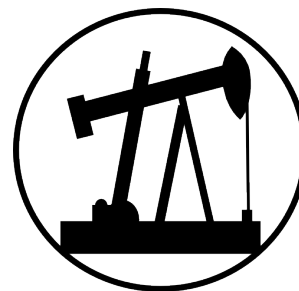


NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 245

May 2011

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
Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: every third Sunday every 2nd month at 1:30pm at the Branch Rooms
Open to everyone - \$2 door charge. Convenor – Bruce Bellini

2011 Branch AGM

The branch Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 3 May 2011, at the branch rooms.

The AGM will consider branch subscription and door charge rates and elect the branch committee for the next year.

Nominations are open for all committee positions, and are especially invited for convenor and for committee members. This is a great way to be more involved in our branch, so please contact a committee member if you are interested.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 3 May 2011

Decoding Army Records

AGM followed by Mike Merrick speaking briefly about his experience regarding a business which decodes army files: Interpretations of Boer War, WW1 and WW2 army service records. These are then beautifully presented.

After Mike's talk, there will be a special supper. You are invited to bring a SMALL plate towards supper if you wish. There should be time to mix and mingle, use the library, etc. Hope to see a good turnout!



Last Meeting – Tuesday 5 April 2011

At the April branch meeting, branch members shared their experiences using the various services provided by NZSG, and how these have helped their family history research.

The NZSG library has an extensive collection of books, microfiche and publications relating to genealogy. These are available for loan.

A free look up service is provided to members. Results can be sent via email, or as printouts through the post (for a small charge). The FRC also provides general advice and assistance on how to progress your research.

The First Families Collection contains information on couples who were born or married in NZ before 1901. New Plymouth branch member John Berntsen is a volunteer who administers the provision of information from this collection.

Special interest groups gather resources and information on particular geographic areas. These can be a great source of assistance if your ancestors are in one of these areas.

NZSG can assist members to access resources outside New Zealand. This includes advice on what is available and how to use it. NZSG can help obtain copies of overseas BDM certificates.

The NZSG website has details on the services available and how to access them. Members can login to the website to access several of the services.

www.genealogy.org.nz.

Certificates Collection

The NZSG certificates collection is a way of sharing birth, death and marriage certificates between members. This is a great way to get certificates at no cost.

However, it relies on members donating copies of certificates they have.

So, help out fellow genealogists: remember to bring copies of your certificates for us to send to the NZSG certificate collection. We can photo copy any A4 size ones in our rooms, if you wish.

From the Convenor's Desk

Well, this is my last of these pieces. I want to wish the new committee for the coming Branch year well and thank all you wonderful people that have served on the committee with me over the last six and a half years. I have made some great friends and have enjoyed the challenges too. I hope to see some more people stand for committee at the coming AGM. It need not be a huge investment of time. The saying goes: many hands make light work.

Last month our meeting looked at the services the NZSG has to offer. My message was to USE THE SERVICES if you are a NZSG member! (Recoup your sub!) It was good to hear from Jill Stachurski who got in contact with the NZSG and got some amazing help leading to a lot of new information.

We also heard from John Berntsen on the First Family collection. Worth checking out!

We all get a bit forgetful where putting in our own information to these NZSG collections is concerned. Have you bothered? If you did bother, maybe you would receive contact from some other NZSG member researching your family. Have you advertised in the NZSG magazine? Great opportunity to see who else is out there researching your family!

Did you take advantage of the free viewing of war records by Ancestry.com over the Easter period? I hope you found some new material. I was interested to see the bad state a lot of the digitised WW1 records I looked at were in. Also I was saddened by some of the information eg. Someone on sick leave who overstayed his leave by a few days and therefore had a bad mark recorded against him on his record. I could understand him not wanting to go back to the killing fields.

Annette signing off.



Branch Librarian

It is with sadness that the committee received Marilyn Armitstead's resignation as head of our library team. She has given 9 years or so to helping to make our Branch library one we can be proud of. A very big thank you, Marilyn, and your team, for all your hard work.

SITUATION VACANT!!

We need someone to step into the coordinating/overseeing of the library and its team, to cover the gap left by Marilyn. If you would like to take on this role or even just be on the team, please see a committee member or Annette.

NZ Family History Fair 2011

The 2011 Family History Fair will be held on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 August 2011, at the Claudeland Events Centre at Hamilton.

<http://nzfhf2010.dnserver.net.nz/>

New Branch Member

We welcome Christine Murphy, who has recently joined our branch.

NZ Memories magazine

Thank you to Carol Spragg and the NZSG Stratford Branch for their donation of Memories magazines.

We have almost a complete set now and the branch will purchase the last 4 missing issues.

These magazines are a wonderful resource that our members can borrow. Check them out!

Not Smith and Jones – Rare Surnames

Research by myheritage.com has identified some of the rarest surnames in Britain. Surnames like Miracle, Relish and Tumbler are rare, while Bread and Spinster are extinct.

Read about more rare and presumed extinct surnames on the myheritage.com blog.

blog.myheritage.com/2011/04/rare-british-surnames

Life in 1911 - UK

Demographics

- The estimated population in England and Wales in 1911 was 36,003,276 people
- Life expectancy was 54 years for women and 50 for men in 1911. In 2011, life expectancy is predicted to be 82 for women and 74 for men (Actuary's Department).
- The average family had 2.8 children in 1911 - the average in 2008 was 1.8 children (ONS).

Economy

- It is estimated that the richest 1 per cent of the population held around 70 per cent of the UK's wealth in 1911, compared with 23 per cent in 2001 (ONS).
- The top five occupations in 1911 were domestic service (1,302,438), agriculture (1,229,555), coal mining (971,236), building (817,942) and cotton manufacture (623,825).
- 5.2% of children aged 10-14 were in employment in 1911.

Politics

- The Liberal Party was in power - although the popularity of the newly formed Labour Party was on the rise in this period.
- The 'Great Unrest' saw a series of strikes across the country in key industries such as the docks, railways and coal mines.
- The 1908 National Insurance Act came into force in 1911, introducing sick pay (10 shillings a week) and unemployment pay (7 shillings a week) (The National Archives).

Historical Photos with maps

WhatWasThere ties historical photos to GoogleMaps, allowing you to tour streets to see how they appeared in the past.

whatwasthere.com

Historypin provides a similar service, enabling users to upload historical photos and displaying them on a map.

www.historypin.com



Pay attention to those witnesses

Often, on the records, the people listed as "witnesses" to a wedding or "informants" of the information (births, deaths) are close family members. Pay attention to these people. Search them out. Knowing more about them will help you to know more about your ancestors.

For example, my great grandmother's wedding registration lists her sister, Janet, as a witness. This particular sister was one of three sisters that my great grandmother had. But she was the oldest sister and the eldest child. My great grandmother was next in line. These two would have taken on a great deal of household management together as their sibling population grew. This helped them to forge a strong bond. The bond in fact was so strong that when my grandmother had her 8th child and was living next to her mother in law, my great granny suggested that the child be named after Janet's husband as a way to honour his role and position in the family. Thus, my uncle was named William Lorimer Colquhon Crawford.

It was also learned that when my grandfather's first wife, Sarah, died in childbirth, the baby that survived was raised by my great granny's sister, Janet. My great granny took over care of the eldest 5 children, but the baby was placed in the care of her favourite sister. The two women lived close to one another and so the sibling group was essentially kept intact.

Naming my uncle after this sister's husband was also a way of saying "thank you" for this couple stepping up and caring for my grandfather's baby after his first wife had died suddenly. Janet was in no way obligated to care for Sarah's child. She would have been assisting with her own grandchildren. But as a favour to my great grandmother she opened up her heart and her home and took the baby in.

So, pay attention to the seemingly minor parties on certificates, do some sleuthing and you will be pleasantly surprised at the bonds and connections you find. This will help you to flesh out more intimate details about your ancestors and will add to your living history of them.

From BRANTches, newsletter of the Brant County branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society.

1911 Census for Scotland

The 1911 Census for Scotland is now online on [ScotlandsPeople](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk). This census details information collected from more than 4.7 million Scots - marking a century since the data was first gathered.

The census images include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children. For the first time, the census images are available in full colour.

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Library News

New library acquisition: The NZ Early Settlers' Locator CD Rom has been ordered.



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Motueka, South Canterbury, Wairarapa
Brant (Canada)

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 29 May 2011, at the branch rooms. This is the AGM for the New Plymouth GCG branch.



Newsletter

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

