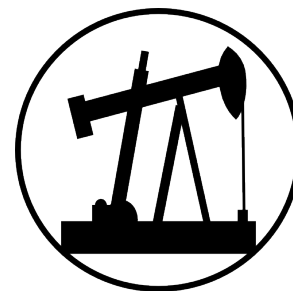




NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 251

November 2011

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

Christmas 2011

Yes, it is November already. So Christmas can't be far away.



Pot Luck Dinner

The branch Christmas event will be a pot luck dinner. This will be on Sunday 4 December at the branch rooms and is the last branch event this year.

BYO plates, cutlery, drinks and a food dish. There is a microwave available, but no oven or fridge.

Summer break

The branch rooms will be closed over the Christmas / New Year period.

last day for 2011; Sat 10 December 2011

first day for 2012; Monday 16 January 2012

Next meeting: 7:30pm Tues 1 Nov 2011

History @ Daily News

This month, our guest speaker is Vicki Price, history writer for the Taranaki Daily News.

Vicki will speak about her research for the columns she writes for the Taranaki Daily News and will tell us about her favourite articles.

The scrap books of the information she has gathered, while carrying out her research, will be on display.

NZSG Index CD

The next edition of the NZSG Kiwi Index will be available from the NZSG website from Friday 28 October 2011.



Convenor:
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: John Berntsen 753 9188

Committee: Judy Berntsen
 Anne Brophy
 Charles Le Breton
 Ailsa McCrone
 Bev Mulqueen

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

Last Meeting – Tuesday 4 October 2011

Scandinavian Research

The speaker for our October meeting was our very own Bruce Bellini with a very informative talk on Scandinavian research. A show of hands revealed that about half of those present had a Scandinavian connection in their family tree. This is not surprising given the huge influx of Scandinavians to the Hawkes Bay area in the 1870s.

Bruce brought along his mother's beautiful wooden jewellery box and recounted how for many years it had always contained an old newspaper cutting. Bruce was aware of the cutting's existence but wasn't interested in genealogy at the time. His wife, Lea, started doing family research first and the news cutting got a fresh look. A translation of the Danish uncovered the fact that the article was about Bruce's ancestor, Christian Edvard Krogh, and that two of his children came out to New Zealand in the early days.

The preliminary research meant visits to the LDS church Family History Centre in New Plymouth, and the checking of the IGI and also ordering of LDS films of parish registers. Fortunately Bruce and Lea were introduced to a local Danish man who could help them and help with translating of documents.

NZ electoral rolls were also consulted and fortunately Krogh is quite an uncommon name in NZ. Letters (maybe 20) were written to all Kroghs in the electoral rolls. A number of these people replied to the letters and there was a sharing and building up of information. Some didn't reply. Several replied twenty years later! The Bellinis built up a tree of every Krogh in NZ. They were all related to the two children who came out originally from Denmark. Many had ended up in the Napier area.

Armed with all the information from his research spanning many years Bruce last year finally put together a book on his Krogh ancestry which has been well received by the extended family. Three years ago things became a lot easier because of the amount of information on the internet for genealogists.

Scandinavian History

Bruce said one has to approach Scandinavian research from a different angle and gave us a

potted Scandinavian history from Roman times through to the present day. I found this particularly interesting as I have done a lot of Norwegian research but not really got into the historical background. Bruce's talk made me realise how important this history is to appreciate the total picture.

The Barbarian hordes came down from the north and overthrew the Roman Empire. The Dark Ages followed. About 600AD the Vikings were hugely influential in Europe and took charge slowly of the old world. The Vikings in their long boats were a great sea power who controlled the sea and thus trade and communication routes. Their decline began in 1066 when the Vikings were routed from the UK at the battle of Stamford Bridge.

Slowly the Vikings lost their power in Europe. Sweden, Norway and Denmark had been one kingdom but in 1523 Sweden gained independence from Danish rule. However, the three Scandinavian countries had been ruled by one monarch for hundreds of years.

1801 – Great Britain attacked the neutral Danish-Norwegian kingdom. Seven years of war followed between Great Britain and Scandinavia. (The famous Lord Nelson was part of this.) Britain occupied Copenhagen in 1807 and it was largely burnt down in the last battle of the war. In 1807 Denmark and Norway were separated as part of the peace settlement. The Danes were given Schleswig and Holstein in exchange for the separating of Norway, but this led to wars over these two territories. Denmark ruled Schleswig and Holstein from 1807 till 1850.

Scandinavian Naming Patterns –Patronymics

Up till 1850 the Scandinavians used a different naming pattern from the conventional European.

“Datter” after a name is “daughter of”, thus “Larsdatter” is daughter of Lars.

“sen” after a name is “son of” thus Larsen. This becomes complicated as in three generations you can have three changes of surname!

1850-1900 sees a mixing of this system. Within the same family a mix of the two conventions can be found. It may have depended on who registered the birth. Brothers therefore can have different surnames.

Also many children were named after the Danish monarchs, Christian and Frederick, and girls



were often named Christina or Fredericka. Remember that Norway and Denmark shared a monarch for many years.

To prevent confusion over surnames in everyday life the Scandinavians have conventions such as nicknames or calling someone "the son of Niels, the baker."

Visit to Copenhagen

Bruce and Lea eventually visited Copenhagen to continue their research. The fact that ancestor Christian Krogh had been in the navy helped them in their endeavours. People who have been in the services are easier to research, Bruce said. Houses had been built in Copenhagen for navy personnel and the Bellinis were able to visit the house Christian Krogh lived in.

Also Christian Krogh was registered in Holmen's church in Copenhagen, where the royal family worship. Bruce and Lea were able to see the original register there. Bruce had photos of the church and Christian's home to show us on the power point presentation.

State Archive of Denmark

www.sa.dk

This amazing site, containing census records among other things, is free to use and there is help for English-speaking users. There is an English translation of common words. Also on clicking on "generic instructions" you can download a PDF for use of the archive. You really need this beside you for each screen. There is also a PDF download "How to Read the Church Registers" giving help with translations etc.

Often there are two registers for the same time period. One is for males and the other is females. With a large number of pages to choose, you have to use some intelligent guessing and take a punt re which page to click on to download the image. There is a lot of information in these records which can help you to positively identify the person you are looking for.

Censuses 1787 – 1930

The Danish Demographic Database (DDD) on the internet. -www.ddd.dda.dk

The site contains searchable data on censuses, emigrants, immigrants, and some links to other

sources.

These census records are searchable and in English. Once you have found the information you can then see an actual image of the census on the State Archive.

Norwegian records

www.arkiverket.no

The National Archives of Norway are free to use and have an English translation. Click on "digital archives".

Bruce closed by saying he was impressed by Danish records. He commented though that the language was difficult and the written word bore slight resemblance to what one hears.

A very worthwhile talk. Thank you, Bruce.

Annette Larsen

From the caretaker Convenor

Family History Notebooks are available for immediate sale at the branch rooms, \$8 each

Well another month is nearly over. Bruce Bellini gave us a very informative talk (reviewed this newsletter) and next week we have Vicki Price who also should be interesting.

For NZSG members, you can order a name tag online for \$15. Just go to the website and follow the instructions.

Also, another attempt to hold this year's AGM will be held on 21 January 2012 in Auckland (venue to be advised). Of the 4000 members in the Auckland region, they still couldn't get a quorum of 100 members at the last one.

John Berntsen

Review: Inside History Magazine

This edition of this magazine has an excellent range of topics including articles related to the military. It has an easy to read, interesting style, and attractive presentation. The topics covered are largely Australian based but with a very similar heritage to that of NZers and many family connections there is much to relate to.

We understand there will be more NZ material available in the future.

A CD is included with the Sept / Oct issue which I have not tried. It is titled 'My Heritage ... Family



Tree Builder ... Exceptional Family Tree Builder'. The CD could be worth a look if you are not already using a computer genealogy programme.

In my opinion, well worth a read.

Bev Mulqueen

Australia's Trove of historic newspapers

No doubt you've heard how great [PapersPast](#) is for researching New Zealand history through old newspapers. Well, there is an equivalent service providing free access to historical Australian newspapers.

Like PapersPast, more historical material is still being added to Trove. So, it is worthwhile checking back occasionally, as something on one of your ancestors may have been added.

An interesting feature of Trove is one that enables readers to correct the text version of the old newspapers. The old newspapers have been scanned in and machine read to convert to text. But this conversion is not always accurate, especially when the scan quality is not good. This feature enables thousands of users to help by correcting errors in the machine scanned text.

trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper

Scottish Parents; new books in 2012

The Dunedin Family History Group is compiling articles for two books to be published in 2012. The first is called "A Scottish Mother" and the second is called "A Scottish Father" and both will be published in time for Mothers and Fathers Day 2012. The only criteria is the person you are writing about must have been a mother or father born in Scotland and died anywhere in New Zealand. Articles can be submitted by anyone. They do not have to be members of the group. Anyone interested in further details can contact the editor at dfhg@xtra.co.nz

This is another way to record your family history to pass on to future generations.

Another 67,000 Scottish records

Burial and cremation records for the cities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh are the latest additions to www.deceasedonline.com.

Over 22,000 burial records dating back to 1824 are from three Aberdeen City cemeteries; Nigg, Trinity and St Nicholas Kirkyard. The records are in the form of scans of burial registers, dues registers and burial indexes (full details are in the database coverage section on the website).

Register scans for a further 45,000 cremations from Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh are also now available, covering the period 1991 to 2009. This brings the total number of records on Deceased Online for Warriston Crematorium to nearly 225,000, covering 1937 to 2009.

Deceasedonline is a pay to use website, providing access to a database of UK burial and cremation records.

NZSG 2012 AGM and Conference

The 2012 NZSG AGM and Conference will be held at Taupo from 1 to 3 June 2012. The theme is; Volcanic Taupo – Steaming Ahead.

Library News

Magazines received;

Inside History

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Brant, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Otaki, Palmerston North, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington, Whakatane



Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 20 November 2011, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

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

