



## NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



**Number 213**

**June 2008**

<p><b>Convenor:</b> Annette Larsen    Ph 758 3320  <b>Treasurer:</b> Lea Bellini      Ph 758 0130  <b>Secretary:</b> John Pickering    Ph 758 4952</p> <p><b>Committee:</b> Marilyn Armitstead, Judy Berntsen,          John Berntsen, Michael Butler,          Karen Crowe, Elly Harrison,          Marjorie McMahon, Mike Merrick,          Marilyn Reid</p> <p><b>Editor:</b> Peter Wicky          Email- <a href="mailto:wicky.family@ihug.co.nz">wicky.family@ihug.co.nz</a></p>	<p><b>New Plymouth Branch</b>  <b>P.O. Box 429,</b>  <b>New Plymouth 4340</b></p> <p><b>Meetings:</b> 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month          at Branch Rooms, Moturoa          Shopping Centre          access off Whiteley St Carpark  <b>Email:</b>  <a href="mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.co.nz">newplymouth@genealogy.co.nz</a>  <b>Website:</b>  <a href="http://www.genealogynp.com">http://www.genealogynp.com</a></p>
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**Branch Library:** open free to members and to visitors for a small charge.  
**Opening Hours: Monday:** 10am to 3pm: **Wednesday:** 12 noon to 3pm  
**Friday & Saturday:** 10am to 12 noon  
**Computer Group:** meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except December and January. All welcome- \$2 door charge. **Convenor-** Peter Hewett **Secretary/Treasurer-** John Bernsten

### Branch News

**Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> May** About twenty members visited the New Plymouth Base Hospital's newly set up Archives Room while others made use of the Branch rooms to do research. Thanks to Karen Crowe for organising the visit.

**Next Meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm** Janet Murdoch will talk about the Railway houses located in Welbourn.

### **Programme 2008..**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	Report from Conference
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	Sharing Evening – Skeletons, Black Sheep and Heirlooms.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sep</b>	Finale of 'This is Your Past'
<b>Oct/Nov</b>	To be arranged

**Members' Subscriptions are now overdue:** Single - \$30; Double: \$40 and Outside Taranaki \$20. The door charge of \$2 remains the same. Payment can be made to Lea Bellini at a meeting or by post to P.O. Box 429 New Plymouth 4340.

**Thanks** to Phillip Gild for his donation of a copy of the Hamlin Family History now on the Branch Library shelves

**‘This is your Past.’** Mike Merrick reports that the project is under way with Con and Ros Robertshawe being chosen as the ‘Lay Persons.’ The launch article appeared in the *North Taranaki Midweek* on 21<sup>st</sup> May under *Family Lines*. The Slater (rugby) family has been chosen as the ‘Prominent Family’ and their launch appeared in the *Midweek* of 28<sup>th</sup> May.

**Welcome to New Members** – Diahne Peck Aro and Pam Coxhead.

**Branch Projects** Marilyn Reid reports that the indexing of the New Plymouth Boys’ High School admissions records up to 1960 has been completed. These are available in hard copy as well as on the Taranaki Biographical Index (TBI) at the Branch library.

### ***From our Branch Library***

**Newly arrived:** the May 2008 Issue of *Practical Family History Magazine*. In this issue there are the following articles:

- *Genealogist’s Eye View*. Steve Thomas outlines the most efficient way to search for your ancestors. He will look at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) in the June issue.
- *Finding Your Folks in Norfolk*. Alan Stewart discusses the resources available here for family historians.
- *How to use Parish Clerks*. John Hanson helps you discover parish records which could be available for you at some of the websites of Online Parish Clerks.

### **Family History Centre hours**

The Centre is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 3pm. However you should contact Joy Okey (753 4831) on the morning before you plan to visit.

### ***NZSG Matters***

**January Congress:** The AFFHO’s 12<sup>th</sup> Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry will run over 16-20 January 2009. The venue for this is King’s College in Otahuhu, Auckland. Registration for the full Congress will open soon and if paid by 30<sup>th</sup> September will be \$NZ395. This includes all lunches and afternoon teas. For further details about the programme, accommodation, local resources available and tours visit the NZSG website [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz).

**Reminder:** NZSG has made available free to NZSG members the searchable *Gale Newspaper Collection* at the NZSG website above. You need to log in and then click on Services and then on the Drop-down menu click on Online Newspapers to gain access to the website.

### ***Of Interest***

From **Archives New Zealand – Online Exhibitions and Features**

Archives NZ holds the Active Service-Fatal Casualty Forms (AABK 519) of the First NZEF 1914-18. Accessible (online) are nearly 700 forms for New Zealand military personnel killed in October 1917 at Passchendaele (Flanders, Belgium) during the Third Battle of Ypres. Most of these soldiers are in the Tyne Cot Military Cemetery at Passchendaele, the largest of the Commonwealth War Graves Cemeteries where nearly 12,000 soldiers are buried. However not all New Zealand dead from the battle are buried at Tyne Cot. Many were carried back to Field Ambulances only to succumb from their wounds later. They lie in cemeteries established near these medical facilities -291 being buried at Lijssenthoek Military cemetery and 118 at nearby Nine Elms British Cemetery including 1905 All Blacks Captain – Dave Gallagher. Refer [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

## The Swiss Connection in Taranaki.



Immigrants from Switzerland have played a significant part in the history of Taranaki particularly through their involvement in the development of the dairy industry. In 1916<sup>1</sup> nearly half of the 670 Swiss-born people recorded as living in New Zealand had settled in Taranaki and were mainly involved in dairy farming. Later in the early 1900s some shifted north to the Waikato and Auckland as land opened up there for farming,

A number of families in Taranaki are likely to have an ancestral connection with Switzerland as a result of this Swiss presence in the province. Researching this connection however can be difficult unless you are aware of the different aspects of Swiss citizenship and the system of recording births, marriages and deaths in Switzerland. As a Swiss person you are first a citizen of the Federal Republic; then a citizen of a Canton and finally a citizen of the community in which you are living. In each case there are separate rights and obligations.

However in Switzerland you also have an official connection with another community known variously as the *Heimatort*, the *Bürgerort* or *Heimatgemeinde* – the ‘Home Community.’ For most Swiss this is not the place they are presently living in but a place where their family, usually the father’s family, first received citizenship rights - sometimes generations ago.

Births, marriages and deaths are registered with the authorities in the place of residence but there is an obligation also to record these with the authorities at your ‘Home Community’. For the researcher, knowing your family’s ‘Home Community’ is important for it is there that you may be able to find records of your family over the generations. If you do not know your ancestor’s ‘Home Community’, the following may be of help in locating it.

- The ‘Home Community’ may be recorded in documentation provided by a Swiss ancestor to the NZ Department of Internal Affairs when applying for naturalisation. Such documentation can be obtained through Archives NZ in the usual way. The 1917 Aliens Registration Act prompted many Swiss settlers to apply for naturalisation following the end of WW1.
- In French Cantons such as Vaud, records of births, marriages and deaths were recorded in a ‘Livret de Famille’ (Family Booklet) and this may still exist among family possessions. It will usually indicate that your ancestor was ‘*of*’ a particular ‘Home Community’ as distinct from the place of domicile.
- The ‘Register of Swiss Surnames’ (*Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz*) is the main research tool available for finding your ancestor’s ‘Home Community.’ It can be ordered at LDS Family History Centres in microfiche (1940 edition, 11 microfiches #6053507). It is available also as a book in the major libraries in Switzerland if you are visiting there.
- Another source for finding the ‘Home Community’ for citizenship (before 1861) is to be found in the *The Swiss Surname Directory* (in the early stage of development). This is able to be searched online for citizenship before 1861, at the *Swiss Genealogy on the Internet* website below. You will need to take particular note of section 3 which deals with the abbreviations used in the Directory and also click on the link which lists abbreviations for the names of Cantons. <http://www.genealogienetz.de/reg/CH/famnam-m.htm>

Having located the ‘Home Community,’ you may choose to write directly to the Home Community Registry Office itself for research to be done on your behalf. Alternatively you can make use of the IGI with the cautions outlined in Roy Stockdil’s excellent article on how to make the most of the IGI in *Practical Family History* March 2008 Issue available from the Branch Library.

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<sup>1</sup> From Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand: New Zealand Peoples

You need to verify information by looking at the original source and here you can make use of LDS films (source information from the IGI) of Church records for births, deaths and marriages for the 'Home Community' where available. These can be ordered at your nearest Family History Centre.

### Useful Websites for researching Swiss genealogy

<http://www.eye.ch/swissgen/gener-e.htm> provides an introduction to Swiss research and links to other information on Switzerland.

<http://www.cyndislist.com/swiss.htm> a wealth of sites and links.

<http://www.kintracking.com/Switzerland/index.html> This is the World GeneaWeb site.

### New Genealogy Research Guides for England and Scotland

FamilySearch have announced (2/05/08) the release of two 'new (& free) research tools that will help those with British and Scottish roots to find their ancestors.' These join other guides provided by FamilySearch in the past for African-American, Danish, Finnish, French, Icelandic, Italian, Jewish, Mexican, Norwegian and Swedish research. Copies can be viewed, downloaded (3.1Mb for the English guide) or printed for free online at the LDS website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

The guides appear to be easy to use. Explanation is given about which records to use and how. The Guides use real-life case studies which allow the reader to follow the research process and see how it works. There are expert research tips, colour-graphics, maps and lists of key events in each country. Worksheets are provided for the researcher to use.

### Those unusual Occupations - from the May Newsletter

Baxter and Boniface – bakers

Hayward – Keeper of fences

Ostler – looked after horses

Higgler - an itinerant peddler

Scrivener – a public copyist

Dowser - a water diviner

Leech – a doctor

Tide-Waiter – a customs official

### A Request for Information. Can you help? Roy Komene writes –

'I have a copy of a letter to William Wakefield and a list of 14 emigrant families ( the total of 57 includes children) who were removed to Auckland from New Plymouth as undesirable settlers by the New Zealand Company Resident Magistrate J Wicksteed, on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 1845.

I would appreciate only information that has points of reference; that actually states or explains the official reasons as to why these settlers were classified as undesirables in the early settlement of New Plymouth.

The family I am researching is the Lukies who arrived in the *Amelia Thompson* in 1841 and after their removal eventually settled in Emu Plains, New South Wales.'

Roy's contact is: (06) 751 1246.

**For Sale:** 1906 Volume 6 NZ Encyclopaedia for Taranaki. Good condition - \$150. Contact Joan Bak at [bak@info.net.co.nz](mailto:bak@info.net.co.nz)

### A Laugh to end with

Genealogists' diet: Fiche and Ships topped with tantalising Sources.  
'No' – 'yes' – 'maybe' – 'could be.' Musings of a genealogist.

*Your contributions to this newsletter are welcomed. Email to Peter Wicky Editor: [wicky.family@ihug.co.nz](mailto:wicky.family@ihug.co.nz)*