

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Incorporated

Newsletter



Number 3

March 2022

Unite
against
COVID-19

Reduce risk – Stay safe

New Zealand Government

All events are under Covid-19 protection framework
Society rooms are open: Monday and Saturday

Covid – Still !

Gosh, it has been two years, and still we have this Covid pandemic around. Up until recently, New Zealand had done well to keep most people away from the virus, but the current wave of infections is looking like it will affect more people.

We want to keep everyone safe and healthy. Our society is still open, and is working to the official guidelines.

Please, only come to the rooms if you are vaccinated and you don't have any Covid symptoms. See page 4 for more details.

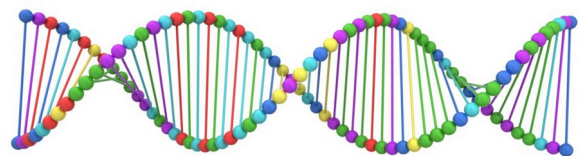


Next meeting: 7:30pm Tuesday 1 Mar 2022

Research using DNA

At our March meeting, Charles Le Breton will explain some recent successes with his research, and the part that DNA has played in this. It included some significant finds, including, after many years, the birth of his German grandfather.

Charles will provide a round up of the various DNA tests that he has used, and what further progress was enabled as a result of these tests.



Convenor: Gail Tanner 027 376 0630
Secretary: Jackie Sewell
Treasurer: Sharyn Guthrie
Committee: Lorraine Austin
Lea Bellini
Karen Crowe
Graeme Jury
Annette Larsen

New Plymouth Genealogy Society Inc
c/- Gail Tanner
122 Wairau Road
New Plymouth 4314
Meetings: 7:30 pm, first Tuesday each month
at society rooms, Moturoa Shopping Centre
access is off the Whiteley Street car park
Email: newplymouthgenealogy@gmail.com
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Grave Secrets – what information is there on a headstone?

My talk at the February club meeting was well attended considering the very hot night and Covid restrictions. For those people who were unable to attend I'll summarise some of what I covered.

My power point presentation centred mainly on some of the more common symbols found on gravestones. These tended to be the older graves. The Victorians were particularly fond of adorning their graves with such symbols. My slides were a result of several trips to the Te Henui cemetery and the culling of many photos taken. I would encourage our members to have a walk around there some time. Te Henui is a tourist attraction, partly due to it being one of New Plymouth's oldest cemeteries but also because of the lovely plantings by the team of volunteer gardeners. However, on some graves the flowers are taking over and obscuring the headstones.

If you wish to do your own research, just google "symbols on gravestones" and you will find plenty of sites.

Annette Larsen

The list of symbols and explanations is attached to this newsletter. This also has links to some useful websites.

The Replacement for Archways



Archives New Zealand provides online access to a lot of their archived material through their website. Previously, this was provided through a system called Archway. That has been [replaced](#) with a new search function. This change will enable you to;

- filter your search results
- track archives that you have ordered
- see your order history.

To get best use of the new system, you will need to log in with your [RealMe](#) account.

The new Archives NZ online system is available on their website.

collections.archives.govt.nz

Convenor's Report

Hello everybody. As you well know Covid has well and truly taken hold in the form of Omicron, with numbers soaring. But don't let that stop you doing the things you love. There comes a time where we have to learn to live with Covid, just like we do the common cold and Influenza. Now seems to be that time.

Please don't let Omicron make you a prisoner in your own home. Though the good thing about that is that you could do some more genealogy research.

Our monthly meeting is this Tuesday at 7:30 in our rooms at Moturoa. And we'd love to see you. We will be following all the covid rules, of vaccine passes and social distancing, so please don't worry.

Longtime member Charles Le Breton will be letting us in on a few of his DNA discoveries this Tuesday. If you have an interest in DNA, it is worth coming to listen and enjoy the company of like-minded friends.

We'd love to see you there.

Gail Tanner
Society Convenor

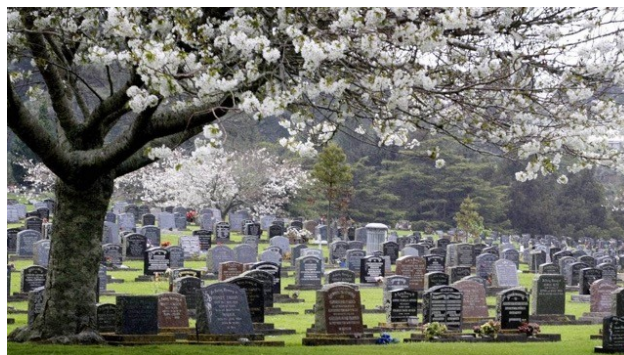
Awanui Cemetery – New Plymouth

Since the 1980s, the cemetery project has been taking transcriptions of headstones from the local cemeteries. These are available from [our website](#).

At present, the project team is updating the old transcriptions and taking photographs of headstones. The next cemetery on the plan is Awanui.

For many years, the Awanui has been the main public cemetery for the New Plymouth area. Many of our researchers will have some ancestors here.

We are looking for volunteers to help the team. If you would like to join our friendly team, please contact Pat George or any of the committee members.



Can you name these people?



Helene Philpott has sent us this photo to see if anyone can name the people in it. The photo is from about 1928. Helene says that the lady in the middle is Mary Jane Hart nee Broughton. Either side of her could be her daughters Mabel and Ruby Eva Hart, unsure who is who. The children in front, on the left with the dark hair is Marie Louise Hart, the other child unknown.

If you can name anyone in the photo, or have information about this family, please email Helene at bhdk.philpott@gmail.com.

Click the photo for a slightly larger image.

Events for 2022

Our committee has lots of great events lined up for 2022, and hopefully the pandemic won't stop these from going ahead.

But we also want to know if there are any other topics that our members would like covered.

If you have any meeting topics that you would like to have covered, or that you think would be of interest to other members, please let us know. Just talk to any committee member with any requests or suggestions.

RootsTech 2022

The world's largest family history conference is free and online.

Dates: 3 – 5 March 2022

This is a massive conference, with the biggest names in family history presenting the latest information and techniques. There is useful information on all aspects of genealogy, for beginners and experts. It really is worthwhile taking part, even if you only choose to watch a few of the presentations.

Check out all the information available at www.familysearch.org/rootstech.

Register at [RootsTech registration](#).



Back to Basic – Research Planning

The Genealogy Society of Queensland is hosting an online presentation by Cyndi Ingle: Back to basics: research planning and execution online.

Date: Saturday 26 March 2022

Time: 9:00 am AEST

Cost: A\$30

In this presentation, Cyndi will discuss some strategies for planning your research and executing it effectively.

Cyndi Ingle is a leading genealogist and founder of cyndislist.com, the website with over 300,000 genealogy links.

Book for this session at [the GSQ website](#).



GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND Inc
Enriching family history

Library Roster: March

Monday 10 am to 12:30 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Sat 5 Mar Karen Crowe
Mon 7 Mar Charles Le Breton
Sat 12 Mar Gail Tanner
Mon 14 Mar Lorraine Austin
Sat 19 Mar Lea Bellini
Mon 21 Mar Annette Larsen
Sat 26 Mar Sharyn Guthrie
Mon 28 Mar Jill Jackson
Sat 2 Apr Karen Crowe
Mon 4 Apr Charles Le Breton

Covid-19 Protection Framework

The society is operating a vaccination policy under the Covid-19 traffic light system. Please follow the applicable rules.

- Stay home if you have any symptoms (dry cough, short of breath, loss of smell, etc).
- Only come to the rooms if you are fully vaccinated. Bring your vaccine pass.
- Wash your hands and any surfaces you touch.
- Wear a face mask when at the branch rooms.
- Use the COVID-19 app with the QR code and record your name in the attendance book.
- Keep at least 1m from anyone else at the rooms.
- Bring your own pen, paper, laptop, etc.
- Please get vaccinated.



There is more information on the Covid response at the official website covid19.govt.nz.

Internet Connection

The internet connection for our branch rooms is generously sponsored by Primo.



Based right here in Taranaki, Primo provides internet connections and ISP services for residential and business customers. As well as the usual fibre and ADSL connections, Primo also provides broadband internet over a wireless link for customers who are not in an area served by the other types of internet. This is just great for people who live outside the main centres.

Please consider Primo for your internet service. Ring them on 0800 123 774 or visit their website:

primo.nz

Library News

Magazines received;

Family Tree (Feb)

Who Do You Think You Are (Feb)

Newsletters received;

Canterbury, Dunedin, Feilding, Hawke's Bay, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Porirua, Riccarton, Southland, South Waikato, Wairarapa, Wellington

If you would like an email copy of newsletters from another genealogy society or branch, please contact Peter Hewett.



Newsletter

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter, please contact Peter Hewett at peter.hewett@gmail.com.



SYMBOLS USED ON HEADSTONES

Here are some of the symbols that are commonly seen on grave headstones, together with the meaning or interpretation of these.

Roses

Heavily symbolic of love, hope and beauty. Often adorn graves of young women, and represent heavenly perfection and earthly passion. A metaphor for life- after overcoming much hardship, one will find inner harmony, union and happiness. A bud indicates the grave of a child. A broken bud – girl was under 12 when she died. A full bloom – someone in the prime of life.

Ivy

This evergreen is a symbol of hope, faithfulness, undying affection and eternal life.

Clasped hands

Represents a married relationship (or another close, unified relationship -family or friend) that has had to end due to death.

Symbol of eternal love – not severed by death. One leading the other to join him/ her in the afterlife.

Oak leaves and acorns

Enduring love. Immortality. Strength, honour, longevity, endurance, steadfastness.

Lamb

Often found on a child's grave. Gentleness, innocence, purity. Linked to Jesus Christ, the shepherd.

Lilies

Popular funeral flower in Victorian times.

Easter lilies – resurrection and innocence of the soul. Purity.

IHS

Abbreviation of Jesus' name in Greek. Jesus Saviour of man.

Anchor

Symbol of hope and steadfastness. Dates back to early Christianity, when it was used in place of the cross. An anchor with a broken chain means the end of life.

The person may have had a connection with the sea or died at sea.

“Weigh anchor” - start for a voyage.

Crown

Immortality, victory, resurrection

Garland or wreath

Eternal life

Cross

Symbol of resurrection. Honour and glory.

Angels

Many different forms. Symbol of spirituality. Usually indicates the person buried is a Christian.

Messengers between God and man.

Star

Divine guidance.

6 pointed star – Jewish symbol

Dove

Represents the Holy Spirit, gentleness, innocence, purity, spirituality. Can represent devotion between married couples.

The Christian soul freed from the toils of the flesh and entered into rest and glory.

Olive branch in its beak – peace, and hope of the resurrection.

Dove in flight – symbol of Christ's ascension. Carrying the deceased's soul to heaven.

Compass and square

Freemason symbol – standing for faith and reason.

IOOF - Independent Order of Oddfellows

* All-seeing eye – God sees all human thoughts and deeds

* rays of the sun – blessings of God descend on all mankind

* 3 link chain – principles of friendship, love and truth must endure and never be broken

* heart in hand – cheerful giving

* oak leaves enduring love

Lily of the Valley

Innocence and purity.

Hands that point up

The hope of heaven. Deceased has ascended to Heaven, receiving their final reward for a life well lived. Confirmation of life after death for the faithful.

Hands that point down

God reaching down for the soul. Or deceased is pointing down from above.

Broken chain

The family unit has been broken.

Urns and shrouds -People weren't cremated in Victorian times. It was a reference to ancient Greek and Roman cultures which did cremate their dead.

Urn – Greek symbol of mourning

These urns often have shrouds lying over top of them which represent the “veil” that exists between the world of the living and world of the dead.

Scrolls

Symbol of life and time unfolding. Both ends rolled up marks beginning and ending of life.

Columns

Nod to Greek architecture. Columns were a symbol of strong support, which in Victorian times usually denoted the head of the household- a father or husband who supported his family.

FINDING GRAVES: Some Useful Websites

1. New Plymouth Genealogy Society genealogynp.com

For local cemetery records, search cemetery transcriptions and photos of headstones.

Use Control-F to search for a name. You can request a copy of the headstone photo to be sent via email (for a donation).

2. Findagrave findagrave.com

FindaGrave is a free website that allows the public to search and add to an online database of cemetery records. It is owned by Ancestry.com. It receives and uploads digital photographs of headstones from burial sites, taken by unpaid volunteers at cemeteries. Find a Grave then posts the photo on its website. You can request a photo of any headstone.

3. BillionGraves billiongraves.com

BillionGraves is the world's largest resource for searchable GPS cemetery data, and is growing bigger and better every day. You can help by collecting headstone images from local and other cemeteries, and then by transcribing the personal information found on the images.

4. City Councils

Many councils in New Zealand have cemetery records online. Visit the website of the council for the district of the cemetery, or Google the area/ cemetery. There are lists of council cemetery search pages at Christchurch City Council and at NZ cemeteries online.

5. Online Parish Clerks (OPC) www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk

see Familysearch or Google the area /OPC

An OPC researches all the available historical data they can find on a parish, and transcribes records which are usually made available on a web site. They may also (or alternatively) offer a look up service in response to an email or postal request. An OPC will never charge for providing this service, and transcriptions and access to on line records is completely free.

6. Interment.net www.interment.net

This website contains 25+ million cemetery records, transcripts, and burial registers, from tens of thousands of cemeteries across the world, all contributed by genealogists, cemeteries, government agencies, and private organizations.

7. Ancestry.com www.ancestry.com

8. Deceased Online www.deceasedonline.com

The central database for UK burials and cremations. You can search the registers by country, region, county, burial authority or crematorium, free of charge.

9. Gravestones.com www.gravestonephotos.com

The Gravestone Photographic Resource project was set up in 1998 by Charles Sale to provide a free on-line resource for family historians and other researchers. The GPR has over 1.8 million names from graves around the world, including 1.2 million from England.