

NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 236

July 2010

Convenor: Annette Larsen 758 3320
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
Bev Mulqueen
Charles Le Breton

New Plymouth Branch
PO Box 429
New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at branch rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access off Whiteley Street carpark

Email: newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz
Website: 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: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

2010/11 Branch Subs Now Due!

Thank you to everyone who has paid.

Otherwise, please ensure your subscription is paid soon.

\$30 single membership

\$40 per household

\$20 for associate (outside Taranaki)

Please use the subscription form. This can be downloaded from the branch website, and there are printed forms at the branch rooms.

Next Meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 6 July 2010

Fibs and Facts

Remember to bring along an interesting or unusual finding from your research. This can be associated with an adoption, birth out of wedlock, name change, or other event.

Or it could be a roadblock you are facing, or a block you have overcome.

Please bring along something to share on Tuesday.



Last Meeting – Tuesday 1 June 2010

At the last meeting, Northland abstract artist Heather Glen related to members the inspiring story of her long struggle to discover the identities of her birth mother and her father.

Heather outlined the history of social attitudes towards unwed mothers and how the laws surrounding adoption reflected these during the middle years of the last century. Adopted children found it almost impossible to obtain information about their birth parent.

The situation changed dramatically in 1985 with the passing of the Adult Information Act which for the first time provided legal access to adoption records. Within a short time Heather found her birth mother. Finding her father proved more difficult since names of fathers were not entered on birth certificates in the case of unwed mothers. Heather had little information about him except for his occupation, the date of his arrival in New Zealand and a possible first and last name - which proved later to be wrong.

An exhaustive search of passenger lists in Archives eventually provided a likely person and this was confirmed from a marriage certificate obtained from BDM.

With the help of a friend, contact was made with her father who lived in England and later Heather had an emotional meeting with him in secret there. DNA testing later confirmed their relationship.

Heather's art reflects her investigation into social constructs particularly in regard to adoption itself. The stories and experiences of many who were adopted and Heather's art itself will be the focus of a display called *Illusions, Lies and Half Truths* at the Percy Thomson Gallery in Stratford from the 16 July to 8 August this year.

(review by Peter Wicky)

New member

Welcome to Bernie Lile, who has recently joined our branch.

From the Convenor's Desk

- Have you checked out our large UK map books, situated on the top of the cabinet at the back of the library? There is also a big atlas of Town Plans, which has some detailed maps for certain towns in the UK.
- The new website, www.deceasedonline.com, is also worth a look. It is a growing resource and may have a UK cemetery database on it that you are interested in. Some of the material is free, but for more detailed info there is a charge.
- Have you checked out the Family History Library at the LDS church in Mangorei Road lately? This is an important resource! The contact person is Lois Smith, 751-2750. It is advisable to ring Lois prior to a visit to the LDS Library. The library opening hours; 1st & 3rd Thursdays of month - 1:30 - 4:30 pm 2nd & 4th Thursdays of month - 2:30 - 5:00 pm Otherwise, during the week some arrangement may be able to be made with Lois, but not for evenings or weekends.

NZ Family History Fair 2010

17 – 18 July Kingsgate Hotel, Hamilton

A weekend of exhibits, seminars, displays, resources, research and help desks. Register for seminars now to avoid disappointment.

Website. www.nzfamilyhistoryfair.org.nz

Old Taranaki Photos

We need old photos of Taranaki people and places, for use on the Taranaki stand at the Family History Fair. Please bring these along to the next meeting (so they can be copied), or advise Annette Larsen.

Adoption in New Zealand

Heather Glen's exhibition *Wall of Memories* is on at the Percy Thomson Gallery at Stratford, from 16 July to 8 August 2010. This exhibition explores aspects of adoption.

The exhibition will be opened at 1:30 pm on Saturday 17 July, by Rt Hon Jonathan Hunt. This will be followed by a panel discussion.



Otago Gold Mining History

In May 2011 Otago will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold at Gabriels Gully. To celebrate the occasion the Dunedin Family History Group is publishing a book on the lives of gold miners and their families as told by their descendants. The book is titled *Pick and Shovel, Cradle and Pan - 150 years of gold discovery in Otago, Southland and on the West Coast*.

The book covers the period 1861 to the present day and will involve any gold miner prospecting in Otago, Southland and on the West Coast of the South Island. We are not just interested in the gold miners themselves but also the wives and children who either travelled and endured hardships with their husbands or who stayed behind and coped while their husbands were away prospecting.

All essays must be received no later than 3 December 2010. For further details on how you can submit an essay to this publication contact dfhg@xtra.co.nz or write to The Dunedin Family History Group, 28 Milburn Street, Corstorphine, Dunedin 9012, New Zealand.

LDS Record Search Pilot website

<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html>

For those that have not checked this site out, there is a huge amount of new material that has just been added which includes:

- over 30,000 births and baptisms from Gibraltar (1704-1876)
- over 40,000 Channel Islands births and baptisms (1820-1907)
- 5,000,000 Irish births and baptisms (1620-1881) - yes, 5 million!
- over 50,000 Irish deaths (1864-1870)
- over 400,000 Irish marriages (1619-1898)
- births/baptisms, marriages and deaths from the Isle of Man (up to 1911)
- 16,000,000 English deaths and burials (1538-1991)

War Cemeteries and WW1 Information

Having seen on a "genesreunited" family tree that one of my SCOTT ancestors had lost 3 older children in the same year, (1917), I investigated further – as a good genealogist should!

By going into the CWGC site (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) and the Roll of Honour site for the UK (www.roll-of-honour.com) and searching the roll of honour of the town, Fairwarp, in Sussex from where I knew Charles SCOTT had come, I found his army details etc. He was 22 when he died on the French battle field in June 1917 and is buried at Etaples war cemetery. This UK roll of honour database has lots of good links too.

By googling Etaples, WW1, I found the Etaples war cemetery site. Well worth a look.

www.ww1cemeteries.com/ww1frenchcemeteries/etaples.htm.

At the bottom of the home page of this site, you can click on Roll of Honour. There are thousands of photos of many of the soldiers buried there, accompanied with a brief note under the photo.

This website will lead you to many other WW1 and WW2 cemetery sites in France and other countries.

The other two siblings of Charles SCOTT who died in 1917 were Edith and Daisy SCOTT. Daisy died in the same month as her brother. She was aged 27 and had "chronic atrophic paralysis" which I googled and have decided was polio. Her sister, Edith, died, aged 25, four months later, also of "chronic atrophic paralysis". On further googling, it seems there was a polio epidemic during the war.

How sad that must have been for that family to have three of their children die in that tragic year, 1917! (By the way, I did verify Edith and Daisy's death year on the Free BMD site).

What one does on a cold and wet winter's night!!
No good TV programmes!

Annette Larsen



More Irish church records online - Free

The Irish Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage recently launched a website with further church records. These include church baptism, marriage and burial records pre-1900 for Dublin City, Carlow, Cork (City and West Cork) and Kerry.

This is exciting news for those researching in these counties, especially West Cork which has been a 'black hole' for records for many years. These records are available free of charge and it is understood that the database will be further extended over time.

Website: www.irishgenealogy.ie

Members Interest section of NZSG website

A recent discussion on the NZ Mailing list highlighted the fact that the NZSG website Members Interest section can be searched by non-members.

Those finding a 'match' can contact the member through a 'contact member' link on the website.

Website: www.genealogy.org.nz

Merchant Seamen's records

You can now search and download another 155,000 merchant seamen's records on The National Archives' DocumentsOnline service. The records list the recipients of the British War Medal and the Mercantile Marine Medal in the First World War.

There are three search options:

1. Pre 1857
2. 1857-1917
3. Post 1917

Website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Waitara Branch Website

The Waitara branch website has been relaunched; www.waitarahistory.org.nz

Lynly Yates Website

This is a site created by someone who has access to records in Wellington and is very familiar with NZ military research and medals.

Her presentation is very methodical and her site includes;

- Deserters of the New Zealand Wars
- What Happened to the St Pauli Passengers
- Birth Death & Marriage registration transcriptions and Intention to Marry (New Zealand only)

Website: <http://lynly.gen.nz>

1880 Death Notice

from: Taranaki Herald, 13 October 1880, Page 4

A recent death announcement closes with the following poetic gem:

It was a cough
That carried me off
It was a coffin
They carried me off in

Found on Papers Past and sent to the New Zealand Rootsweb list.

Library News

The library now has a copy of the NZSG CD *Victoria Outwards to New Zealand 1852 – 1923*.

We also now have the latest CD ROM for the UK National Burial Index. It is not a complete index and certain counties are better represented than others but it is worth a look.

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 25 July, at the branch rooms.

Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.

