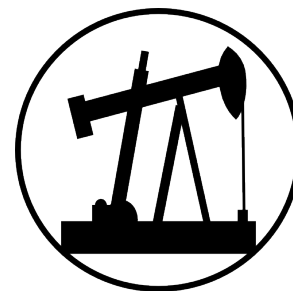




# NZSG

## New Plymouth

### Branch Newsletter



Number 269

July 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

### Branch Subs

It's that time of year again; the branch subscriptions for 2013/14 are now due.

At the AGM, the branch decided to keep the subscription rates at the same low level. The rates are as follows.

\$30 single

\$40 joint

\$20 living outside Taranaki

The branch subscriptions are really important for providing our branch with the funds needed to continue to deliver various services for our members.

Please pay the subscription to Judy Berntsen. Payment details are available on the subscription form, and this is available on the branch website. Copies of the form are also available at the branch rooms.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 2 July 2013

### Brick Walls

For our July branch meeting, we have the return of this popular event; a workshop evening on research blocks that people have come up against.

If you have hit a brick wall in some part of your research, or have a problem finding information on a particular ancestor, bring it along for this workshop. The idea is to pool resources and expertise, to find a way through any challenges.



Many of our members are very knowledgeable about various aspects of genealogy research. They will likely have ideas on how you can get through your brick wall, or someone may have already overcome a similar issue.

So get together all the information you have on your troublesome person, and bring it along to the July meeting.

**Convenor:** John Berntsen 753 9188  
**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](mailto:newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz)  
**Website:** [www.genealogynp.com](http://www.genealogynp.com)

### **Last Meeting: Jones family of Warea**

Rae O'Grady presented a lively and fascinating story about her grandparents, Samuel Frederick Jones, and his wife Margaret Keogh. They farmed in Warea in early 1900's and to this day the farm is still in Jones ownership.

Samuel was born in Doncaster in 1858, the second child of John Jones, Wheelwright and Susan Faulkner. For the next six years, he travelled with his parents and siblings to the gold fields at Ballarat, Australia, and Cape Town, South Africa. Then in 1864, the family came to New Zealand under the Waikato Immigration Scheme, settling in Waipipi, onto five acres of crown-grant swamp!

Theirs was a stoical story of tenacity, hard work, broken promises and boom and bust economies. Samuel's father made a living from flax farming, then gum digging but in 1879 came south to Taranaki with some of his older sons, including Samuel, to find more profitable work. From New Plymouth they walked to Hawera and took up bush felling.

Samuel, who had skills in the flax industry, was hired in Bayley's Mill on Stent Road, Warea, and briefly returned to Waipipi in 1895 to married Margaret Keogh. The couple lived in a cottage on Stent Road near the Mill and in 1900 Samuel was able to purchase the Mill and two blocks of land at the top of Warea Road. They then moved north to Towai where Samuel had an interest in five other flax mills and in 1904 they returned back to the Mill in Warea.

Tragically in 1905 Samuel died from septicaemia and six weeks later Margaret gave birth to their seventh child. Samuel had left her a good income from the mill and two years later, Margaret fortuitously sold it and moved onto the Warea Road farm to begin life as a farmer and raising her children alone.

Not to be taken lightly in a man's world she stood her ground on many occasions. An out of control burn-off on the Warea road in 1911 ravaged some of her pasture and upon opening the sacks of grass seed for the re-sowing, promptly took it back to the store owner demanding to know why she had been sold more husks than seed.

In 1919, needing money to buy an adjoining farm of 107 acres, plus a recently built five bedroomed house, the bank manager refused

her the loan. Two local farmers came to her rescue by threatening to withdraw all their money and Margaret got her mortgage!

Margaret became a very well respected person in the district, a capable homemaker and farmer who could turn her hand to anything. She died in 1948 aged 79 and her obituary was a rare tribute for a woman of that time. It referred to her being "known widely in Taranaki as a successful farmer for many years in the Warea District."

Ailsa McCrone

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### **Convenor's Report**

Well, winter is here at last, time to do your research. Our rooms are open 3 days a week, so make use of them.

We are purchasing two new CDs; one Oamaru cemetery and the other up to date list of men who went to WW1.

Last month's talk by Rae O'Grady on the Jones' family from Warea went well. (See the talk review).

Our lease on the branch rooms comes up for renewal in November. We have written to our landlord and asked to renew it. We are still awaiting his response.

Subscriptions are now due, could you please pay them ASAP. It's your sub that lets us buy books and CDs for members' use, so please pay now. If you are not renewing your sub please let us know.

John Berntsen



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### August Meeting:

At the August branch meeting, Charles Le Breton will demonstrate the use of the Photobook software programme for self producing a family history. For example templates apart from various photo layouts allow amounts of text ranging from simple descriptions for photos to whole pages. A family tree can be added by photographing a print from say FTM or can be typed directly into programme. The intention is to show you some examples of what can be achieved, where and how to get the programme, printing, cost etc.

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### Lost Jacket

There was a jacket left down at our rooms a couple of months ago.

It is a navy blue / red soft material jacket. If this is your jacket, it is hanging over one of the chairs near the table.

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### Spurdle, Gilbert & Putt Families

My great uncle James ADAMS married Harriet Ivy SPURDLE in 1913. Ivy was a daughter of William Akerman Spurdle and Elizabeth Putt Gilbert. James died only two years after they married and we have very little information about him or Ivy. Is there someone from the Spurdle, Putt or Gilbert families who may be able to add to what we know? I'm happy to pass on what I have by way of information and photos.

Email: [janicenp@clear.net.nz](mailto:janicenp@clear.net.nz)  
or phone: 06 7536923

Janice Goldsworthy

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### How to Access New Zealand Probates and Wills available Free on-line

1. First establish the record number for your relative's probate: Go to [www.archway.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz) and enter a name in the search box.
2. When you find the entry click "Order details" and note the court and Record no.
3. Now go to [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
4. Click "Search" button to the right of the top menu bar.

5. Scroll down the home page and click the "Australia and New Zealand" link near the bottom of that page.

6. The Historical Records Collection page will open, scroll down to the bottom and click "New Zealand Probate Records".

7. Scroll down to the bottom of the search page and click "Browse through xxxxxx images"

8. A list of regional courts will open – click the relevant court.

9. A list of digital folders will open. As an example I looked for Edward Joseph Milverton, filed Palmerston North 1925, number 128/25. Note that 128 is in the second folder for 1925. Also note that this folder covers 101/25 to 162/25, so expect to find Milverton about half way through.

10. Click the digital folder for the year and probate number you are looking for, it will open displaying the first image in that folder.

11. At the top of the image screen, note that you are looking at the first of 892 images. Guess that Milverton might be about 400, so enter 400 in the image box and click "go". There was no probate number visible on image 400, so I moved forward to image 403 and found I was looking at 130/25. Then it was just a case of working back till I got to 128/25 which starts at image 366. [Each probate is 10-20 pages]. It turned out to be a joint will of two bachelor brothers, Edward and William, leaving their joint estate to whichever would live the longest. William was the survivor, and I believe he in turn gifted the assets to the Milverton Trust.

12. This project is ongoing, so return to the site later if your documents were not available.

Thank you to Mary Skipworth  
NZSG #1495

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### Irish Records

This website provide online search of the County Kerry cemeteries.

[www.kerrylaburials.ie](http://www.kerrylaburials.ie)

This site has anecdotes from soldiers from the civil war.

[www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie](http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie)



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## New Member

The branch extends a warm welcome to Ian Hay as a new member.

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## Outstanding Library Books

Some of the branch library books have been out on loan for a while, some since 2012. The normal loan period is one month.

If you have had a library book on loan for a while, please return it so that others can have the use of it.

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## Puke Ariki Press Display

The March meeting included an explanation of the Press Display service provided by Puke Ariki. This service provides access to current newspapers from around the world.

Some people have reported difficulty accessing the system. Please note that you need to enter your whole library card number. In March, it was mentioned that in some cases, it may be only necessary to enter in the last block of numbers. However, it now appears that it is necessary to use the whole number.

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## Library Purchases

The branch is purchasing two CDs for members use at the branch library.

- Oamaru cemetery headstone transcriptions
- NZSG WW1 Service Personnel and Reserves Index



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## 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.



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## 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.

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## Slide / Negative Scanner

The branch negative / slide scanner is available for hire to members for use at home. The cost is \$5 a week for up to two weeks.

To hire (or book) this scanner, please contact the person on duty at the rooms during normal opening hours.



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## Library News

Magazines received;  
Your Family History (July)  
Family Tree (July)  
The Genealogist (June)



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Nelson, Palmerston North, Porirua, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wanganui, Wellington

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## Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at [peter.hewett@gmail.com](mailto:peter.hewett@gmail.com).

