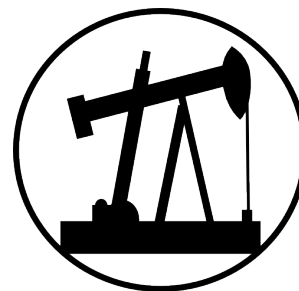


NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 238

September 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

NZSG on Facebook

The NZSG recently launched its Facebook page and it is continuously being developed.

Facebook is a social networking website, with more than 500 million users worldwide.

Click on the following link and just press cancel when you are asked to login.

www.facebook.com/NZSocGen



Next Meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 7 Sep 2010

First Steps in Oral History

Oral history is an important aspect of genealogy, recording information that may otherwise not be preserved.

At our September meeting, Hamish Guthrie will present a talk on first steps in doing your own oral history.

This is based on the session he presented at the Family History Fair in Hamilton this year.



Last Meeting – Tuesday 3 August 2010

About thirty Branch members gathered at Vosper's Funeral Home for our August meeting. Hot drinks and biscuits, kindly provided by Vosper's staff, were welcomed by members on the cold, winter evening.

Bruce Hanrahan, Vosper's Manager, introduced the other staff present, Funeral Directors, Kirsty Mehrtens and Andrew King. Members were provided with a folder of the firm's leaflets which contained information about the Funeral Process.

Bruce then gave details outlining the whole Funeral Process including the first call which advised the Funeral Home of a person's death; the consultation which takes place with the deceased's Family about the type and cost of the casket and funeral; the preparation of the deceased; the process of medical release and recording of information about the deceased in seeking a death certificate; the Funeral service itself; the follow-up including any legal matters and finally the After Care which Vosper's staff are able to provide for the bereaved family.

Of particular interest for members, was the Department of Internal Affairs document Notification of Death for Registration which records a wide range of information of interest to genealogists. Although Funeral Directors endeavour to ensure the accuracy of information, usually supplied by a family member, this cannot always be guaranteed.

The evening finished with an opportunity for the Members to tour the Vosper's Funeral Home Premises.

Peter Wicky

NZSG Regional Meeting

The next Taranaki Regional meeting to be held at Waitara 10am Saturday 18 September 2010. Annette will be going but anybody is welcome. You will need to take a plate for shared lunch and it is suggested you let Annette know you are going. The new NZSG Councillor, Joseph Gillard, who represents the Taranaki Region will be in attendance.

From the Convenor's Desk

I would love to hear suggestions for topics for future Branch meetings. It is your Branch. Do let the committee know if there is anything you would like to see happen. It gets hard organising meetings/speakers. We are open to new ideas and more help!

Thank you, Michael, once again, for a successful four week Beginners' course. Michael Butler runs a very comprehensive introduction to genealogy. Puke Ariki have hosted it again and have been very helpful.

I love genealogy research!! I am really enjoying the new databases on ancestry.com that I am accessing at Puke Ariki's Research Centre. My Australian family lines are expanding as I use the Australian BDM indexes that "Ancestry" now has online, coupled with the Electoral Rolls. The Birth Index covers 1788-1922, Marriage Index 1788-1959 and Death Index 1788-1985. The historic newspapers digitised by the National Library of Australia and on their website, have also yielded some exciting bits of information.

If there is enough need for help with "Ancestry" and other resources at Puke Ariki research centre, maybe a Wednesday night session at Puke Ariki can be run for members. Let me know.

A matter of concern for us as genealogists is the proposed government merger of Archives NZ and the National Library of NZ with the Department of Internal Affairs. The NZSG position paper on the merger is in the latest Keeping in Touch newsletter. There is always a copy of KIT on our notice board and also on the NZSG website. Please read it.

<http://www.genealogy.org.nz/data/media/documents/Council/KIT/AUGUST%202010%20KIT.pdf>

The NZSG position paper talks about the statutory independence of the Chief Librarian and Chief Archivist needing to be preserved and interference with the Library or Archives prevented. The Chief Archivist must be functionally independent of any government department.

Annette Larsen



English & Wales Wills

Ancestry has released probate calendars for English and Welsh wills between 1861 and 1941, but with some gaps – see below.

<http://search.ancestry.com.au/search/db.aspx?dbid=1904>

This collection contains summaries of the vast majority of probate cases in England and Wales between 1861 and 1941. It effectively forms an index to wills and probate records for this period.

The records were created by the Probate Registry, which took control of proving wills and administrations in 1858. Before this, four different types of ecclesiastical (church) courts dealt with these cases. A Principal Probate Registry was established in London in January 1858, and several district probate registries were created around the country. From then on, the registries oversaw all grants of probate and letters of administration. This collection is the Calendar of these grants.

The Calendar is separated into a different volume for each year. Information varies across different entries, but each typically includes:

- Probate date
- Full name of the deceased
- Death date
- Death place
- Registry where issued

Our collection covers 80 years from 1861 to 1941. We currently do not have the books for the years 1858-1860 and there are some gaps for the years 1863, 1868, 1873, 1876, 1877, 1883, 1888, 1899-1903 and 1910-1911.

Somerset Links

This is an index of Somerset Parishes, with links where transcriptions are available on line.

http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/ian.sage/PR/pr_index.html

The "Somerset Coalfield Connections" at Rootsweb contains families connected to Midsomer Norton and surrounding parishes which lie on the Somerset Coalfield. Information obtained from parish or census records.

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=pjc4ax&recno=3018>

UK Death Notices

<http://announce.jpress.co.uk>

Announcements is a service offered by Johnston Press, a UK newspaper publisher. It provides a forum for people to post obituaries and memorials, similar to [MemoryTree](#) or [nzObits](#).

You can search on any word in the Death Notice. Actually it has all types of Family Notices, and seems to have them for the last 3 or 4 years.

Dating Old Photographs

If you have photographs but don't know what era they are from, this may prove useful.

www.cartes.freeuk.com/time/date.htm

NZ Maritime Records Online

New Zealanders looking to learn more about their family trees will soon have access to around three million maritime immigration records. Some 300,000 pages of passenger and crew lists noting who arrived at which New Zealand port in the 1800s, and on what date, have been digitized and are now being uploaded to genealogy website, www.familysearch.org.



The shipping documents have been made available for the public to access online free of charge due to a unique partnership involving Archives New Zealand and FamilySearch, a not-for-profit organization funded by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Around 10% of the records are now online, with the rest to follow in the next few months.

Appendices to Journals of NZ House of Representatives

These appendices contain a vast amount of government related documentation from the 19th century. In 2009/10, the [National Library](#) and [Digital New Zealand](#) provided funds to enable digitising of 24 volumes of the AJHRs, from 1862-1879. These volumes are fully searchable on the AtoJs website.

<http://atojs.natlib.govt.nz/>



Dorset Parish Records Online

[Findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) has added 22,000 baptism, marriage and burial records to its Dorset parish record collection as follows:



- 12,325 baptism records, years 1549 – 1812
- 8,368 marriage records, years 1560 – 1839
- 1,307 burial records, years 1651 – 1795

These records, which have been provided by the Dorset Family History Society, bring the total number of Dorset parish records available at findmypast.co.uk up to almost 450,000.

Now that the records are available online, findmypast.co.uk has been able to unearth some unusual names in the collection. These include a marriage between Martha Loaring and Samuel Single on 14 October 1750 in Bettiscombe, making Martha a married Single.

The Dorset baptisms also offer some amusing entries, including a record for 'Love Dear Bedloe' who was baptised on 27 August 1745 in Dorchester. 'Fruit Carter' can also be found in the parish records, baptised on 17 May 1807 in Chickerell.

The Dorset burial records contain a slightly more sinister discovery: an 'unknown' person buried on 8 April 1815 in Abbotsbury. The notes state that the unknown person was 'found on shore'.

Library News

Recent magazines;

Memories – Aug/Sept

Practical Family History – July

Family Tree – July and August



Also received the Spotswood College Jubilee booklet and the book *NZ Remembers the Second World War*.

Newsletters received;

August: Blenheim, Hutt, Wairaparapa, Stratford, Wellington, Hamilton

September: Canterbury, Stratford and Aug-Sep for Wanganui

Auckland City Libraries website

www.aucklandcitylibraries.com

This site is very useful if you have Auckland research, although there are also references that are not specifically related to Auckland.

To access the free databases (marked ACL), go to the home page and click on "Digital library", then click on "Family History" (under HOT TOPICS) and then click on "Auckland eResources".

I found the searchable "NZ Card Index" of particular interest for my research. One card made reference to a 1900 obituary for my great-grandfather. I was unaware there was an obituary for him in the papers of the time. There were also for this same family, images of marriage notices and a death notice available on the site for me to copy out, plus two other obituaries, I will have to investigate. (Just watch the transcription of notices - refer back to the image of the original as I found mistakes in transcriptions).

I will have to wait till I'm in Auckland and visit the City library, or look at a microfilm of the July 1900 Herald at some other repository to access the obituary. (If you are an Auckland rate-payer / library member, the library will email the relevant material for a small charge.)

Give it a go and let me know how you get on!

Annette Larsen

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 19 September, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

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

