nz](mailto:jennie@bookreps.co.nz)

## Free Genealogy Course

Michael Butler will be running an *Introductory Course in Genealogy* in association with Puke Ariki. The course will be of four weeks duration, starting Wednesday 05 May and will be held at the Taranaki Research Centre (TRC), level three, Puke Ariki (top of the escalator).

Each session will commence at 6.00 p.m. and will finish between 8 and 8.30 pm. There will be opportunities after the course concludes, to visit both the TRC and our NZSG Branch Library for hands-on use of the various resources.

This particular course is FREE (normally \$20). To register for the course, please contact the Information Centre (Museum wing foyer) on 759 0897 or the Taranaki Research Centre on 759 6060 (or visit in person).

Michael has run these courses before and it would be especially suitable those new to Genealogy.

**WDYTYR?** A new UK series of *Who Do You Think You Are?* begins on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May on UKTV at 7.30pm

## **Branch Meeting– Tuesday June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**

The guest speaker will be Heather Glen on the topic of Adoptions.

## **Recent Newsletters from other Branches.**

Blenheim; Canterbury; Hawke's Bay; Hutt Valley; Motueka; Palmerston Nth; Stratford; Wairarapa; Wellington plus from Interest Groups: Midland & Northern England; Southern England & East Anglia.

## **YOUR BRANCH NEEDS YOU !**

**You are reminded of the pressing need for nominations from members willing to serve on the new Committee. So far only one nomination has been indicated. Contact Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320 if you would like to be on the Committee.**

P Wicky, Editor