



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 225

July 2009

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

New Plymouth Branch
P.O. Box 429,
New Plymouth 4340

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

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 June 2nd 2009

The topic for the evening was United Kingdom Counties. Karen Crowe introduced the topic by illustrating her own family's origins which linked back to counties in England, Ireland and Scotland.

Karen emphasized the importance of knowing the old boundaries of Counties before the 1974 changes to make research easier and more successful. She listed a number of sources which members could make use of.

The Branch Library has a Counties Locator CD for members' use and information about the counties can often be found in the Practical Family History and Family Tree magazines and their accompanying CDs also available in the Library.

The GENUKI website provides detailed information about the administrative regions of the British Isles including maps showing historic and modern areas.

Karen stressed the need for any researcher of Irish ancestry to become familiar with the very different make up and terminology of the Ireland's administrative system.

A number of members were able to share their knowledge and experiences of Counties' research. The Victoria County Histories were cited as important sources of information although not all counties have been completed in this project.

Another member studying Cornwall had found that requests for information on the Rootsweb notice board had elicited many useful responses.

For Your In-formation

Membership

Subscriptions

These are due and can be paid at Branch Meetings or posted to PO Box 429, New Plymouth.

Single-\$30

Joint- \$40

Outside Taranaki- \$20

Welcome to these new members

Merv Smith, Craig Russell
Jean Williams, Carole
Withey, Ross Ingles.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 7th July 7.30pm.
Taranaki Between the Wars - talk by author
Jean Nicholls

Coming Meetings

4th August- Charles
LeBreton – The Family
Atlas Programme.
1st Sept Forum on Genes
Reunited website.

**Family History Centre
Mangorei Road July –
Opening Hours.**

1st & 3rd Thursdays

1.30pm to 4.30pm

2nd & 4th Thursdays

2.30pm to 5pm.

Contact Lois Smith at
751 2750

**Introductory Course
in Genealogy**

A reminder that this four
Course begins on Monday
13th July at 7.30pm in the
Branch Rooms.

A few vacancies remain.
This is an ideal course for
those new to Genealogy
and also for those who
wish to refresh their skills.
Phone Michael Butler at
753 2449

On Branch Library Shelves

July 2009 Issues of these magazines:

Family Tree

Walking the Census – an online tour.

Online records: FamilyRelatives.com.

European genealogy - Relatives in Switzerland.

Ancestors at Work: Agricultural labourers.

Welsh Surnames - making sense of the Joneses.

Free online data -1891 Census records for

Westmorland and Staffordshire.

Practical Family History

Free online data-Devon 1871 Census, Kelly's 1886

Directory of Essex and Hertfordshire.

Tracing coal mining ancestors.

How to trace your forebears in Surrey.

How to use records offices (UK) from home.

Advanced sources: pre 1841 Census & other records.

Introducing two new Committee members.

Bev Mulqueen's interest in genealogy began at the age of ten with the visit of a relative to update the Bowie family tree. Fifty years later Bev's search for the whereabouts of this particular tree marked the beginning of her own family research.

Bev has interests in the following names on her maternal side: KIRKMAN from England to Capetown and then to Auckland and Hastings.

LANSDOWN from Olverston, Gloucestershire, England to Taradale, NZ

On her paternal side:

BOWIE from Lanarkshire, Scotland to Timaru, NZ

COX from Southam, Warwickshire to Cust, Canterbury, NZ

Bev has not only enjoyed her researching but also the contacts made with close and distant relatives and others not necessarily related but always friendly and obliging

Charles LeBreton is recently retired after nearly 45 years working in the Public Service mainly on the property and legal side with the Ministry of Works and Land Information NZ.

Between 1981 and 2008, his work also involved genealogical research in tracing former owners of Crown owned properties and giving assistance to others.

His interest in genealogy began in the 1970s but his wife Coraleen (with his support when required) did most of the work which was mainly focused on Australia and New Zealand.

From about 1990 Charles began online research into his paternal LEBRETON line in the Channel Islands and has since branched out into a one name study of all LeBretons who left the Channel Islands to go to the rest of the UK, to Canada, USA, South Africa, St Helena, and South America. Most of these LeBretons are related. Charles also has researched the: WHITE, JANSSEN, WEHNER, EVERETT and PERHAM lines in Scotland, Sweden, Germany and Tasmania.



RESEARCHING WELSH ANCESTRY

Delving into Welsh Ancestry can present the researcher with difficulties for a number of reasons. Fixed surnames for families developed later here than in other parts of the United Kingdom and comparatively there are just fewer surnames in Wales than elsewhere. Professor Edward G Hartman (*Americans from Wales* 1967) estimated that just thirty nine surnames include 95% of the Welsh population and among these, a few such as Evans, Jones, Davies, Davis, Williams and Thomas predominate.

There are cultural and historical reasons for this situation. Previous to the Act of Union with England in 1536 the Patronymic system of naming male children was followed so that for example Owen's son might be known as Hywel ap Owen (Ap meaning son of). In turn Hywel's son might be known as Daffyd ap Hywel. In this system the family name changed each generation.

The Act of Union however prescribed that in all official documentation, the English language was to be used and Welsh names anglicised. Those people in towns together with the more important families changed to using fixed family surnames more quickly while those in more remote areas of Wales tended to continue with the patronymic system until the mid-18th century.

In some instances, names such as ap Hugh and ab Owen became changed to Pugh and Bowen. In the Border areas the adoption of saints' names with the inclusion of a final 's' was favoured and included Johns (Jones), Williams, Thomas, and Davies. In North Wales, it was common for place names to be used as surnames while in mid-Wales nicknames were often adopted as with Fychan meaning 'small' becoming Vaughan.

As a result a researcher may make good progress in identifying ancestors using record sources such as Parish registers, census records, and repositories in England and Wales from 1837 on but the possibility is that the family name may well disappear into the patronymic naming system of earlier times and the slow process of change after 1536.

Further Reading and Research:

Books: Rowlands, John; Rowlands, Sheila. *Welsh Family History – A Guide to Research*. Ed.2 1998 Genealogical Publishing Co.

Morgan TJ & Morgan Prys, *Welsh Surnames*. University of Wales Press. 1985

Websites: <http://www.fhswales.info> Association of Family History Societies of Wales – Index to Welsh genealogy research websites.

www.walesindex.co.uk/pages/64.html Links to websites for Welsh archives, repositories and databases.

<http://www.users.uswest.net/butchmatt/WelshNames&Surnames.htm> An in-depth article about the Patronymic system and the development of fixed surnames in Wales.

OF INTEREST

Papers Past – new additions.

Over 2008/2009 the following were added to the site:

- Ashburton Guardian
- Ellesmere Guardian
- Kai Tiaki: the Journal of the Nurses of NZ
- North Otago Times 1896
- NZ Truth
- Otautau Standard and Wallace County Chronicle
- Poverty Bay Herald 1879, Jan – Jun 1894, 1901-1920
- Victoria Times
- Waikato Times

Irish Land Divisions made simple.

A useful explanation of Irish land- divisions – so crucial to your Irish research -is available at the website:

http://www.ballybegvilla.ge.com/land_division.html

19th Century British Library Newspapers Online

The British Library in partnership with Joint Information Systems Committee and Gale has recently launched the public version of its 19th Century British Library Newspaper website: <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>

Searches of the website are free and downloads of full-text articles are available by purchasing a 24 hour or 7 day pass.

FFHS.org.uk is forecasting that its *National Burial Index Version 13* on DVD will be available in late summer (British) 2009 with 18 million entries.

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.nzetc.org/tm/scholarly/tei-corpus-cyclopedia.html

The New Zealand Electronic Centre in partnership with the Wellington City Library and Colonial CD Books has recently put online a full-text, freely accessible edition of volumes one to six of *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand*. This was originally published in six volumes between 1897 and 1908. Each volume deals with a region of New Zealand and includes information on local towns and districts, government departments, individuals, businesses, clubs and societies. Biographical entries frequently include the subject's date and place of birth, the name of the ship on which the immigrants arrived, the spouse's name and the number and gender of children born to a couple. The site is searchable.

<http://www.cassinimaps.co.uk/shop/tna1.asp>

Cassini Publishing in cooperation with The National Archives has released digital versions of the original Registration District maps from the 1871 Census. The maps are free to view online but there is a charge to download.

<http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk>

This pay site has an extensive list of searchable databases for all Irish Counties, the Memorials for the Dead database 1500s-1910, the Prerogative Wills Index 1536- 1810 and a Research Interest Forums among many features. There is a membership registration fee which can be monthly, for a full year, or for a Premium level.

<http://www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

The Library of Congress and National Endowment for the Humanities announced in mid-June 2009 that the *Chronicling America website* (above) – a free, national and searchable database of historic American newspaper pages published between 1880 and 1922 had recently posted its millionth page. The online resource will eventually contain 20 million pages of historic American papers from 1836 to 1922.

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com/seminars.asp> - links to FREE training videos.

Legacy Family Tree Version 7 users may wish to view two videos of seminar classes given by Legacy's Geoff Rasmussen at the Hemet-San Jacinto Genealogical Society's recent Seminar.

The two 'live' videos are:

Legacy Family Tree – an Overview (54 minutes) for those who are new to Legacy but this is also a great refresher course for experienced Legacy users.

Legacy Family Tree – Tips and Tricks (58 minutes) for those who are more experienced Legacy users.

Viewing the videos will necessitate having Flash MP4, or Flash FLV or a Windows Media viewer. Seminar handouts may also be downloaded.

www.vesteryears.co.nz This site gives searchable access to an extensive list of 19th Century NZ immigrant ships' photos, passenger lists and shipboard diaries.

NOTICES

Help asked for:

Judy Berntsen is trying to find information in response to a research query from outside Taranaki. If anyone has connections to descendants of Gladstone and Mary Ann Ellen **EAGLES** would you please contact Judy phone: 06) 753 9188 or email her at johnbb@clear.net.nz

Puke Ariki Events

•August to October an exhibition entitled *Fixated Photography through History*.

•Free Workshop on Saturday August 1st in the Research Centre - *Care and Identification of Photographs*

Newsletters received from other Branches

Canterbury; Blenheim;
Hawke's Bay;
Hutt Valley;
Motueka; Stratford;
Palmerston North;
Wairapa; Wanganui
Wellington;
Whakatane
Brant County, Ontario

No more wireless

Puke Ariki has had to discontinue its wireless connection facility for laptop computers in the East Wing

Newsletter contributions are welcomed. Email to Editor wicky.family@ihug.co.nz