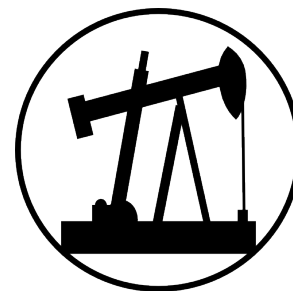




NZSG

New Plymouth

Branch Newsletter



Number 254

March 2012

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

Resources in our branch library

Did you know that we have copies of the following CDs available for research at our rooms?

- NZSG Seminar Presentations; Family History Fair, Hamilton 2010.
- NZ Burial Locator
- NZ Marriages 1836-1956

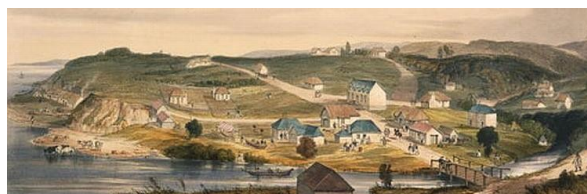
Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 6 Mar 2012

New Plymouth Pioneers

Phyl Haarer will talk about her pioneer ancestors who came to New Plymouth in 1842 on the *Blenheim*, the fifth ship of the New Plymouth Settlement.

From Devon and Somerset, they were of three generations and comprised 14 family members and three servants, and many of their descendants still live in Taranaki.

Now retired from her career in teaching and education publishing, Phyl works in archives at Puke Ariki.



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: Channel Island Research

At our February branch meeting, Charles Le Breton explained about genealogy research in the Channel Islands.

The Channel Islands are now considered just a small part of the UK. Their unique history and background including connection/proximity to the French mainland, political and sometimes religious differences however set them apart. Many local records and earlier family history sources exist particularly prior to 1841. The individual islands although having some similarities are also usually different.

Using Jersey as a guide, some records are island wide (e.g. 1815 Militia census) but others cover only part of the island (the 1788 census details St. Lawrence Parish only). For the 1788 census, for parishes other than St Lawrence, only the total population of each parish was included but even this is interesting as the population of St. Helier, the main town, was about 15000 in 1788 and the biggest parish (Holy) Trinity had about 22000. It makes you realise how difficult it must have been not to marry a close relation and hence the need to look for a spouse in a different parish. The numerous De Gruchy family is an interesting case in point. On numerous occasions De Gruchy married De Gruchy. Sounds a bit incestuous but I am sure the required separation was maintained.

I will not endeavour to cover all but if your family is an old island one I encourage you to borrow the Channel Island FHS magazines as they are full of all sorts of references and stories. As with many other parts of the world from about 1800 English and Irish regiments were posted to many parts including the Channel Islands with the result that some extra families were added. They often only stayed for a generation or two and sometimes intermarried with the locals before moving on. Several other groups were conspicuous - particularly Huguenots as they fled the oppressive regime in France. Many of these only used the Channel Islands as a stop gap before venturing to other shores – e.g. England, USA, Canada. Many of the French clergy also got postings to Channel Island churches.

Helpful web sites

www.theislandwiki.org This includes links to both the Donkipedia (Guernsey) and Jerripedia

(Jersey) web sites. More information is being added to these sites all the time. Assets include stories about many local families and over 600 family trees. Also gradually being added are many BDM records back to the 1500-1600s.

www.jerseyheritagetrust.jeron.je/archive.html includes a link to OPAC which has a good search function and includes the 1941 German Occupancy records.

www.jerseyfamilyhistory.org The Channel Island Family History Society site includes a partial index to their magazine and much other interesting information.

Other sources

NZSG Channel Islands Interest Group magazines – copies from about 1990? to 2006 when the group went into recess are now in our library

Channel Island FHS magazines are available for loan through NZSG Panmure.

Audio tapes available through NZSG Panmure – see NZSG library catalogue for details.

Shipping index for Channel Island immigrants from 1860 to 1880 transcribed from Archives NZ records and other sources. An electronic database containing these is held at Panmure.

Many other books and records which can no doubt be searched for on NZSG site.

Hope this is of some help. I am available for questions anytime (Ph. 7512879) – Charles Le Breton.

Next Meeting

The next branch meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 3 April 2012.

Taranaki Herald 1900

An article in the Taranaki Herald of 9 June 1900 stated that an old Bible was bought for a trifle at a London bookstand. The purchaser, an elderly lady, found pasted between the leaves, four £5 notes, with a written statement to the effect that the testator had no heirs, and left the £20 to the person who found them in the Bible.



NZSG Online Forum

The NZSG has run an email list for several years, but now this has been taken down as it had become outdated and a challenge to maintain.

As an alternative, NZSG is advising members to use a gmail group set up by Wendy Howard.

<http://groups.google.com/group/nzsg-memlist?hl=en>

Follow this link and click apply for membership. You'll then need to enter your name and NZSG number.

Commonwealth War Graves

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission has recently upgraded their website. In addition to the new look, updated content is being added regularly, so it is worth revisiting.

www.cwgc.org

Also check out the War Graves Photographic Project, which aims to photograph every war grave, individual memorial, Ministry of Defence grave and family memorial, covering from WW1 to the present day.

www.twgpp.org

Heather Hall

The January / February 2012 edition of the NZSG journal advises of the death of Heather Hall at Middlemore in September 2011. Please note that this is not the same Heather Hall who is a member of our branch.

NZSG Library Service

The NZSG library service has increased borrowing limits. As of 13 February, the number of items you are allowed to borrow has increased.

Ordinary, lifetime and youth members may borrow 4 items and joint members may borrow 8

items. This is great news for those people who want to borrow more! Please note that due to the nature of glossy magazines (such as Family Tree Magazine), these will be limited to 2 copies at a time so that we can ensure everyone has a chance to borrow them in a timely manner.

Please remember that if you are using the postal borrowing service, outwards postage is free. When the volunteers are putting together your order, if they think the postage is going to be hefty, they will email you to ensure you are happy to pay the return postage.

Library News

A copy of the book *Still Building* by Willie and Rosalie Still will be purchased for the branch library.



Magazines received;

Genealogist (Jan/Feb)

Family Tree (Feb)

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Otaki, South Canterbury, Wellington

Midlands & Northern England Interest Group News

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 18 March 2012, at the branch rooms.



Newsletter

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

