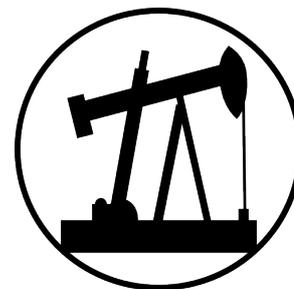




NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 274

December 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

Christmas / New Year Break

The branch rooms will be closed over the Christmas / New Year period.

Last day for 2013: Saturday 14 December

First day for 2014: Monday 20 January



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 4 Feb 2014

Merry Christmas

The branch committee would like to wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2014!



Please note that there is no branch meeting in December.

The next branch meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 4 February 2014.

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
Website: www.genealogynp.com

Last Meeting: Berridge Family

At the November meeting, Phillip Duke presented the family history of the Berridge family, a prominent Taranaki family.

The family arrived at New Plymouth in 1852 aboard the *William Hyde*. They faced many challenges settling and establishing a farm in the Omata area, and then coping with the land wars. The Hoby family of Bell Block was also covered.

Mr Duke explained some of the sources used for compiling the family history. As well as the usual sources (BDM records, PapersPast, etc), these included letters and other personal documents from the 19th century. These give real insight into the lives of people living in the New Plymouth area around the time of the land wars.

The Daily News featured an article on the Berridge family earlier this year, and this is still available on line.

www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/features/8313124/A-family-snapshot

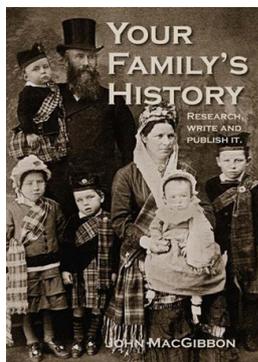
SHIPMENT JUST ARRIVED.

We have now received the books that were advertised for sale a couple of months ago. These are;

- *Your Family's History* by John MacGibbon: \$15
- Family History Notebook, a notebook for recording your research: \$8.

Or just \$20 for both!

If you have ordered these books, please contact John Berntsen to get your copy (and pay, if you haven't done so already).



Convenor's Report

Well Xmas is nearly upon us and also the holidays. Our rooms will be closed from Saturday 14 December and reopen Monday 20 January. If you have something urgent that will need the rooms to open, please contact a Committee member and they will be able to help you.

On a sad note, another member has passed away. Bill Butterworth was only new and had not been to any meetings.

Your committee is still looking for topics or people to speak at our branch meetings. If you have any suggestions please get in touch with a committee member.

I attended a meeting in Waitara last Thursday and the Waitara Branch is ceasing to exist from 31 March 2014. They have not got enough members. Their resources will go to a new non NZSG group as yet to be formed.

For all Legacy users Version 8 has finally arrived. I have not yet downloaded it yet, but will do very shortly.

On behalf of the Committee and myself I hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all again at the first meeting in the New Year which is on 4 February 2014.

John Berntsen

Murray Lynn

We were saddened to hear that Murray Lynn had passed away recently. Murray made a huge contribution to genealogy in New Zealand in many ways, including his Kiwicelts website. This has lots of useful information, including a database of New Zealand cemeteries.

kiwicelts.com



Five Ways to Mess Up Your Genealogy

An amusing blog entry from Archives.com

We at Archives.com love to share tips to help you find your ancestors. Today, we're pointing out some sure-fire ways that you can mess up all your work. Why would we do such a thing? Think of the following as good examples of what not to do.

1. Don't record where you found something

You finally found that piece of information that you've been looking for. You're so excited, you're sure that you'll always remember exactly where you found it. The harsh reality is that you will likely forget at some point. Why does this matter? Because there could come a point where you're trying to sort out new information that contradicts what you have. If you can't find the first source again, you won't be able to sort it out.

2. Don't share any of your research

You might not think that your information is in good enough shape to share with anyone, so you've refrained from posting your tree online or sharing some of your research via a blog or on Facebook. Not sharing what you've found, even when it's in its early stages, could prevent others from sharing what they've found with you. After all, if they don't know that you're researching a specific family, how will they share that family Bible that holds the information about your ancestor?

3. Don't look closely at new information

It's happened to all of us at some point. We find a record that seems to unlock that tough genealogy problem and in our excitement, we miss a detail that tells us it's not the key we thought it was.

Skipping across records and trees instead of carefully reading them is a certain way to mess up your genealogy.

4. Never review your notes

Finding new records is exciting! Going back and reviewing notes, especially those that you haven't looked at in a while, not as much. However, if you don't look at what you've done before, you won't know exactly how that new record fits in. The moral of this story is ... always check your previous research.

5. Give Up

Like the old saying "You can't win if you don't play," you greatly reduce the chances of discovering your ancestors if you give up looking for them.

From Wellington newsletter

Did you know

We have been told that in the 16th & 17th centuries, before commercial fertilisers were invented, large shipments of dried manure were often shipped between countries.

It was shipped dry because in its dry form it weighed a lot less than when wet. However once exposed to water it became a lot heavier. Of course at sea there was a high risk of exposure to water. If the manure did get wet the process of fermentation began again. One of its by-products is methane gas. As the barrels were stored below decks you can imagine what could (and did) happen. Methane began to build up below decks, and if someone went down into the hold at night with a lantern there was often an explosion. Several ships were destroyed in this manner before it was determined just what was happening. After that, the manure was removed from barrels and bound in sacks which were stamped with the term "Ship High In Transit," which indicated it was to be stowed high enough up in the lower decks so that any water that came into the hold would not touch this volatile cargo and start the production of methane. "Ship High In Transit" evolved the term S.H.I.T. which has come down through the centuries and is in use to this very day!

It has also been told that palm kernel stored at Port Taranaki is having similar problem. In hot weather, condensation is dripping off roof onto stockpile starting fermentation and threatening fire.

Australian BMD records free at findmypast until 31 January 2014

findmypast.com.au is offering free access to three-quarters of a million Australian birth, marriage, and death records that have been recently added to the site. However the existing collection (of around 8 million entries) isn't included in this offer.



Health & Safety Guidelines for Christmas

Everyone planning to dash through the snow in a one horse open sleigh, going over the fields and laughing all the way are advised that a Risk Assessment will be required addressing the safety of an open sleigh for members of the public. This assessment must also consider whether it is appropriate to use only one horse for such a venture, particularly where there are multiple passengers. We would request that laughter is moderate only and not loud enough to be considered a noise nuisance.

Benches and orthopaedic chairs are now available for collection by any shepherds required to watch their flocks by night. Provision has also been made for remote monitoring of flocks by CCTV cameras from a centrally heated shepherd observation hut.

The angel of the Lord is additionally reminded that, prior to shining his/her glory all around, s/he must confirm that all shepherds are wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment to account for the harmful effects of UVA, UVB and the overwhelming effects of Glory.

Following last year's well-publicised case, everyone is advised that Equal Opportunities legislation prohibits any comment with regard to the redness of any part of Mr R Reindeer. Further to this, exclusion of Mr R Reindeer from reindeer games will be considered discriminatory and disciplinary action will be taken against those found guilty of this offence.

While it is acknowledged that gift bearing is a common practice in various parts of the world, particularly the Orient, you are reminded that the bearing of gifts is subject to the Hospitality Guidelines and all gifts must be registered. It is particularly noted that direct gifts of currency or gold are specifically precluded.

Finally, in the instance of an infant found tucked up in a manger without a crib for a bed, this should be reported to Child, Youth & Family.

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 of cartridges.**

These will be recycled to generate some income for the branch.



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.



Regional Meeting

The next NZSG regional meeting will be at 10:30 am on Saturday 7 December at Inglewood. Members are welcome to attend, please arrive from 10am.

Library News

Magazines received;

Discover Your History (Nov)

Family Tree (Dec)

Who Do You Think You Are (Dec)

Memories (Dec / Jan)

Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hutt Valley, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, Wairarapa, Wellington



Newsletter

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

