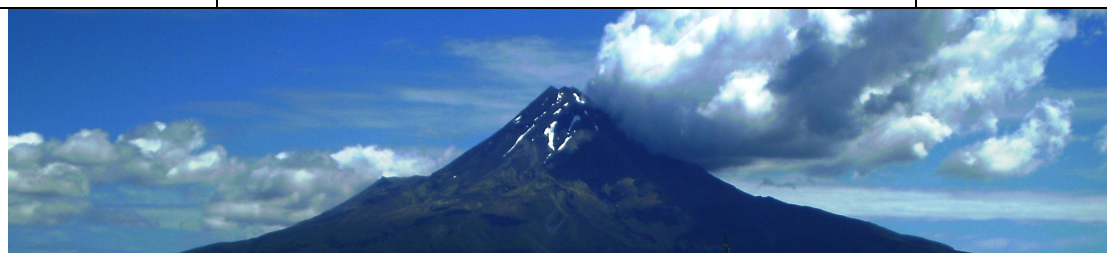




NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 220

February 2009

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
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New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

Meetings: 1st Tuesday each month at
 Branch Rooms 7.30pm, Moturoa
 Shopping Centre
 access off Whiteley St Carpark

Email:
newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz

Website:
<http://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

Friday & Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Computer Group: meets every 3rd Sunday at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except December and January. All welcome- \$2 door charge. **Convenor** - Peter Hewett; **Acting Secretary** - Bruce Bellini; **Acting Treasurer** - Lea Bellini.

Branch News

Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd February –A guided walk through Te Henui Cemetery at 7pm. The Branch Rooms will also be open at 7pm for members not going on the Walk and if the Walk is cancelled because of wet weather.

Programme for 2009

Topics planned for Branch Meetings in 2009 include:

- AGM - in May
- Taranaki Between the Wars.
- Family Treemaker (latest version) demonstration.
- UK Counties night
- Education Officer from Waiouru Army Museum
- Research night

Dates for these will be announced later.

Welcome to our newest member: Hugh Aldridge who lives in Chartham, Kent, England and is planning to visit Taranaki early in the year to do research.

Branch members are asked to give consideration to becoming members of the Branch Committee. Contact a Committee member if you would like to stand for election at the Annual General Meeting in May.

NZSG Matters

Changes to accessing BDM records from the Department of Internal Affairs

The Birth, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Amendment Act came into force on the 25th January 2009. As a consequence there will be changes in the way you access and order birth, death, marriage and civil union certificates.

The January/February 2009 issue of the NZSG Journal *The NZ Genealogist* will have an article giving full coverage of the new regulations governing what records are able to be accessed and how orders are now to be placed.

The following is a brief summary of the new situation.

BDM s are now divided into two classes- Historical Data and Non-Historical Data.

Historical Data includes:

Births of 100 years or more ago; Stillbirths 50 years or more; Marriages 80 years or more; Deaths 50 years or more or where death occurred at the age of 80 years or older calculated from the birth date.

Access to Historical data is now online. No proof of identity is required. There is the facility to order and pay online.

Non-Historical refers to any data outside the timeframes above. Non-Historical data will not be online. Proof of identity by a statutory declaration signed by a JP or other designated person is required for access to these records. A request is then made to the to the DIA office in the usual way.

From Our Branch Library

The December 2008 issue of the Practical Family History magazine has the following articles:

- Steve Thomas provides tips on the use of free-to-use sites to reduce costs.
- Emma Hatfield has advice on searching adoption records in the UK.
- Service records for WW2 explained for anyone researching a military forebear.
- Chris Patton emphasises the need to learn about social history to really know our ancestors.
- In the same vein, Maggie Loughran analyses the effects that major events in the 16th & 17th Centuries had on our ancestors.

The January 2009 Issue of the same magazine includes the following articles:

- Research Down Under –Australia this time – New Zealand in the February issue.
- Trace Your Forebears in Sussex.
- Was your ancestor a Cooper? Ann Thompson tells you all about the trade.
- Nick Barratt offers advice on the best websites for historic maps.
- Deborah Cass has tips for those starting out to write a family history.

On the Branch Library Shelves

Taranaki Stories written by Rhonda Bartle and Sorrel Hoskin is a collection of twenty stories about Taranaki people from the early years of European settlement until more recent times. The stories tell about the lives of ordinary people, their hopes and aspirations, their failures and achievements. Together the stories paint a picture uniquely Taranaki ranging from the origins of the Swandri jacket, farming in the backblocks, Ohawe's Buried Boat, Ned Shewry the wood chopping champion, to Johnny Callender's Mountain Goat.

For the family historian looking to discover more about Taranaki's social history, *Taranaki Stories* will prove a worthwhile read.

Of Interest

Previous CD Data now available online

The magazines *Practical Family History* and *Family Tree* available each month in the Branch Library have in the past come with accompanying CDs containing free genealogical data for the reader.

Recently this system has been changed so that such data is now able to be accessed only online.

Access remains free but two categories of access have been created – subscriber and non-subscriber. **Note** that the Branch subscription does not give individual members of the Branch subscriber status.

For subscribers, a subscriber number has to be provided to obtain access to current data and to archival data over the past year.

Non-subscribers have access to the current magazine's data only for up to 30 days.

Both subscribers and non-subscribers first need to register by visiting the website www.pfhdata.com and entering your name, email address, postal address and chosen password. Click on the box accepting terms then click on "Register." You will then be provided with an activation link by email.

Subscribers will have an account opened for them once their subscriber number is entered. The current magazine's data is then added to their account.

Non-subscribers need to select the issue on the cover of the magazine (onscreen) and click "Go" then follow the simple instructions by entering the appropriate words from the requested page in the magazine, click on "Go" and an account will be set up for you. Access to the data is available for 30 days.

Recent Releases from National Archives UK in December 2008

National Archives has released on-line more than 600,000 Non-Conformist records for Births, Marriages and Deaths from non-Parochial sources to current data at the pay site www.BMDRegisters.co.uk

Other searchable collections available at this site include:

- Maternity records from The British Lying-in Hospital at Holborn.
- Registers of Burials in Victoria Park Cemetery, Bunhill Fields Burial Ground Bethnal Green Protestant Dissenters Burying Ground and others.
- The Archives of the Russian Orthodox Church in London 1721 -1927 including Births Marriages Deaths and Conversions.
- The Fleet Prison 1667 – 1777

Release of 1911 Census (UK)

The Information Commissioner in the United Kingdom ruled in 2006 that partial access to the 1911 census data should be made available in 2009 (with sensitive information withheld) and that full access to census information would given in January 2012.

Sensitive information was defined as:

- Information about family relationships that would have been kept secret.
- Details of children aged three years or under, born to women in prison at the time of the census.

In the partial census release by the pay site www.1911census.co.uk on the 14th January 2009 sensitive information is blanked out in census form images.

The 1911 Census was taken on the night of Sunday 2nd April, 1911. The count included all individual households, plus institutions such as workhouses, prisons, naval and merchant vessels. It recorded the following:

- Where an individual lived.
- Their age at the time of the census
- Who they were living with.
- Their place of birth.
- Their occupation.

Additional information required according to an individual's circumstance included:

- Who guests were on the night of the census.
- The number of servants employed.
- Whether a person was an employer or employee.
- Details of nationality.
- The duration of the current marriage.

The 1911 census.co.uk team has scanned and released a large number (but not all) of the UK Counties. Further releases will gradually be made and the task is expected to be completed by the northern summer.

The website has a full list of Counties presently available for searching. There is also explanation of how the website operates, plus latest news on releases and a Help & Advice section. Note that the census index may be searched for free to locate an ancestor. Once you are certain that you have the correct individual you are then able to register and buy credits for downloading an image of the original of the handwritten page or view and print a typed transcript.

Book Review: @ home with your Ancestors.com - How to research Family History using the Internet. Marelli,Diane. How to Books Ltd: Oxford UK. 2007

Diane Marelli in this the second of her 'How To' books in genealogy, uses a novel approach to explain the use of the Internet for the family genealogist and historian. In a first person narrative and speaking to the reader the author unfolds the story of her experiences in researching a wide range of UK online resources and records to build up her family tree over many generations. Her story is very readable, informative, and a useful guide. Her comments "I hate it when there are no matches" and "Eventually it hit me like a sledgehammer" will resonate with many readers. This is certainly not just a text containing dry lists of resources and websites!

The reader will find it helpful that actual website pages, records and certificates are included on the page as the author explains the process of obtaining and interpreting these. Marelli provides a commentary on what information to look for on records such as BDM certificates the IGI and Census returns as well as the less obvious clues which may open up further avenues of exploration. At the end of each chapter there are sections recapping what has been discussed and containing tips on getting the best value out of resources.

Good value is also to be obtained from her comments about researching the various UK censuses. She has plenty of worthwhile advice such as - 'Always take note of the names of other people living at the same address even if they mean nothing to you now.'

When the author moves her search beyond 1837 much can be learned from her use of a variety of resources - church records, the IGI, Archives and historical directories.

For those who run the *Family Treemaker* programme the chapter on recording and storing family history should prove useful.

@ home with your ancestors.com is available from the Genealogy Section second floor at PukeAriki library.

Useful Websites

<http://www.wicklowroots.com> – a website which is being developed and has some value for researchers of Irish ancestors in that it has a useful Irish Links page to other online sites in Ireland including National Archives, GRO Ireland, GRO Northern Ireland, Genealogical Societies of Ireland and Eneclann.

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> This site has the digitised records of the country's key register for coats of arms. Images of coats of arms can be downloaded at a cost of £10. However you may search the site index for free. The site covers the period 1672 to 1907. The documents detailing grants of arms to individuals who applied for coats of arms are available for viewing. In Scotland the only criteria for eligibility was that the applicant had to be 'virtuous and worthy' and either resident in or born in Scotland, or entitled to inherit a particular coat of arms.

Take nothing but ancestors, leave nothing but records.
Theory of relativity: If you go back far enough, we're all related
Can a first cousin, once removed, return?

Contributions for the newsletter are welcomed. Email these to wicky.family@ihug.co.nz