



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 219

December 2008

Convenor: Annette Larsen Ph 758 3320
Treasurer: Lea Bellini Ph 758 0130
Secretary: John Pickering Ph 758 4952

Committee: Marilyn Armitstead, Judy Berntsen,
John Berntsen, Michael Butler,
Karen Crowe, Elly Harrison,
Marjorie McMahon, Mike Merrick,
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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

Last meeting 4th November

John Berntsen and Michael Butler used a power point presentation to demonstrate many features of the genealogy program Legacy Version 7. Included in this were the basics of changing screens, adding family members, methods for citing information sources, the relationship calculator, tagging groups, recording second spouses and half-siblings, generating different types of reports and charts, printing of books, using the photo gallery, and making back-ups. Members' questions were answered by Michael Butler

Time was insufficient for Marilyn Armitstead to present the program Family Treemaker as planned. However Marilyn ran a session for members on a subsequent day and a further session will be timetabled into the Branch's 2009 programme.

Next Meeting: Pot-luck meal at the Branch Rooms-Sunday December 7th.

Arrive at 5.30pm to mix and mingle. Meal at 6pm. Please bring suitable food, your own cutlery, plates and drink. Fruit juice will be provided.



Welcome to our newest members: Dianne Corbett, Alan Stewart (both of New Plymouth) and William Shaw of Wellington.

Programme for 2009

Tuesday 3rd February – Guided walk through Te Henui Cemetery **at 7pm**. The Branch Rooms will be open for members not going on the Walk and also if the weather is wet and the Walk is postponed. Further details later.

Other topics planned for 2009 include:

- AGM - in May
- Taranaki Between the Wars.
- Family Treemaker demonstration.
- UK Counties night.

Dates for these will be announced in the New Year.

NZSG Matters

KIT

Several times a year NZSG publishes *Keeping in Touch –KIT*. This is a Newsletter containing reports of NZSG matters, planning and developments. It is always available to read on the NZSG Website – www.genealogy.org.nz

AFFHO Congress 2009- Two at New Early Bird prices

Here is an opportunity for those who have not yet registered for the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations Congress to be held at King's College Auckland from the 16th to 20th January 2009.

Although the Early Bird registration offered earlier has closed, NZSG wants to make the Conference available to as many people as possible. If you team up with a friend and register together before December 14th on this new Early Bird offer you can save \$50 each.

For further details email; treasurer@affhocongress2009.org

Advantages of NZSG Membership

Membership of the NZSG has the following advantages:

- You receive 6 issues of the Society's magazine *The Genealogist* each year.
- You are able to make use of the NZSG CD Index
- You are able to use NZSG research facilities and resources including- access to indexes of births, deaths and marriages for England & Wales plus a purchasing service for overseas certificates; use of UK Probates Index to identify UK wills and probates 1701-1943.
- You are able to make research queries and have up to 16 research interests published in *The Genealogist* each year.
- You are entitled to borrow from the Family Research Library, Panmure for the cost of postage.

The annual subscription for new members is \$72 single or \$90 joint annually.

From Our Branch Library

On the Shelves

Practical Family History Magazine

The latest issue has a number of interesting articles including:

- * Volunteer Index to Durham 1871 Census (350,000 entries)
- * Sources for tracing emigrant ancestors from Britain & Ireland.
- * Strategies for bridging those gaps in family history.
- * Finding your forebears in Dundee and Angus.
- * The easy way to extend your family tree.
- * How to use *Naval-History.net* for free.
- * A beginner's guide to heraldry.

Taranaki Between the Wars – 1918 to 1939; the People, Their Lives, Their Stories. Published by Telford Media and Design. New Plymouth 2008 ISBN 978-0-473-12534-9

Written by the 'New Plymouth Scribblers' this book records the oral history of Taranaki people who lived in the period between the First and Second World Wars. Many topics are covered including the 1918 Flu Epidemic; the Great Depression; School Days; Means of travel; Making do; Farm life, and Keeping healthy. This is a worthwhile read if you want to background the lives of family members who lived during this era in Taranaki.

New Plymouth Boys' High School Records up to 1960

The transcription of these was recently completed by Marilyn Reid and her team. Two files of records are available in the reference section.

Note. The Branch Library will be closed after Saturday 13th December and will re-open on Monday 12th January

Of Interest

Book Review

DNA TESTING – a tool for the Family Historian?

If you have been put off using this approach in researching your family tree by its apparent complexity and the mention of topics such as 'Tribal Tests' and "The Seven Daughters of Eve" then you need to read Chris Pomery's latest publication *Family History in the Genes*.

Chris Pomery has an impressive background in DNA projects having launched the ground-breaking Pomeroy DNA Project in 2000 the results of which have been on BBC Radio 4 and other media.

The author gives an easily understandable explanation of modern genetic DNA testing including the Y-chromosome, mitochondrial and ancestry tests. His advice is always given in terms of what is of most value for the Family Historian.

He demonstrates the considerable value of the Y-chromosome test in unravelling the relationships between people with the same surnames. The major commercial DNA testing programmes and services available to the researcher are fully listed and commented on.

This is a very readable, up-to-date and useful guide to an increasingly popular research tool.

Pomery, Chris; *Family History in the Genes- Trace your DNA and Grow Your Family Tree* published by The National Archives, Kew, Surrey. 2007. ISBN 978 1 905615 12 4

Obtainable from the Genealogical section, Level 2, Puke Ariki Library

FFHS Website Award

The Federation of Family History Societies' Website Award for 2008 went to the North Cheshire Family History Society with Kent FHS second and East Surrey FHS third. The NCFHS' attractive website can be found at <http://www.ncfhs.co.uk>

Denniston and the Incline – 'The eighth wonder of the world'

Those who have read Jenny Patrick's book *The Denniston Rose* may find the following website of interest to browse since it includes a photo album of many of the book's settings – Denniston, The Camp, the Incline, Burnett's Face and Coalbrookdale. The photos illustrate the starkness of the miners' homes and the appalling conditions men, women and children faced in these mining communities.

<http://www.denniston.co.nz/general.htm>

National Library Changes. The National Library building is being redeveloped during 2009. Some research facilities may be inaccessible for a time as collections are moved but access to Digital Collections like Papers Past will not be affected. The National Library offers to keep you informed of changes to services if you register your details by emailing these to information@natlib.govt.nz

Useful Websites

Nelson City Council Website

The Council's *The Early Settlers Database* is searchable if you are looking for family members who may have settled in the Nelson region after 1841. Information in the database has been taken from NZ Company Passengers to Nelson manifests and shipping lists published in *The Colonist* Newspaper between 1841 and 1850.

The website is found at: <http://www.ncc.govt.nz/net/settlers/search.aspx>

The Council website also features *Bloodline Online* – a guide to genealogical resources in the Nelson area. There is an alphabetical list of links to other sites - regional and nationwide - which may hold interest for researchers in the Nelson area. Find this at:

http://www.ncc.govt.nz/library_home/resources_services/bloodlines/bloodlines-index.htm

WISEArchive

This UK website aims to develop a 'project dedicated to creating an online public archive which records and preserves the working life stories of UK citizens in order to recognise and value the contribution they have made to society.'

The archive's index can be searched by themes such as Agriculture and Farming, the Post Office, Women at Work, Social Care, Medical, Business, Education and Training and many more.

Clicking on the theme Employment for example, brings up a number of older peoples' stories of their experiences entitled – The Kitchen Maid, A Sackable Offence and An Apprenticeship 1942. The website also has a keyword search facility.

The website is found at: <http://www.wisearchive.co.uk/home>

The Workhouse

If you have discovered an ancestor who through unfortunate circumstance was forced to enter the Workhouse or you have wondered about the reputed grimness of life in the Workhouse for the inmates, then Peter Higginbotham's website *The Workhouse* will provide a remarkable insight into an institution which aroused so much fear for generations of the elderly poor and infirm.

The Workhouse has an astonishing 2000 web pages, 5000 photos and illustrations and 1500 plans and maps. It details the history of local and national attempts to 'deal' with the problem of the Poor in British society from the 17th through to the 20th century.

The website covers all aspects of workhouse life - admission, clothing, hygiene, workhouse rules, the buildings, menus and food as well as the separation of family members and the sexes. Personal accounts of workhouse life are available on the site

An excellent Introduction reviews the history of Poor Relief, the various measures and provisions from the 1601 Act for the Relief of the Poor to the more enlightened Cottage Homes for children towards the end of the nineteenth century. The site has a Search facility.

Find out more at the website: <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~peter/workhouse/>

Note for members planning to go on the Te Henui Cemetery Walk in February. The Cemetery Search Database on the New Plymouth District Council's website www.newplymouthnz.com allows you to obtain details of a deceased relative's gravesite including the block, row and plot number.

Will you be a good ancestor?

A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included, records where material may be found and always sees that at least one other copy of important data is held somewhere else!

The Branch Convenor and Committee extend Best Wishes for the Festive Season and the New Year to all Branch Members.

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