

News & Views

April 2007; 25th Year
Issue 244



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

Evening Meeting 7.30pm 1st Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 9.30am, 3rd Thursday, February to November
Research Evening: 6.00pm, last Thursday each month. Library open
ComSIG 7:30pm, last Thursday of the month.
Venue: Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Convenor: Janice Price
Secretary: Deb Beban HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sisc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change and confirmation closer to the event)

05 Apr: Finished Article (branch members)
19 Apr: Ali Carew - Eastbourne Historical Society
26 Apr: Computer Special Interest Group

03 May: Lynly Yates - Fencible Ancestors
17 May: Graham Langton from NZ Archives
26 Apr: Computer Special Interest Group
07 Jun: TBA
21 Jun: Elusive Ancestors (branch members)
26 Apr: Computer Special Interest Group

05 Apr: Finished Article (branch members)

A few members of the group will be bringing along their family history as a finished product. Come along for some ideas, inspiration and motivation.

19 Apr: Ali Carew - Eastbourne Historical Society

Ali Carew has written a book (maybe more) about the history of Eastbourne and is a member of the Eastbourne Historical Society. Local historians are very useful people to know when doing your family history and their books are well worth reading!

26 Apr: Computer Special Interest Group

Sue Green came along last month with her computer and datashow and talked to 36 people. Jim Fitzmaurice is organising our speaker for April. Details to come.

COME EARLY TO BOTH MEETINGS FOR RESEARCH AND LIBRARY - 6.30pm for evening meeting and 9.15am for the morning meeting on branch meeting days.

CUPPA AND COOKIE - available *before* the morning meeting - and *after* the evening meetings - gold coin donation please

LAND, LAW and LITERATURE Genealogy Absolutely Positively

The 2007 AGM & Conference of The New Zealand Society of Genealogists inc.
1-4 June 2007 Wellington Girls Collage Pipitea Street Thorndon Wellington

Registrations forms are available from www.genealogy.org.nz but one cannot register online.

HERE TO STAY

Started Mon 26 March, TV1 7.30 pm - a New Zealand type "Who do you think you are?"

IF YOU GO DOWN TO THE HUTT LIBRARY TODAY YOU'RE IN FOR A BIG SURPRISE!

- ✓ Ancestry.com is now available at Lower Hutt library. Access is at the library only.
 - ✓ The Times (London) Digital archive is now available online to Hutt Library members. You need to be a member of the Hutt Library to search this archive at home.
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VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA RECORDS (from origins@ihug.co.nz Genealogy Websitesgalore)

The Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages will release a new Access Policy later this year. Specific to family historians, the new access policy will state that the restriction period for BIRTH records will increase from 75 years to 100 years. Restriction periods for death and marriage records will remain unchanged, 10 years and 60 years respectively.

The new policy was to be introduced from 2 April 2007 but this has been delayed following some pressure from the family history industry (including the AIGS) who felt that this was insufficient time. So if you require any Victorian Birth Certificates covering the period 1907 to 1924 you should order them before the new policy starts - Carol Ann Mason

ALPHABETALISE YOUR TOMMIES from feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com

Ancestry.co.uk has begun adding World War I British Army service and pension records, starting with 100,000 records for A and B surnames. If your ancestor's name began with "zed," you might have to wait until 2008.

They reveal intriguing personal details, such as how Pte Thomas Beedham, a 34-year-old fitter from Leicester, was "admonished" and fined 4 days pay for absenting himself from a draft on Aug 28, 1916. The forms also show how Pte John William Ballinger, of 1bn Manchester Regiment, had a "distinctive" scar on his right leg and how one soldier was almost 64 when he fought.

To the question "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" the British Army evidently answered, "So long as you fit the uniform."

ANCESTRY.COM NEWS RELEASE

"Ancestry.com, announced the addition of the first and only online collection of more than 4 million names of individuals who crossed the U.S.-Canadian border between 1895 and 1956. These historical records are the latest addition to Ancestry.com's Immigration Records Collection, which also includes more than 100 million names from the largest online collection of U.S. passenger lists, spanning 1820 to 1960."

FAMILYSEARCH NEWS RELEASE

Early vital records of Nova Scotia, Canada, are viewable over the Internet for the first time and for free, thanks to a joint project by the Genealogical Society of Utah, FamilySearch, the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM). The records include one million names found in birth records from 1864 to 1877, marriages from 1864 to 1930, and death records from 1864 to 1877 and 1908 to 1955. Users can search the database at www.novascotiagenealogy.com.

Anyone can now search names in the index and view a high quality digital copy of the original image online for free at NSARM's Web site, www.novascotiagenealogy.com. In the near future, the index and images will also be available on FamilySearch.org"

THE BARD BURNS AT LAST (from feedblitz@mail.feedblitz.com)

The birth and marriage certificates of poet Robert Burns have become the last available General Office Register documents for Scotland records to be digitised and placed online at www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk. Scotland's old parochial records go back more than 450 years. This marks the end of a £3m project to improve access to Scotland's records for genealogists worldwide.

WHAT PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS THINK OF THE PROPOSED LAW CHANGE RE BDMS

March 25, 2007 by Julie Jacobson [Bill's amendment could mean world of secrets and lies](#)

A watered-down 'McHistory' view of reality could be all we get if tighter controls on access to public information go ahead, leading historians say.

The Births, Death, Marriages and Relationships Amendment Bill clamps down on access to information, currently available to virtually anyone. It follows concerns about identity fraud and the ease of accessing official records.

Under the bill's provisions, an individual will be able to access only personal birth records, details of those of an immediate family member, or someone born more than 100 years ago. For information about anyone else, authorisation from the person concerned would be needed.

The planned legislation has some top historians up in arms. They say it is likely to have a huge impact on future reading of 20th century history, and runs counter to the freeing up of similar information in other countries.

Graeme Hunt, who wrote *Black Prince*, a biography of unionist Fintan Patrick Walsh, and who is currently working on a book about New Zealand spies, argues that the restrictions will make it impossible for him and others to write "real" history. Without access to public records historians would have been unable to write many of the books and papers they have produced.

"What will happen is that we're going to get a whole lot of glossed over history. Seeing an original document tells you so much about our history, and it often differs from what a family will tell you or what conventional history says."

During research for *Black Prince*, Hunt discovered Walsh had lied about his name - it was actually Patrick Tuohy - and where he was born [Poverty Bay not Ireland]. He also discovered that one of Walsh's brothers was an alcoholic and another had died in a mental institution.

Political scientist Barry Gustafson has written biographies of Robert Muldoon and Michael Savage, and is currently working on former Prime Minister David Lange's entry for the Dictionary of NZ, as well as completing a biography of Sir Keith Holyoake. Like Hunt, he says he would have been unable to write accurate accounts of their lives without being able to research public records.

"In Muldoon's case, his father died in a mental institution. Now, of course, people don't want things like that broadcast, but I was able to find out what he died of and whether the rumours that were going around about venereal disease and syphilis were true. They were.

"And Holyoake married the same person [Norma Ingram] twice, about six months apart. He eloped the first time - he was engaged [to Norma] and there was some suggestion she wasn't quite as acceptable to his mother as she might have been - so they simply caught a boat across Cook Strait to Wellington, had a registry marriage and then went back to Nelson. Then, because his mother was particularly religious, had a second full church wedding with a much larger cast and all the trimmings.

Britain is not only making information available but also making it easier to access. Gustafson receives updates of newly archived material online and "even top secret cabinet and government papers" from Britain only have a 30-year restriction, he says.

Hunt says it is a similar story in the US, with FBI records available on the internet. "I've been looking up records involving some spies linked to a New Zealander. You can download whole case records, including interception records by listening agencies."

He notes that under the bill, which has had its first reading in Parliament, anyone publishing unauthorised information inside protected periods (for a death certificate, the death must have been 50 years ago or the person at least 80 when they died) could be fined up to \$10,000.

Special provisions in the bill allow the police, Security Intelligence Service and other officials access to the records. Others protect the identities of witnesses, people associated with the SIS, and police officers. see http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/1/story.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10430707 for full story

SPEAKER'S REVIEW - MARLENE SAYERS - FINDING ELUSIVE ANCESTORS

It has been estimated that up to 15% of births were not registered between 1837 and 1855. From the 1st of January 1855 it became compulsory to register all births and there were penalties if it was not done within a certain time. Before that date, those who had not registered births were protesting at the government poking around with ecclesiastical information. Ministers had an influence in this protest too.

When trying to find your elusive ancestors, think laterally, think outside the square. Join round robins and/or subscribe to family history magazines. By reading as much as possible about your area of interest and surrounding areas, you find vital clues.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN STUDYING CENSUS INFORMATION

- ✓ Death - someone who appears on one census but not the next one may have died. That may narrow your search for their death to a 10 year period.
- ✓ Moving house - Look at the child's birth certificate for clues as to where they lived at that point in time.
- ✓ When looking at census information, it is important to know the census dates. June was summer holidays and so knowing that, it is not surprising to find people are staying with friends and relatives or were on holiday somewhere.
- ✓ Men tended to move around for work while women stayed close to home. Men even travelled as far as America for seasonal work.
- ✓ Institutions - workhouses for those falling on hard times, boarding school for children and charitable institutions for children unable to be cared for by their parents.
- ✓ In prison and/or transportation
- ✓ Floating population - e.g. bargemen
- ✓ Armed services and Men at sea
- ✓ Illness in a family meant children could have been sent elsewhere - e.g. cholera epidemic in 1860. Nurse child' refers to a foster situation, to a child being looked after by some one who could have even been the child's aunt.
- ✓ Women often went home to mum to have their first child.

BRITISH CENSUS DATES

06 Jun 1841	07 Apr 1961	03 Apr 1881	30 Mar 1901
30 Mar 1851	02 Apr 1871	05 Apr 1891	02 Apr 1911

MARLENE'S RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

- ✓ www.freebmd - an indexing site for births, deaths and marriages. Check this site regularly as new information is being added all the time.
- ✓ www.LostCousins.org.uk - a website connects 1881 census families
- ✓ www.freebmd.org.uk/progress.shtml - indexing progress - check often for updates
- ✓ www.fhsc.org.uk/genuki/REG/ - to find registration district
- ✓ www.cheshirebmd.org.uk - a family history society site
- ✓ www.1837online.com - a fee-paying site to buy certs
- ✓ www.liv.ac.uk - information on child migration
- ✓ www.familysearch.org - LDS website. You can look at the catalogue, put in a place name e.g. Mere Wiltshire. Parish registers are important.
- ✓ www.askjeeves.com - (e.g. Dorset Old Parish Clerk)
- ✓ www.mick-gray.co.uk - other Dorset material

- ✓ www.genuki.org - very useful genealogical site
 - ✓ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~hughwallis/IGIBatchnumbers.htm>
 - ✓ www.ancestry.com
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SPEAKER'S REVIEW - SHERWOOD YOUNG

Sherwood brought along a pile of books including the NZ Dictionary of Biographies. He talked about the origins of the Police force in Britain and the various stages of its development and how to find police ancestors.

SPEAKER'S REVIEW: SUE GREEN - OTAKI BRANCH & KAPITI COMSIG

Written by Janet Ketchell - Secretary Hutt ComSIG group

Sue started the meeting by explaining what COMSIG was all about i.e. for genealogy and computing. Normally the meetings opened with a Question and Answer session then moved to the subject of the evening which normally lasts about 45min.

She then covered briefly:

- ✓ Different genealogy programs
- ✓ Broadband/Dialup Internet connection
- ✓ Kapiti's next Comsig meeting – Telecom and the new equipment they are introducing to the market
- ✓ Spam

Q & A

Q: Was the Family historical site paid? A: No

Q: Can Legacy be put on both your laptop and home computer under the 1 licence? A: Yes

Sue had applied to and received money through Pub Charities for a laptop computer, printer and projector for use at meetings and branch use. It was very useful for guest speakers etc.

SPAM

- Your address can be collected by spammers through Rootsweb and other Genealogy sites where contact details are left on site, also through the passing on of jokes etc in the long list of email addresses that often accompany these. It is recommended that you use the BCC option if you are passing these on.
- To stop spam you can change your email address, but this is inconvenient.
- Extra's latest update is very good
- 'Mail Washer' (through Google) is a free or paid for download from the internet that helps with monitoring and blocking spam. It can be set up to download the email headers only then you select what you want to keep. Use the tools menu to select options
- 'Firefox' is another similar product to 'Mail Washer'
- If using Internet Explorer and Yahoo web mail go to Settings/Anti spam filter and select middle option (Top option shuts out mailing lists as well as spam and bottom option only gives you a warning about a particular email and sends it through anyway)
- Use the Report Spam function
- In 'Internet Explorer' use the Tools drop down menu to select message rules as needed
- Please clear your inboxes by setting up folders for emails you want to come back to.

Q: What pages can be set up as a 'Home Page'?

A: Any page you choose

Q: I placed an enquiry on Curious Fox genealogy web site, then went back sometime later and Googled my names but did not get my own original listing, just the listings of others – why?

A: Not sure, but it is a site well worth investigating

Q: Is there a problem with emailing Spain?

A: Xtra and Ihug recently made some changes that English ISP's didn't recognise, also be careful how headers are worded as anything with a word like 'bomb' etc will be blocked

- ❖ The latest computer is about the size and shape of a fountain pen and sits on a table and projects onto a wall.
- ❖ Security – MUST have antivirus program – some are free, some paid for, but the free ones need either a firewall or Zone alarm as well
- ❖ Net Guide magazine is very useful
- ❖ There is a website that can test your security
- ❖ Wireless – be careful as it is not very secure and can be hacked into by anyone in close proximity to your house – use a router
- ❖ Google gives best results if you use the 'Advanced Results' function
- ❖ Credit Cards
 - be careful to check that site has a little yellow lock on it,
 - use a credit card with a small limit for internet use only or
 - use only Government site.

Q: Is anyone on Paradise and how do we deal with spam?

A: For spam log onto Paradise.co.nz and use report spam function

Q: Photos being sent by email sometimes get blocked by the Antivirus program, why?

A: Use 'Adjust spam filter' but big photos can still be blocked – go to ISP site to view or a program called Picasso may help. Always save photos as jpeg.

- doing a presentation through Word
- Family Tree Maker particularly it's charting abilities
- An overview of all genealogy programs
- Backing-up files
- A guide to findmypast website
- A guide to FreeBDM website
- A guide to Rootsweb
- A guide to Ancestry.com
- Using message boards
- Using web sites in general

Any ideas or requests for future meetings, please email Jim Fitzmaurice fitzmaurice@xtra.co.nz

MAIDEN NAMES from <http://www.LostCousins.com>

These days it's not unusual for women who marry to keep their maiden name - but in Victorian times it was normal in English-speaking nations for a bride to take her husband's surname.

By contrast in Quebec it was common for married women to be recorded on the census under their maiden names and today married women in Quebec are legally known by their maiden name unless they have gone through the formal process of changing it. The same applies in France and - we understand - Louisiana. Furthermore, if you search Scottish censuses you'll often come across wives and widows recorded under their maiden names.

On the whole it would make life easier for genealogists if married women were always recorded under their maiden names on the census, because it's all too easy to lose track of women once they reach marriageable age.

HAVE YOU TRIED THE PHONE BOOKS?

Here are some websites you may find useful:

- <http://www.WhitePages.ca> (Canada)
 - <http://www.WhitePages.com> (USA)
 - <http://www.BT.com> (UK)
 - <http://www.eircom.ie> (Ireland - click the 'phone book' link)
 - <http://www.WhitePages.com.au> (Australia)
 - <http://www.WhitePages.co.nz> (New Zealand)
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NEW ZEALAND WEBSITES

- ✓ Archives NZ - http://www.archives.govt.nz/holdings/genealogical_sources_frame.html

- ✓ Archway finding aids at Archives NZ - www.archway.archives.govt.nz
 - ✓ Auckland City Libraries - has lots of online databases - <http://www.aucklandlibrary.co.nz/findyoursubject/digitallibrary/digitallibrary.htm>
 - ✓ National Library - also the gateway to PapersPast - <http://www.natlib.govt.nz/index.html>
 - ✓ Kinder Library at St John's College - clergy bios - <http://www.kinderlibrary.ac.nz/information-sources/anglican-clergy-intro.asp>
 - ✓ Niupepa Maori newspapers online - text searchable (good for Pakeha too) - <http://www.nzdl.org/cgi-bin/library?a=q&c=niupepa&l=en&nw=utf-8>
 - ✓ Journal of the Polynesian Society - online historic volumes - <http://www.jps.auckland.ac.nz/index.php>
 - ✓ NZ Electronic Texts - lots of text-searchable books (Victoria University of Wellington) - <http://www.nzetc.org/>
 - ✓ Early NZ Books (Auckland University version of above) - www.enzb.auckland.ac.nz
 - ✓ Auckland Museum - has online soldiers database and library services - <http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/>
 - ✓ Varcoes NZ early and Maori marriages - <http://marvin.otago.ac.nz/marriages/>
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OTHER WEBSITES

- ✓ Parish Registers Online for the Medway area of Kent CityArk <http://cityark.medway.gov.uk>
CityArk provides free online access to a variety of archival images including an extensive range of parish registers covering wide time periods.
A link labelled "Parish Registers Online" on the left hand side of the home page takes you to a listing of all the parishes represented. These include, for example, Chatham, Dartford, Gillingham, Gravesend and Rochester. Clicking on an appropriate link takes you to another webpage that provides further information about the parish and links to the images themselves. Clicking on a "View Images" button takes you to another page that contains a listing of numbered images and their respective file sizes (usually about 1MB). Then it is trial and error to find the actual page of interest as no year indications are given. - Dawn Chambers
 - ✓ Irish web site for pension records and looks promising. Pay to purchase (minimal charge) but free to search. Pensear Irish Genealogy has a site www.pensear.org. Data from the Irish Pension records that survived the burning of the Irish records.
 - ✓ <http://www.dorset-ancestors.com/> There are a lot of very interesting historical articles on this site.
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JOKE OF THE MONTH

When Ann was 9-years-old, she was given an assignment by her teacher to write a story on "Where my family came from." The purpose was to understand her genealogy. Her Grandmother was not aware of her assignment when she asked her at the dining room table one night, "Grandma, where did I come from?"

Grandma responded quite nervously because her son and daughter-in-law were out of town and she was stalling until they returned home, "Well, honey, the stork brought you."

"Where did Mom come from then?"

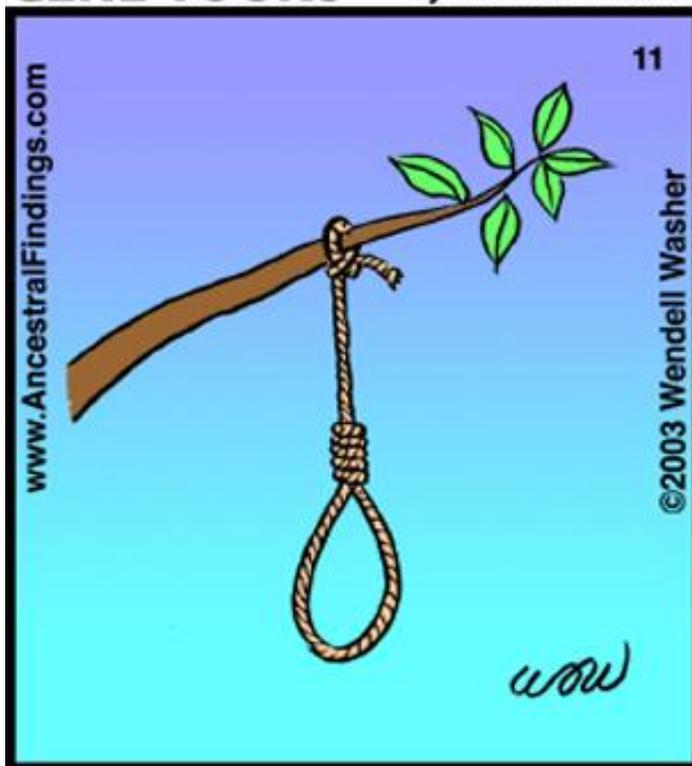
"The stork brought her, too."

"OK, then.... where did you come from?"

"The stork brought me too, dear."

"Okay, thanks, Grandma."

Grandma did not think anything more about it until 2 days later when she was cleaning Ann's room and read the first sentence of her paper... "For 3 generations there have been no natural births in our family."



Disappointing branch
of family tree.