



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 224

June 2009

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: John Berntsen Ph 753 9188
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

Committee: Lea Bellini, Judy Berntsen,
 John Berntsen, Michael Butler,
 Elly Harrison, Charles Le Breton,
 Marjorie McMahon, Bev Mulqueen,
 Marilyn Reid, Peter Wicky

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 Street 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 every second month at 1.30pm in Branch Rms except
 December and January. Open to anyone - \$2 door charge. **Convenor** – Bruce Bellini: **Treasurer** -
 Lea Bellini.

Branch News

Last Meeting 5th May 2009

Following the AGM the Guest Speaker was introduced to members by the Branch Convenor, Annette Larsen.

Gary Bastin from the Puke Ariki Research Centre Team spoke about the Centre's organisation, functions, resources and goals. The purpose of the Centre was to provide an 'integrated information experience' and a 'one-stop-shop' for those who are researching not only Taranaki but also national and world wide matters.

The Centre's resources consisted of a series of collections –including a special Taranaki collection of ephemera, books writings and family histories; Archival Journals and books; Digital databases; Photographs; Taonga Maori; Family History and Genealogy and Te Kete – Interactive repositories.

Much of the centre's material can be accessed directly by the researcher but some, because of rarity or value, is curated by Centre Staff to abstract the information required.

Gary indicated that a number of changes were being planned for the Centre and these would be of particular interest for genealogists.

Computers in the Aotearoa/New Zealand Peoples Network Computer bank were to be reorganised to give a quieter environment and more workspace for the dedicated researcher.

The Centre has a team of Information Service Officers to assist with enquiries. Details of a research service are available at:

<http://pukeariki.com/en/Library/taranakirese/archcentre.htm>

For Your In- formation

Members

Subscriptions

At the recent AGM the following membership subscriptions were agreed to for the 2009/2010 year and are now due:

Single \$30

Joint \$40

Outside Taranaki -\$20

Door fee of \$2 for Branch Meeting Nights

Welcome to these new members:

Geoffrey and Vivian Green
Colyn Nicholls
Carol Petersen

Next meeting:

Tuesday 2nd June – UK Counties Night. This is an opportunity to learn from others and exchange information about experiences in researching County record offices, databases and Family History Societies in various UK Counties. Come along with your folders, family trees and resources.

Coming Meetings

7th July – Taranaki between the Wars 1918-1939 – a talk by Jean Nicholls

4th August - Waiouru Army Museum Resources

Congratulations go to Marjorie and Des McMahon on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary and their Award received for long service in their Church

On Branch Library Shelves

May Issues of these magazines:

Practical Family History

Web resources for WW1- Army ancestors.

The Churchwarden's Tale – parish chest records.

Trace your ancestors on the Isle of Man.

How to interview your relatives.

Serendipity and family history.

Family Tree

A survey of Scandinavian records – Finland.

Review of new software programs released in the past year. Which one for you?

Worldwide sources freely available to all.

Planning on exploring your Scottish roots?

Regional websites in Cardiganshire, Kent, Worcester and St Albans.

Book Review

Medieval Genealogy – How to Find Your Medieval Ancestors: Chambers, Paul. Sutton Publishing, Stroud UK. 2005

This is a companion book to *Early Modern Genealogy* written by the same author and reviewed in the April 2009 Branch newsletter.

The author claims that his work 'is intended both for those who are expert in medieval records and custom as well as those coming to it for the first time.' It will be of particular interest to those who may already have recorded their family back to about 1600 when following Henry VIII's decree in 1538, births marriages and deaths were beginning to be more widely recorded by all parish priests in their registers.

The book begins with a useful introduction to the history, social makeup and geography of Britain in Medieval times. A whole chapter is devoted to listing and commenting on resources for the researcher of the period, including institutions such as the National Archives and County Records Offices.

A comprehensive guide is provided to a variety of medieval records among which are those for manorial, property, Chancery, taxation and military. The author warns that in accessing these, the researcher will come to face the problem that the majority of records were written in Medieval Latin. However he offers useful advice for coping with this as well as the problems of handwriting and variable spelling.

Medieval Genealogy has been written from the author's experiences in researching his own ancestors. The reader will appreciate the way in which the author includes extracts from medieval documents in the text and explains how to interpret and obtain information from these.

Medieval Genealogy can be obtained from the Puke Ariki Library Genealogy section. 929.1 (ISBN 0-7509-3687-8)

THE STORY OF THE BOHEMIAN SETTLERS AT PUHOI



The Puhoi Historical Society's website is particularly well designed and holds interest for anyone who has connections with the original settlers, or is simply interested in researching the early decades of European settlement in New Zealand

It details the remarkable story of the settlers who in 1863 immigrated to New Zealand from Bohemia in what is now the Czech Republic to set up only the second ethnic village other than that of the French at Akaroa on Banks Peninsula.

The site contains an Archives section which provides genealogical information about the Pioneers and their descendants over five or more generations. These are gradually being computerized but at present only printouts of completed family trees (which are listed) are able to be ordered.

A History section provides insight into why the Pioneer families chose to emigrate and gives a full account of life on board the first of the seven ships, *The Lord Burleigh* with the attendant hardships, lack of fresh food, illness, cramped living conditions and shipboard deaths.

The saga of the settlers' survival in the first years with the help of the local Nga Whetu tribe, the struggle to carve out farms from the dense bush, the spirit of cooperation and the continuance of their culture over the generations, the fortunate employment provided for the settlement's menfolk by the road building of the Vogel era, and the felling of kauri to provide over 7 million super feet of timber, all combine to tell a story of pioneer courage and success.

The History section also provides a list of all the names of the original immigrants as well as the names of families who have become associated through marriage.

There is a full passenger list for each of the ships which brought immigrants to Puhoi – the *Lord Burleigh*, *War Spirit*, *Liverpool*, *Queen Bee*, *Freideburg*, *Shakespeare* and *Terpsichore*.

The site gives information about the Puhoi Museum's collections, its opening hours during the year as well as a calendar of events at the village and contact details.

Puhoi celebrates its 145th Anniversary on the 27th, 28th, 29th June this year. Details of the Anniversary programme are available at the Society website below.

<http://www.puhoihistoricalsociety.org.nz/>

The website also provides Links to other sites both in New Zealand and overseas which relate to Bohemian settlement and culture.

Bohemian Association of NZ:

<http://bohemian.orconhosting.net.nz/index.htm>

The German-Bohemian Heritage Society of America

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~gbhs/resources/other/newzealand.html>

Useful Websites

New Zealand *Blue Books*

All colonies of the former British Empire produced annual Blue Books which provided Imperial officials with statistics about population, schools, land transactions, public works, prisons, revenue, and legislation, necessary for good governance.

Recently New Zealand's 24 Blue Books covering the years 1840 to 1855 have been digitized by national Archives.

The contents of each book can be viewed online at:

<http://www.archives.govt.nz>

Sir Donald McLean Papers

Sir Donald McLean was a controversial figure in the early years of British settlement in New Zealand. In his roles as Chief Land Purchase Commissioner, an MP, Native Secretary and Superintendent of Hawke's Bay he had a large influence on government policies and relationships with the Maori.

More than 100,000 pages from McLean's Papers have been digitized, including letters, diaries, telegrams, letterbooks and maps. Many of the letters and diaries are key word searchable. The website is:

www.natlib.govt.nz/collections/digital-collections/mp

Merchant Seamen Lists

An index to 270,000 British seamen is available at: www.findmypast.com

Introductory Course in Genealogy

Michael Butler will run this course in the New Plymouth NZSG Branch Rooms, Moturoa, on Monday nights over four weeks beginning on Monday 13th July and finishing on Monday 4th August. Each session begins at 7.30pm and runs for approximately two hours.

There will be a session at Puke Ariki Research Centre on Wednesday 12th August and opportunity at two open Saturdays at the Branch Rooms to explore resources.

The course is designed for those new to Genealogy but is also for those wishing to refresh their skills. The cost of the whole course is \$20 payable in advance. To enrol or for enquiries, contact Michael Butler at 753 2449.

Officers and Members of the newly elected New Plymouth Branch Committee for 2009/2010 and responsibilities:

Annette Larsen -Convenor

John Pickering - Secretary

John Berntsen - Treasurer, Assets and Computers.

Lea Bellini -TBI librarian and CD sales.

Judy Berntsen - Membership, Research Enquiries, & Newspaper Cuttings.

Michael Butler -Education

Elly Harrison -Publicity

Marjorie McMahon -Raffles, Hosting, Speaker Liaison.

Marilyn Reid—Projects and Research Coordinator,

Peter Wicky—Newsletter Editor

Bev Mulqueen -responsibility to be arranged

Charles Le Breton—responsibility to be arranged

Ancestors in Northern England?

Glyn Hogan in England has contacted the Branch. He has recently established a commercial 'location photography service' and offers the opportunity for family history researchers in New Zealand to have his service take photos of places associated with your United Kingdom ancestors. You can find out what is offered by this service at: <http://www.familyhistoryphotos.co.uk>

Changes to opening hours at the Family History Centre, Mangorei Road.

The centre is at present open **only** on Thursdays. The hours are:

1st and 3rd Thursdays - 1.30pm to 4.30pm

2nd and 4th Thursdays - 2.30pm to 5pm

The person to contact for further information is Lois Smith at 751 2750

Gale Newspapers. The NZSG Council has decided to renew the subscription to this wonderful resource for another year for NZSG Members. Go to the NZSG website. Log in, then to Members Area, Online Newspapers, drop down menu.

Books of interest at Puke Ariki Library

In Memoriam – Remembering the Great War by Robin Cross in conjunction with the Imperial War Museum.

This is a collection of personal narratives and writings by soldiers who fought in War to end all Wars.

Shadows of the Workhouse by Jennifer Worth.

This is an historical novel in which individual stories bring to life an institution which was feared by working classes over many generations.

Wireless Connection

The Puke Ariki Research Centre now has a wireless connection set up throughout the whole of the East Wing. This enables a user with a wireless connection laptop to link into all the Centre's online databases including Ancestry.com

National Archives UK

in a joint project with the Ministry of Defence has recently made available online its Collection **Recommendations and Awards 1939 – 1945**

You are able to download information about awards and honours to British Army Personnel and those of Dominion Forces.

The collection holds recommendations for, the VC, DSO, MC, DCM, and MM.

<http://nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline>

Contributions to this newsletter are welcomed. Email these to Editor

wicky_family@ihug.co.nz