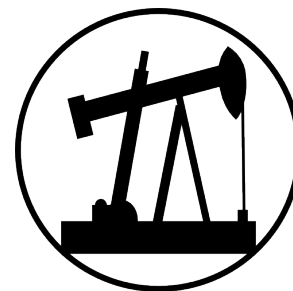




NZSG

New Plymouth

Branch Newsletter



Number 253

February 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

Our Branch Library

The New Plymouth branch has collected lots of resources useful to family history research.

These include books, magazines, CDs, microfiche, computer databases and others. These cover Taranaki history as well as New Zealand and many foreign areas, particularly the UK.

When the rooms are open, a branch member is on duty to assist with use of these resources.

This is a great collection of resources, available right here in New Plymouth with more being added all the time. Be sure you take advantage of it for your research!

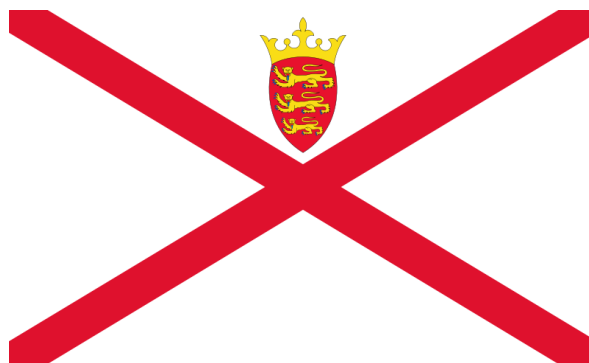


Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 Feb 2012

Channel Island Research

Our first branch meeting for 2012 is on 7 February. Branch member Charles Le Breton will talk on family history research in the Channel Islands.

Charles will focus mainly on Jersey, and will explain the different types of records that are available, in addition to the usual UK records (like census, BMD, etc).



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

NZSG Rules Change

A number of rule changes are proposed to the NZSG organisation. The changes are mainly around requirements of the Incorporated Society Act and the Charities Act, and among other things, affect how branch membership is handled.

A forum will be held in Auckland on 10 February to discuss the rules. A vote by postal ballot is planned for later in 2012.

The draft set of rules are available from the members section of the NZSG website.

www.genealogy.org.nz

The Dictionary of NZ Biography, Volume One

The first of a set of five volumes recently added to our library, volume one covers the period 1769-1869. It comprises a collection of biographies of people who made their mark on New Zealand over this period. During a quick inspection, I found entries for several well known Taranaki identities but the whole country is covered of course.

In addition to the over 600 pages of biographies there are also extensive finding aids including:

1. Categories index (e.g. Administration, Land Use, Reform) with a variety of sub-categories. For example Commercial Activities is split into Auctioneer, Bookseller, Brothel-keeper, Businessman, Financier, Merchant, Prostitute, Ship Owner, Shopkeeper and Storekeeper, Trader.
2. Tribal and Hapu Index
3. Nominal Index

The Tribal/Hapu and Nominal indexes include multiple entries for many of the people found in the book. John Whiteley of Taranaki renown for example apart from his own biography appears in conjunction with Thomas Buddle, Samuel Ironside, Wiremu Tako Ngatata, Robert Reid Parris, Wiremu Nera Te Awa-i-taia, Ihaia Te Kirikumara and Te Ua Haumene.

I hope you will find these volumes a most useful addition to our resources.

Charles Le Breton

Jan Gow QSM

Jan Gow was awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the 2012 New Years Honours List.



Jan is a well known and popular New Zealand genealogist. She is known to branch members through her many visits to New Plymouth and the presentations she has made at various events here.

Jan has been a member of NZSG since 1982, serving periods as Treasurer and President and playing a very active and positive role in many NZSG affairs.

Jan runs [Beehive Books](#), a store selling genealogy books and computer programmes. She also operates [Hooked on Genealogy Tours](#), guided tours to Salt Lake City and the United Kingdom.

Books Donated

Branch member Myk Davis has generously donated some valuable research books for our library.

- New Zealand Dictionary of Biography, 5 volumes
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust magazine, many previous editions

These are very useful for New Zealand research, and on behalf of the branch, the committee wishes to sincerely thank Myk for his generous donation.

Next Meeting

The next branch meeting will be on Tuesday 6 March 2012.



Wairarapa Research

My husband and I had a short holiday in the Wairarapa region in December and spent a night in a very nice camping ground in Masterton. The weather turned very wet, so it was a good opportunity for me to do some research in the town.

First stop was to the Archer St cemetery in the beautiful Queen Elizabeth Park. I had done my homework before leaving home and knew that two little QUICK family boys were buried in this cemetery, one in 1879, another in 1883. I also realised that there possibly might not be a monument there to see. After a fruitless search in the rain, we checked out the cemetery office in the park and were given excellent help from a staff member there. She pulled out an enormous book with a beautifully drawn up plan of the cemetery. Now armed with the knowledge of who was buried either side of the boys (who were in the same plot) we returned to our search. Unfortunately my hunch was right- no monument remained. The grave would have had a wooden headstone, not a stone one, given the fact that the deaths predated the railway coming to Masterton. I also learned that the wooden monuments that are still standing in the cemetery from that time have usually lasted because of having had a metal cap on the top of the wood. I did see some good examples of old wooden markers still standing.

The Masterton cemeteries have a database on the internet, but, as with anything on the internet, be careful. Just because it is in print doesn't make it correct. The entry for one of these QUICK boys gives his age at death as 37. In fact he was 3 years 7 months old when he died!!

It is, however, wonderful that so many councils are now making such records available on the internet. A wonderful resource for genealogists.

Next stop was the home of the Masterton branch of the NZSG, located in the CBD in Queen St, opposite the library. I wandered in there quite by accident. Had actually meant to visit the Wairarapa Archive which is right next door.

The Masterton branch has a great facility and has internet access on the computers there. Again I was given great service / help. What information they had I already had too, so I proceeded next door to the Archive where I did find some extra material.

I wholeheartedly recommend the Wairarapa Archive if you have research in that area of the North Island. The chief archivist there, Gareth Winter, is a mine of knowledge and it was my privilege to have help from him. The archive is administered by the Masterton District Council.

One thing that I realised as I talked with Gareth is that it is easy to just take facts at their face value and not think of what the fact is really saying, and go that bit further to pad out your facts.

To give an example: Edwin QUICK was a tent and cover maker in Masterton in the early 1880s. I hadn't given it much thought, but the archivist said there was a huge demand by the settlers for tents and for covers for their horses. Horses were a huge part of life back then.

Edwin QUICK had his business in the Forester's Hall. I hadn't realised that the Foresters was a Lodge. (A.O.F) I learned also a bit about the importance of lodges in the life of these early settlers. The early lodges were a sort of social welfare club. One paid so much a week and help was given to you by the lodge when you had times of need. There was a hierarchy of lodges and which lodge you belonged to depended on your status in society. The Masons were the highest and wealthier people may have belonged there. There were also the Hibernians as well as the Foresters.

All in all it was an enjoyable research afternoon. If you have research questions on the Masterton/Carterton area and can't visit Masterton, get in touch with the archivist and I'm sure he will answer you.

Email: garethw@library.mstn.govt.nz

Annette Larsen



More Records at FamilySearch

FamilySearch.org has announced that an additional 119 million new records are available online, about 64 million indexed names and 55 million browsable images.

The FamilySearch database includes many Australian, English and American records as well as other countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Korea, etc. These include census, BDM, city records, land records and others.

For some records, FamilySearch has transcriptions but not an image of the original document. Instead, it gives a link to a commercial website where the image can be viewed for a paid subscription.

If you haven't visited FamilySearch for a while, check out their new website. They may have added some records on your family.

These searchable records have been transcribed by volunteers. There are further projects currently under way to index historical records, and more volunteers are sought to assist with this work.

www.familysearch.org/volunteer/indexing

Recent trip to Tasmania

Just before Christmas Coraleen and I made a short trip to Tasmania. We had never been there before. Not our sole reason but it was one place I had on my "bucket list" as it was the birthplace of my father's mother Susan Amelia nee Everett. My grandmother was the daughter of a convict Jonathan Everett. He had been transported for 10 years in 1845 for stealing a cow at the age of 23. He was a butcher. He married my great grandmother Caroline Perham in 1856. My grandmother was born in 1866 and brought to New Zealand by her parents in 1874.

While I already had most of the family information I wanted I had hopes of getting a copy of my great grandfather's "Ticket of Leave" but found the only copy was given to him personally and it is long since gone. This not necessarily the position with earlier records.

Apart from general sightseeing and enjoying some of the different pursuits offered we did however take the opportunity to visit one of the

farms where many convicts were assigned (Brickenden). I have no idea whether my ancestor ever worked here but it was great to see the many wooden farm buildings that survive and in fact still constitute part of a working farm. We also visited some of the towns where I know my family lived including Longford and Westbury not far from Launceston. Other places of interest in historical terms were towns like Oaklands and Richmond with there numerous old and well preserved buildings dating back to the early 19th century. The highlight of this part of the trip being a visit to Port Arthur. Fortunately my ancestor was never incarcerated here as it was mainly for real hard core prisoners (murderers and the like) or re-offenders.

We only saw a small part of the island but please do not hesitate to ask if you have any specific questions. No guarantee I will be able to answer but I am willing to try.

Charles Le Breton

Library News

Magazines received;
Inside History (Jan/Feb)
Genealogist
Family Tree (Christmas, January)
Memories (Feb/March)

Newsletters received;
Hawke's Bay, Otaki, Riccarton, South Canterbury



Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 5 February 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.

