



NZSG New Plymouth Branch Newsletter



Number 283

October 2014

Branch Library: Open free to members. A small charge to visitors.
Opening Hours: Monday: 10am to 3pm (closed Monday 27 October, Labour Day)
 Wednesday: 12 noon to 3pm
 Saturday: 10am to 12 noon

Christmas Raffle

The branch is running a Christmas hamper raffle this year. Members are asked to bring along a donation of non-perishable goods to the next monthly branch meeting.

Raffle tickets are 3 for \$2 and will be on sale at the October and November branch meetings. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas dinner.



Next meeting: 7:30 pm Tuesday 7 Oct 2014

Gramps & Reunion

The October meeting will feature demonstrations of two different genealogy programmes.

- Gramps with Peter Hewett
- Reunion with Neville Richards

There are many different genealogy software programmes available, and although the basics are much the same, some offer a range of different features and user interfaces.

Reunion is made to run on Apple devices (iMac, macbook, iPhone and ipad).

Gramps is an open source programme, available for Windows, mac and Linux.

Convenor: John Berntsen 753 9188
Secretary: Fay Eaton 751 1045
Treasurer: Neville Richards

Committee: Judy Berntsen
 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 Event: Internet

The September meeting covered genealogy websites. This was done in groups, with each one focusing on a different website.

- Ancestry.com (Sarah Knowles)
- Findmypast (Sharyn Guthrie)
- FamilySearch (Ailsa McCrone)
- PapersPast (Charles Le Breton)
- British Newspaper Archive (Annette Larsen)

Some of these websites are quite sophisticated, so it is helpful to see how to get more use out of them. And some are pay to use sites, and the workshop environment meant you can see what is available before deciding to put up some money.

Thank you to all the branch members who led the group sessions.

Future meetings

At the November meeting, Sharon Guthrie and Karen Crowe will talk about their big trip this year. The Hooked on Genealogy Tour went to Salt Lake City and to the UK.

Branch Christmas Dinner

The branch Christmas dinner will be held at 6:00 pm on Tuesday 9 December 2014. This will be at the Fitzroy Golf Club, Record Street. The dinner is a buffet and the cost is \$27 a head. Please put your name down on the list at the branch rooms.

Christmas Cake Raffle

Tickets in this raffle are \$1 each and will be on sale at the October and November branch meetings.

The prize is a glorious Christmas cake, donated by Neville Richards. The raffle draw will be done at the November branch meeting.

Convenor's Report

Gosh, Christmas is getting closer. Our Xmas dinner list will be up front for you to fill out. We are running 2 Xmas raffles, tickets will be on sale at the meeting. We will be drawing the raffles at the Xmas Dinner, and will be available to be picked up at the rooms the next day we are open.

Over the last month I have had emails from two cousins I have never spoken to before. One in Australia who is researching my Low line and another in Rotorua who is doing my Berntsen line. I hope I can fill in some more gaps from these two people, especially if the lady in Rotorua can trace some of our living relations in Norway. That would be lovely.

We have just had our eldest son get married, but this only came about because his children won a radio competition (More FM Tauranga) called "Kidz design your wedding". They got through to the semi-finals with 2 others, and then there was the part to see who could get the most texts per day over 10 days. Well the grand-children won it and they designed a wedding with help from the Radio Station taking them to different stores etc to choose what they wanted to wear, what they wanted on the cake, to taking the parents out to different stores to sort clothes out for them. When they took their mother out to fit her out for the wedding, she was blindfolded so she didn't know where she was or what was in the shop. The parents never knew what they were wearing until the day. It was a lovely wedding, if only the rain had stayed away and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They had been together for 16 years before the wedding.

When I got home I had to change their record on the computer from Unmarried to Married. Then last weekend we were in Auckland for Judy's sister's 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Well that's all for now. Hope to see you all on Tuesday night.

John Berntsen
Convenor



British Newspaper Archive

At the last Branch meeting, I demonstrated this particular website.

It is a subscription site which is disappointing when you consider that our NZ and Australian equivalent sites are free. Note: this site is not the same as the free newspapers offered to NZSG members on the NZSG website. Check the NZSG service out. However, I have found almost nothing from the British newspapers there. Again, that depends on where and when your research is.

Genes Reunited offers the British Newspaper Archive as part of some of their packages. Possibly some other major genealogy websites do too.

I opted to treat myself to a year's subscription, mainly because every month more pages are digitised and put on line. 160,000 more pages were added in August. There are more than 8.5 million pages on this site now. Of course, coverage for some areas is better than others. I am delighted as I have been finding pages and pages of articles relevant to my Sussex research and also some good Scottish articles in the Archive.

Before you decide to take out a subscription, I recommend that you go on the site and put in some names to see if your research areas and people are covered. A "teaser" will come up showing you the beginning of a possible relevant article. To see the whole article you will then need to pay. Pointless taking out a subscription if there is no coverage of your research area.

There are Pay-As-You Go charges, or you might take out a subscription for just a month or opt for a year. From time to time there are specials offered too.

It is a very user-friendly site with great filters so that you can narrow the hits down. If you know a year for a death you can narrow hits down to a specific year and if you are lucky you may find an obituary or funeral account. I was thrilled to find a very informative obituary for my great-grandfather. The article mentioned the fact that his father (i.e. my great-great grandfather) was the village policeman - something I did not know and leading me to another avenue to explore.

Funeral accounts I have found have given a list of attendees at the event and how they are

related to the dead person! Very useful for further research and in connection with the UK Free BMDs.

There is also an Advanced Search offered. This can be most helpful too. My great grandfather was in the Crowborough Fire Brigade. Putting this in the Advanced Search along with his surname brought up some wonderful information.

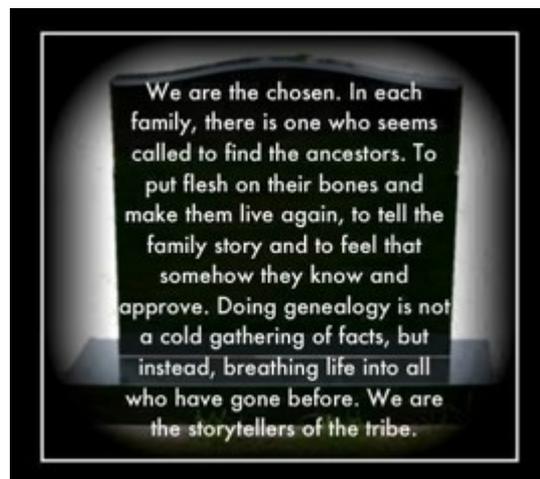
Be flexible with what you search under. A first name is not always given. Also remember that women often were found under "Mrs" and the initial of their husband. Watch also for mistakes in articles. Do not immediately discount something. I found my "Henry William Scott" written as "Edward William Scott". Newspapers don't get everything right!

If there is a write-up on something and it is in more than one newspaper, check out all the papers as there may be extra information in one. I found a wedding photo in one paper but not in another article.

Don't forget to SAVE your download, but delete your downloads once you have copied and pasted and saved your article, as the page downloads are quite large. Also make sure once you have copied your article that you record the name of the newspaper and the date.

I am pleased I have taken out this subscription, despite the cost. For me it is turning out to be good value.

Annette Larsen



Library Roster: October

Monday 10 am to 3 pm
Wednesday 12 noon to 3 pm
Saturday 10 am to 12 noon

Wed 1 Elly Harrison
Sat 4 Mike Merrick
Mon 6 Charles Le Breton/Bev Mulqueen
Tues 7 Branch meeting – 7:30PM
Wed 8 Jill Harvey
Sat 11 Karen Crowe
Mon 13 Lorraine Austin/Anne Brophy
Wed 15 Fay Eaton
Sat 18 Lea / Bruce Bellini
Mon 20 Ailsa McCrone / Syd-Cela Beale
Wed 22 Jill Jackson
Sat 25 Marilyn Armistead
Mon 27 Closed Labour Day
Tues 28 Committee meeting 7pm
Wed 29 Margaret Gregory

For those new to genealogy and/or want help knocking down those brick walls, this is an excellent time and place to have our experts help you. Our helpers can show you what is available in the library and how to go about finding what you are looking for.

Maternity Home, Tukapa Street

I would like to know where Sister Fitzgerald had her Maternity Home in Tukapa Street, New Plymouth. The year was 1951. I have been to Puke Ariki and there is no information on their records about this Home. Please contact Lorraine Austin on lorraineaustin@gmail.com

New Members

The branch warmly welcomes new members Roger Tozer and Christine Jackson.

Family History Fair 2015

Next year, the NZSG Family History Fair will be held at Alexandra Park, Auckland, from 7 to 9 August 2015.

Beginning Genealogy

The monthly beginning genealogy sessions that Marilyn has run each month have been popular. Unfortunately, she is not able to run a session in October, but hopes to resume these sessions in November or December.

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.



Library News

Magazines received;

Who do you think you are (Sept)

Family Tree (Sept and Oct)

Memories (Oct/Nov)



Newsletters received;

Blenheim, Canterbury, Hawkes Bay, Hutt Valley, Matamata, Nelson, Otaki, Palmerston North, Riccarton, Stratford, Wairarapa, Wellington, Whakatane

Newsletter

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

