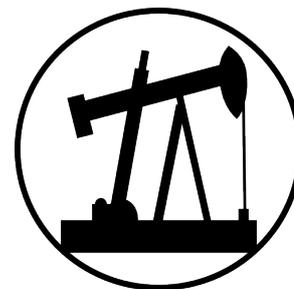




NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 258

July 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

New NZSG Council

Members of the NZSG Council elected at the 2012 Annual General Meeting at Taupo, Queen's Birthday Weekend.

President:

Michelle Patient - Whitianga

Council:

Barbara Wyley - Kaitaia

Clive Palmer - Kapiti

Diane Wilson - Auckland

Gay Williams - Auckland

Owen Ormsby - Pukekohe/Auckland

Robyn Williams (Treasurer) - Auckland

Roger Washbourn - Invercargill

Ruth Rye - Waiuku.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 3 July 2012

Brick Walls

At our July meeting, Annette Larsen will talk about breaking down brick walls and distinguishing truth from fiction in genealogy research.

Don't take everything at face value is perhaps the number one rule for family history researchers! Annette has enjoyed some collaboration with a researcher in Australia and together they have achieved some good results and had some fun uncovering the real story.



Convenor:
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
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Meeting: Bring & Tell

Cold, wintry weather didn't put off some hardy souls turning out to Show and Tell others about their family treasures and a good night was had by all. Peter Winter showed us a gold family seal belonging to his father. The seal, depicting a hawk holding a fish, dates back to 1440 and was the seal of the Worthingtons of Leicester.

By way of contrast, Betty Vickers spoke about two printed dinner menus from a 1956 Australia to Singapore voyage of the ship Tjubadak. The menus were in the shape of round fans, no doubt coming in handy in the hot weather. Some offerings were, Young Australian Turkey, and South American Chicken.

Sarah Knowles showed us two well known 1843 prints of early New Plymouth. Sarah's forebears arrived aboard the first four ships into New Plymouth, and the houses of two of her forebears, Mr. Shepherd and Mr Vercoe were shown in the paintings.

Roger Hawkins talked about the inscribed family bible commemorating his gt. gt grandfather's 1840 marriage at Farringdon, Berkshire. What was of great significance, was the baptismal note in the bible of a family member, signed by Vicesimus Lush, one time vicar of Thames, New Zealand. The signature is quite rare. Roger received the bible by post from Spain, and he laughingly told us that the tattered brown wrapping paper is now part of his family memorabilia!

William Brachen's book, titled Musings in Maori Land, A Jubilee Volume, was a much treasured and read book which Ann Ackroyd had inherited from her favourite uncle. The book had been expertly restored by Mr. Tito.

Ailsa McCrone explained about the stirrups her father used in WW1 while fighting on the Somme. The spurs had been replaced by Belgian coins. Her father was a signaller with the Royal Engineers and had fought for Britain before emigrating to New Zealand in 1922.

Ailsa McCrone

Overdue Subscriptions

A number of branch subscriptions are still not paid. These were due by 1 June. If payment is not received by 31 July, your membership will no longer be valid. You will therefore have to pay \$5 non member's fee to be able to do any research in the library. If you no longer wish to be a member please notify The Membership Secretary (Judy Berntsen) on phone 7539188 or email to newplymouth@genealogy.org.nz. You can either post your sub to P O Box 429, New Plymouth 4340 or by direct credit to: 15 3942 0008448 00. Please enter your SURNAME in the Bank REFERENCE field.

Family History Month

NZSG is promoting August 2012 as family history month, with the theme "Family history is cool, pass it on".

The idea is to encourage people to pass on their family history, stories, photos, etc. Look at ways that you can share your family history and encourage people to pass on their family history.



Shetland Family History Research Day

Date: Saturday
28 July 2012

Time: 10:00 am to 3:30 pm

Venue: City of Wellington
Pipe Band Hall
Corner Stoke & Hansen Streets
Newtown
Wellington

The Shetland Society of Wellington is holding a research day on 28 July 2012. This will include talks at 10:30 and 1:30 by Lily Baker, and a range of research resources available. The cost is \$15 (\$10 for members) and includes lunch.

Enquiries: (04) 234 6952

www.shetlandwellington.org.nz



Book Review: "Adam's Curse" by Bryan Sykes, Professor of Human Genetics

Why such a subject? You may recall the talk to our branch earlier this year by Ian Handricks from Auckland. Ian made reference to another publication by the same author called *The Seven Daughters of Eve*. Both concern research leading to the discovery of uses for DNA including "Where we come from".

At a subsequent committee meeting, it was decided to see if latter book was held at library. It was not. I volunteered to investigate further and ended up buying both. *Adam's Curse* being about the male Y chromosome and *the Seven Daughters* about the female equivalent (mitochondria or mDNA).

Adam's Curse was a bit like reading a scientific journal but more readable and the other is looking similar. I enjoyed the book, as apart from scientific discovery it showed how DNA could be used. If you do not enjoy reading history books however you may find it heavy going. A few interesting topics included:

- Relationships of members of Sykes family.
- Scottish ancestry from the Isle of Skye and Clan MacDonald.
- Viking roots and whether they still endure
- Impact of other common ancestors such as Genghis Khan

Where to now. Well I do not think book is suitable for our library as a research aid although I would be more than happy to donate. If anybody would like to borrow however they are most welcome. A further report will follow when I have finished reading the second book.

Charles Le Breton

Introducing: Margaret Gregory

Greetings. I am a new committee member of the branch after many years of attending the monthly branch meetings.

Genealogy is one of my passions.

My maiden name is Dunstan and I have concentrated on my family from Cornwall. I have been very fortunate with the contacts I have made and the information shared. The highlight on this journey was 7 years ago when I

visited the Helston and Wendron areas in Cornwall where my ancestors came from. I also did a lot of research at the Cornwall Family Research Centre in Truro.

Another highlight was 3 years ago when I was in Melbourne and met a 3rd cousin.

My next project is to collate my paper records to Legacy on my mothers' families, the names being Talbot (Opotiki) and Penny (Bay of Plenty and Taranaki).

I use the Legacy programme.

My other interests are travelling, tating, square dancing and Senior Net activities (and when it's a necessity, gardening).

I look forward to my involvement with Committee duties and branch activities.

Margaret Gregory

AJHR Website

www.atojs.natlib.govt.nz

Some of you may have tried this website already but in case you have not it is a "Paperpast" look alike. The interface is almost identical except for a blue rather than green tinge.

For the uninitiated, AJHR means "Appendix to the Journal of the House of representatives". Whether you have tried the hard copy in the past or not, this adds the same search facility that was added to newspapers by Paperspast. Perhaps not as user friendly but this is as much the make-up of the often long articles as the interface itself.

One aspect that is potentially better than Paperspast is that the whole document is available from 1858 to 1999. After this another website is available for many later additions (www.parliament.nz).

The AJHR is arranged into broad themes. An outline of the themes since the late nineteenth century include:

A: legislative, political, and foreign affairs

B: public finance

C: Crown lands, mines, forests, primary production, environment

D: immigration, public works, energy

E: education, welfare, and justice

F: post office, broadcasting, communications



G: Maori affairs
H: miscellaneous, commissions of inquiry
I: reports of select committees
J: petitions

It can be used for a wide variety of research purposes in addition to the study of government-related history. See the website for further details. This should prove to be another valuable resource.

Charles Le Breton

Palaeography

Palaeography is the study of old handwriting. One doesn't go very far in genealogy before having to decipher old documents, written using letter shapes that are way different to what we are used to today.



The UK National Archives has an online tutorial to help you learn to read old handwriting. This provides tips and hints, reference material and practice exercises.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/

Cambridge University also has an online course about English handwriting 1500-1700.

www.english.cam.ac.uk/eres/ehoc/

Top Ten Family History Research Tips

This is a YouTube video talk by Dr Nick Barrett and Laura Barry. They discuss lots of good practice and ideas for research.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAxVA2HC3xg

There is more information, videos and links at the Family History Show website.

www.familyhistoryshow.net

NEWLAND Family History

Recently, Andrew Peter McWilliam and his wife Barbara from Hamilton visited our branch library. Peter is a New Plymouth Boys High old boy. He

is a descendant of and has researched the NEWLAND family who arrived in New Plymouth on the Amelia Thompson.

Peter is happy to assist anyone who has an interest in the genealogy of this family. Barbara has information on the BROWN family and Henry HANDLEY. Interested members can email Peter: apbm@vodafone.co.nz.

Library Resources

Peter Winter, who has recently become a member of our group, has kindly contributed to our library, on long term loan, two volumes of family history titled *The Descendants of Douglas Mary McKain*.

These books contain an extensive list of surnames which have links to the UK and many parts of NZ along with interesting historical notes. The cataloguing of these volumes is underway and they will shortly be on the shelf for use as reference books.

Library News

Magazines received;

- Memories (June - July)
- Tracing Family History (July)
- Family Tree (July)
- Genealogist (May - June)



Newsletters received;

- Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, South Canterbury, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wanganui, South England

Computer Group

The next computer group meeting is at 1:30 pm, Sunday 15 July 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.

