



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 267

May 2013

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

AGM

At the May monthly meeting, we will be holding the branch Annual General Meeting.

Your branch needs more volunteers to serve on the committee. This is a great chance participate more with other branch members. It is not a big commitment, so please give it your serious consideration.

The AGM will be held at 7:30 pm, followed by Ron's talk about the Taranaki dairy industry.



All members, please bring a plate for a shared supper after the meeting.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 May 2013

Milk Solids

There are around 115 survivors - some abandoned and disregarded - of the cheese and butter-making industry that has so dominated the social and economic scene in Taranaki for the last 130 years. Ron Lambert takes us on a personal journey around the province looking at a few of the survivors.

Ron has many years experience working on local Taranaki history, and he is currently senior researcher at Puke Ariki.



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

Committee: Judy Berntsen
 Anne Brophy
 Margaret Gregory
 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: Dicky Noodles

At our April meeting, there was a good turnout of members to hear Graeme Duckett of Waitara speak about his research into the identity of an old Waitara identity, Dicky Noodles.

Graeme's first step was to interview a number of people who lived in the Waipapa beach area where Dicky had once lived. He also wrote to people around the North Island. All had stories to tell of Dicky Noodles but didn't know his real name. Eventually he rang a lady who did know the identity. Dicky's real name was Didrik (Diedrich) Magnus Hendrik Wohlert, a Norwegian. Gradually Graeme pieced the snippets of information together.

Several people gave Graeme pieces of Dicky's exquisite craftwork – a bag (sailors' macramé) dating back to the 1930's, and a belt. These were passed round and admired.

Graeme found the Norway heritage website (www.norwayheritage.com) very useful and used the forum on it with great success. Worth a look if you have Scandinavian research.

Now knowing his mystery man's identity, Graeme found lots of information on the Paperspast website and a number of these stories were shared with us.

The big help was getting Didrik's naturalisation papers. They were an astonishing 30 pages long! Didrik applied for naturalisation in 1925 without success and again in 1935 with final success. He had been in trouble with the law in 1917 after being caught running a racket between Waitara and Mokau selling stolen whisky. (Mokau was a dry area at the time.) This was not the first time he had been up in court for misdemeanours.

In his attempt to get naturalisation Didrik told some lies as he didn't want to show he had any dependants.

Graeme put something up on the internet about Didrik and received an email from a lady in England who was delighted by Graeme's discoveries as Didrik was her long lost great grandfather! It turned out that Didrik had a son in England, born in 1902. By 1907 Didrik was in New Zealand, having left his family.

Graeme also subsequently received a letter and photos of Bergen from one of Didrik's descendants in Bergen, Norway. How exciting

for Didrik's descendants to finally know what happened to their ancestor and to be given photos and a large amount of information on Didrik by Graeme.

Graeme also spoke briefly about his research into the commercial history of Waitara, 1867-1967. Here he used Post Office Directories to ensure accuracy of information that people had given him. A lot of intense work at the Wellington Archives was also necessary. Graeme talked about his recording of the amazing memories of a lot of old people to whom he had spoken.

In conclusion Graeme said that you have to be passionate about what you are doing or you are wasting your time.

(PS – Check the 1917 NZ Alien Records if you are researching a person who is not of British origin.)

Annette Larsen

Empty Printer Cartridges

Please bring your empty printer cartridges in to the branch rooms. These can be either ink jet or laser cartridges, but we can only use HP or Canon types at present.

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



Wine Boxes

Our branch library needs more empty cardboard wine boxes to store various items such as magazines.

If you have any of these, please bring them along to the branch rooms.



Restoration of Swainson Woods Collection

A large group of NP NZSG members enjoyed a very informative talk at the Puke Ariki Museum and Library on Wednesday 24 April 2013. Exhibition curators Ruth Harvey and Charlotte Stace provided an excellent explanation of the process involved to save, select and restore the collection including the part a number of our own members had played in the initial rescue.

There were originally about 250,000 photographic negatives but with the necessary destruction of dangerous nitrate film and the elimination of duplicates, this had been trimmed down to 110,000. Some 6,000 have been digitised so far and a team of 4 will be working for the next 3 years to complete the task.

Apart from explaining the restoration process and some of the difficulties that had to be overcome, the thinking behind the current photo display was explained including a competition currently being held to pick the best or most interesting photo. This is open to all visitors to the exhibition.

We were then taken to the actual cool storage facility in the library and shown how and where the collection of negatives was stored.

The meeting finished with a cup of tea while Ruth and Charlotte provided more information and answered questions.

Charles Le Breton

Kopuatama Cemetery, Stratford

The Kopuatama Cemetery (Stratford's main cemetery) now has photos of headstones included with the online cemetery search results.

www.stratford.govt.nz

Unfortunately a number of headstones can't be read as they are covered with lichen, and the Council felt they didn't have the right to clean headstones before photographing them. Other Central Taranaki cemeteries will have photos available soon.

Carol Spragg
(from NZSG mailing list)

Visit of NZSG Executive

A small group of 11 including our two visitors met at the Branch Rooms on Saturday 27 April 2013 for a pot luck tea and opportunity for NZSG President Michelle Patient and Council member Barbara Wyley to meet and explain some of the current NZSG happenings and items of interest. A number of problems and potential remedies were also discussed.

The meal as is usual with such events was excellent with nobody going hungry. We decided to eat first but followed this later with desert and a cup of tea.

Because of the small number present we proceeded on a relatively informal basis with us all sitting around a large table. I (Chas Le Breton) managed to put my foot in it at the start by jokingly calling our visitors Jaffa's but this proved to be an interesting introduction for Michelle to explain her research including links to Australia and even the Mainland and the fact did not hail from Auckland. We then went around the table with everybody having the same opportunity. Our other visitor Barbara also turned out to be an ex - Christchurch girl so we ended up one happy family.

Following desert Michelle presented us with an explanation of the workings of NZSG including some of the services provided and how they had to be ever vigilant to ensure compliance with privacy laws. She also stated how some of these services could be better utilised to give members better value for their membership. For example they had about 70 volunteers that were available for research but were often under worked.

An explanation was also provided about the search for a more suitable ground floor premises with better parking together with a reminder of branch obligations of NZSG membership requirements.

Special thanks should be given to Annette Larsen for billeting the visitors.

Charles Le Breton



Did you know?

The Puke Ariki Research Centre has a collection of family records, photographs and other topics of local interest compiled by local people. There may be an item in this collection of interest to you. You can create your own file/s related to your family, special interests, club events or local news events etc. It is also possible to add to and explore existing files. Contributions to this are welcome and ongoing. Ask at the Puke Ariki Resource Centre help desk for more information.

Beverley Mulqueen

Internet Links

The National Library of Wales has historical newspapers online, from the period 1844 to 1910. This includes 250,000 pages available free online.

welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk

The London Lives website makes available, in a fully digitised and searchable form, a wide range of primary sources about eighteenth-century London, with a particular focus on plebeian Londoners. This resource includes over 240,000 manuscript and printed pages from eight London archives and is supplemented by fifteen datasets created by other projects. It provides access to historical records containing over 3 million name instances.

www.londonlives.org

Donations

The branch is most grateful for the following books donated to the branch library.

Colin Nichols has donated two editions of *Good Morning New Zealand*, one of the 1930s and the other of the 1950s.

Neville Richards donated the book *So You're in the News Again?*, newspaper cuttings of the Rickerby and Addison families.

Brick Wall?

Have you struck a brick wall in your research? Has research along an ancestral line come to a dead end? Don't know where else to look?

Well, come along to the branch rooms at Moturoa, which are on Whiteley St. We are there on Monday 10 am to 3 pm, Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm, and Saturdays 10 am to 12 noon. We'll do our best to help you find answers. We have a lot of local school, church and cemetery records available, also several years of electoral rolls. The TBI (Taranaki Biographical Index) has been recently updated and now has over 537,000 records.

Judy Berntsen

Members' Interests

There is a file of branch members' interests at our rooms, which has been contributed to by members past and present. This may contain information relevant to your research and could be well worth a look. Forms are available at the rooms. Ask the librarian.

There are some members interests posted on the branch website, but these are only from members who have asked for them to be posted there. The file in the rooms has the larger list.

www.genealogynp.com/members.html

Library News

Magazines received;

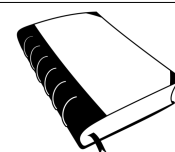
Your Family History (May)

Family Tree (May)

The Genealogist (April)

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Inglewood, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington



Newsletter

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

