News & Views

April 2008; 26th Year

Issue 255

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
Computer Interest Group:	7:30pm, last Thursday very second month.
Venue:	Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt
Postal Address:	PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Website:	www.rootsweb.com/~nzlhvrsg/
Convenor:	Janice Price
Secretary:	Deb Beban HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor:	Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change closer to the event)

03 Apr: Wars – Graham Langton - Military records at Archives New Zealand
17 Apr: Wars – John Sullivan - War photograph collection in the National Library
24 Apr: Research & Computer Interest Group – Jan Walker - CD Collection Hutt Branch

01 May: Names & their origins & Royal Connections - Kevin Broughton & Lynly Yates
15 May: Royal ancesters & Heraldry - Lindsay Grant
29 May: Research & Beginners Session

05 Jun: Your Family History on DVD – Mike Guest & Pip Fowler
19 Jun: Family Tree - Displays by Members
26 Jun: Research & Computer Session – Members – Family Tree Programmes/Webpages

03 Jul: Scottish Research
17 Jul: Scottish Ancestors
31 Jul: Research & Beginners' Session – Lynly Yates & Dawn Chambers

07 Aug: Chinese Immigrants – Graham Langton – Archives New Zealand
21 Aug: Immigration to New Zealand – Graham Langton - Archives New Zealand
28 Aug: Research & Computer Session – Dawn Chambers – Key websites NZ UK SCT etc

04 Sep: Family History Week
18 Sep: Family History Week
25 Sep: Research & Beginners Session – Lynly & Dawn

THIS MONTH

- *On 25 April each year we commemorate Anzac day so the theme for April is "**War**". We invite you to bring along some of your ancestors military memorabilia to show other branch members. Come and join us at the April meetings.*
- *The library will also be open until 1pm on Thursday morning meeting days.*
- *Cups of coffee or tea will be available **before** the evening meeting*

BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN EVERY MONDAY 9AM - 1PM FOR RESEARCH

SPEAKERS & THEME for APRIL & MAY MEETINGS

- Would any branch members like to share their military ancestors with other members?
- Perhaps you might like to give a short 5-minute max talk at the beginning of the April meetings before the official speaker. Please contact Lynly Yates or Janice Price

3rd April 2008 evening meeting 7.30 pm

The speaker for the night meeting will be **Graham LANGTON** from Archives New Zealand who will talk about "**Military records**".

17th April 2008 day meeting 9.30 am

The speaker for the day meeting will be **John SULLIVAN** from National Library of New Zealand/Alexander Turnbull Library who will talk about "**War photograph collection**".

24th April 2008 computer and research sessions 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

The Computer speaker will be Jan WALKER with assistants. The session will cover the CD collection held by the Hutt Valley branch of the NZSG.

The theme for May is "**Royalty and Heraldry**". At both of the May meetings we hope to extend an invitation to a "Heraldry Company" to explain about their heraldry products, the origin of surnames and/or coat of arms. Perhaps some of you may like to bring along your royal memorabilia to show other branch members.

Would any branch members like to share their Royal ancestor with other members?

- *We invite you to write a short article to place in the branch magazine. Please send the article to the editor Suzanne Cummings.*

1st May 2008 Evening meeting 7.30 pm

The speaker for the evening meeting will be Lynly Yates who will talk about "Royal connections".

15th May 2008 Day meeting 9.30 am

The speaker for the day meeting will be Lindsay GRANT who will talk about "Royal Ancestors".

29 May 2008 Beginners and research session 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm

The next beginner's sessions will start between 7.30 pm and 9.00 pm at the Bridge club rooms, 1 Park Avenue, Avalon, Lower Hutt after the Hutt Valley Branch committee meeting. If you are interested in attending the beginners informal sessions please bring with you, pencil & paper, your family genealogy, and any questions that you might have and we will do our best to show you how to locate the answers. Lynly Yates & Dawn Chambers will be in Christchurch at the NZSG Conference but in their absence someone will take their place.

MAGAZINE ROUND ROBIN MAGAZINE ROUND ROBIN MAGAZINE ROUND ROBIN

Please, please, please, send on the magazine within the allotted SEVEN DAYS.
(Those who don't comply go to the ..... *'bottom of the list'*!!)

EXPO 2008 KIBIRNIE BRANCH

This event will take place on Saturday 19th April 2008, from 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Venue St Patrick's Parish Hall, Rongotai Road, Kilbirnie, (right in the heart of the Kilbirnie shops), right at bus transport - cafes and shops across the road.

There will be a full house of stalls displays, bookstalls and workshops. There will be advertising within greater Wellington.

All members are welcome, Branches are invited to seek a table, participation would be welcome.

Featuring Beehive Books & Jan Gow, FRC Books & Peter Nash, Irish, Scottish, Australian, London Interest Groups, Computer & other Help desks, participation by Findmypast.

Hanley Hoffmann Co Convenor Kilbirnie Branch NZSG hdhoffmann@paradise.net.nz or Beverley Keall Secretary bkeall@paradise.net.nz

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FROM COAST TO COAST NZSG CONFERENCE & AGM, QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND, 30 MAY-2 JUN 2008

Canterbury, Bishopdale, Riccarton , Waimakariri and Darfield Branches are hosting this conference at St Bede's College, Main North Rd, Papanui.

Registration forms are now available and NZSG members will have received one with their Nov/Dec issue of The NZ Genealogist. Haven't got a form? Download one from the NZSG Website www.genealogy.org.nz , email 2008conference@genealogy.org.nz or write to PO Box 20506 Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543

Not planning to attend Conference? Please pass your registration form onto a friend or hand it in to your local Branch for use by other members.

Not a member of NZSG? You are still most welcome to attend at no extra cost.

Can't spare all that time for conference? Daily registration is available @$70.00 per day. Friday night and Saturday morning count as a single day. The AGM is held Saturday afternoon. Send for a Registration form today to see who is speaking and their topic.

CHANGES TO THE BRANCH'S WEBSITE

Two new pages have been added: Irish websites Some useful Irish websites supplied by Jenny Martin following her talks last month.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlhvrsg/Irishwebsites.html

Resources I added a new page of a sample of branch's computer and microfiche resources

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nzlhvrsg/resources.html

Carol Ann Mason

War is a series of catastrophies which result in victory.

Albert Pike

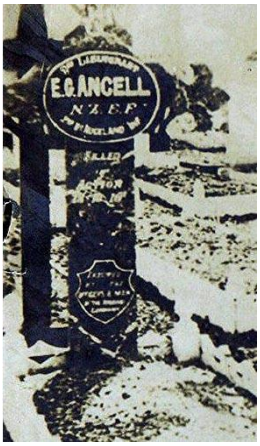
ANCELL, Eric Guest, 14349, 2nd Lieutenant, Auckland Regiment, 1st NZEF by Jan Walker

Eric was born in Dunedin on13 August 1896, the youngest child of Thomas Charles William Ancell and his wife Constance Thurman Prosser. His father, a master mariner, deserted the family 1896/7 to return to sea. The family moved frequently and finally Eric and his mother settled in Auckland about 1904.

Eric was a foundation pupil of Dilworth School being the ninth pupil enrolled. He entered on 6 June 1906. He proved a good all round scholar and sportsman. As Dilworth did not have a secondary department at that time he remained there as a boarder while attending Auckland Grammar. Here again he proved to be a good student and sportsman and was an enthusiastic member of the Cadet unit.

After leaving school in 1914 he joined the then Native Department in Auckland and on 12 October 1915 he enlisted for service with the NZEF at Trentham declaring that he was 20 years of age.

His company sailed for England on 26 June 1916 and arrived at Devonport on 22 August 1916. They travelled to France on 13 September where they joined the Auckland Infantry Regiment in the Somme area to await the order to move to the front. When the order came he sent a postcard to his mother dated 28 September 1916 that said the Regiment was moving up to the front that day. The Regiment occupied the trenches in a sector near Armentieres, possibly the Houplines sub sector, previously occupied by an Australian Regiment which had been withdrawn to be rested, Eric was killed in action on 19 October 1916 and is buried in the Citie Bonjean Cemetery at Armentieres, France.



c 1922.

This marker has been replaced by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Other family members who served in WW1 were Eric's brother, C.G Ancell, who was severely wounded, his sister I.C.Ancell, a nurse, who served in France and at Brokenhurst Military Hospital, Hornchurch and Brighton convalescent hospitals, England. Two of his cousins, my uncles, N.H.Ancell and C.W.Ancell also served in France.

WAR WEBSITES

- http://ww1warbrides.blogspot.com/ - Canadian War Brides Of The First World War. Information about the War Brides who went to Canada after WWI.
- http://warart.archives.govt.nz/ - Looking for some artwork to embellish your family history?
- http://1914-1918.invisionzone.com/forums/index.php - The Great War Forum. This site is only about WW1 and is filled with interesting information, photos and stories. It is a very useful site for anyone wanting help, finding out information and to tell the stories of their WW1 family members.
    - www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar - BBC WW2

- www.gazettes-online.co.uk – The London Gazette for medal awards

MORE WAR WEBSITES (compiled by Carol Ann Mason)

- AUCKLAND WAR MEMORIAL CENOTAPH DATABASE
  http://www.aucklandmuseum.com/?t=130

I found my great uncle James Taylor Mason on this site, with details of his rank, where served and where and when died. I even got a photo. He looked a lot like my grandfather!

- NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA - http://www.naa.gov.au/

I had a great find here on this site and it was free. The Australian National Archives have digitalised some World War 1 personal records. I found my Grandfather's cousin from my elusive Australian Irish family.

What I got was 64 pages (some repeated pages). It included the record of Charles Maher's short army service where he enlisted on 5 December 1914, died at Gallipoli on 26 April 1915 and was buried at Popes Hill Cemetery, ¾ miles North East of Anzac Cove.

But there was more! Because he was an orphan and his sister was his next of kin, there are letters to his brothers asking if it was ok if the sister could have his medals. I got names and addresses of where his siblings were living up to the early 1920s. It seems you needed to be mother, father, eldest brother or eldest sister to have a right to claim the medals. His sister was allowed the medals as long as she agreed to preserve them with due care and if someone with prior rights laid claim to them she would have to return them if the department demanded them.

Then in 1969 a cousin of Charles wrote to 'the Minister of the Army' asking about getting the medals for herself. This cousin gave me an insight about what happened to Charles after his parents died, living with his aunt, which is why this cousin felt she could claim the medals, albeit 50 years later. Copies of the cousin's letters are on the file and I got some family background, marriages and deaths about what had become of Charles's siblings since the 1920s.

To access the records: Select the Collections tab then Record Search. Then Search Now – as a guest user then enter you name into Keywords (or Name)

- COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION - http://www.cwgc.org

This website has First World War and Second World War entries.

On this website I could not only check out where my Charles Maher was buried at Quinns Post Cemetery. But on another line I also found a civilian death of Susan Christie Walker who was killed in an air raid in 1941 at Birkenhead, Cheshire, England.

- ANCESTRY HAS MILITARY RECORDS - www.Ancestry.com

A sample is:

- World War I Draft Registration Cards 1917 – 1918 (USA)
- British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index 1914 – 1920
- British Army WWI Pension Records 1914 – 1920

I found one of my 'missing relatives' Robert Duncan' who was born in Scotland in 1887, in the US World War I Draft Registration Cards. The original copy of the registration form is available to view. He registered with his brother in law in Montana. It told me where he was working and for who. It was a total bonus.

- The Army Children Archive - Chronicling British army children's history
  http://www.archhistory.co.uk/ This site also has some interesting British army links
- The Scottish War Memorials Project http://warmemscot.s4.bizhat.com/warmemscot.html
  Has details of war memorials around Scotland

- For awards of WWII gallantry medals: www.gazettes-online.co.uk lists those awarded gallantry medals in the London Gazette. To access - Select 'London', then 'Search the Archives' under the heading
'Historians' on the right hand side.

RESEARCHING IN IRELAND by Jenny Martin

Researching in Ireland is difficult although not impossible as many think.

In searching we face some problems:

- The majority of the population was Roman Catholic and their registers did not begin until the late 18th century.
- A relatively few number of Surnames were shared by most of the population.
- The Irish Public Records Office housed in the Four Courts building in Dublin, were destroyed by protesters against British rule in 1922. (Building was bombed during the uprising)

Very few of the contents, which included about half the Church of Ireland Parish Registers, Census returns, Wills and other Government records survived. The partition of Ireland has meant duplication of material between the two GRO's.

After 1922; BMD records are complete but as the country was then divided in two (Nth and Sth Ireland) these and other records are in different places.

Records up to 1922; are held in the GRO in Dublin (now Roscommon). After that date it holds copies of records in Northern Ireland.

The GRO (Northern Ireland) in Belfast, is a separate Register Office.It holds BMD records for Northern Ireland from 1922 onwards and copies of Indexes pre 1922 events.

There are also Marine, Consular, & Foreign Marriage Registers of BMD relating to Irish people at Sea or overseas in both offices. After 1922 laws on registration of events such as stillbirths, adoption & illegitimate children were different in Eire & Northern Ireland. So listing, where, in Ireland your Ancestors were before & after 1922 will make locating records easier.

1841 AND 1851 CENSUS

With the exception of a handful of surviving census fragments, Ireland is entirely lacking in this key genealogical building block (except for Griffith's famous mid-century Valuation of Ireland).

But never let it be said that with a little ingenuity there isn't some means of reconstructing the missing censuses, or at least portions of them, and indeed in this work we have the nearest thing there is to a partial reconstruction of the 1841 and 1851 censuses of Northern Ireland.

CIVIL REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

It became compulsory to register Catholic births, marriages and deaths from 1864. When civil registration was introduced in 1864 a fine was payable if a birth was not registered within three months, so many poor people might have adjusted the date of a child's birth to avoid penalty. Roman Catholics would however have had the child baptised within a few days of birth, either at the Priest's house or their own home. So it is worth cross-referencing the civil and Church records if you can. It has been estimated that about 15% of Irish births, marriages and deaths went unregistered in the early years of Civil Registration and a small percentage of births still went unregistered as late as 1900. Non-Catholic marriages are registered from 1845 onwards. As marriages often entailed monetary transactions and new land arrangements these were much more likely to be registered, even in the earliest years of registration.

GRIFFITH'S VALUATION.

Is a reference to more than one million individuals who owned property in Ireland between 1848 and 1864. Since no Irish census of the nineteenth century has survived, Griffith's Valuation is a record of extreme importance. It is, essentially, the only detailed guide to where in Ireland people lived during the mid-nineteenth century and what property they possessed.
In effect, Griffith's Valuation can be used as a census substitute for the years before, during, and after the Great Famine.

THE TITHE APPLOTMENT BOOKS

Tithe was a tax on all agricultural land excepting only church lands and glebes and urban areas. Until 1823, the tithe was paid in kind by the occupier of the land.

The replacement of payment in kind by payment in cash resulted from a series of Tithe Composition Acts between 1823 and 1838. Valuations of the land had to be made by local surveyors and assessors and the results, arranged by civil parish and townland, were collected in volumes known as Tithe Applotment Books.

The 'Tithe Applotment Books' compiled between 1823 and 1838, are in the custody of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (FIN/5A), and the National Archives, Dublin.

In PRONI there are tithe books for all save 31 of the 273 parishes then surveyed in what is now Northern Ireland.

There are also copies of the Tithe Applotment books for almost all parishes in counties Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan. The books record the name of the tithe payer, the acreage of his farm and the amount of tithe paid. In effect, they may be regarded as equivalent to a census of agricultural holdings in the years before the Great Famine of 1845-9 and the massive emigration which accompanied it and, as such, have been found to be beneficial to genealogical research.

OTHER WEBSITES

- http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/the-memorials-register - good website when looking for ancestors/family members. Might get lucky and find a photograph included with service detail.
- From Cyndislist - check out http://www.cyndislist.com/ - or to join her mailing list go to http://www.cyndislist.com/maillist.htm
- http://www.completetext.com/freebarmaid.html - Barmaids and Skinkers - traditional trades and occupations in pubs. An article describing the many occupations found in pubs, coaching inns and the brewery trade over the centuries.
- Wellington City have now also added their burial database to their website (follow the cemetery link below). The only comprehensive list and map of New Zealand Cemeteries http://fhr.kiwicelts.com/Cemeteries/NZ_Cemetery_Map.html

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In peace the sons bury their fathers,
but in war the fathers bury their sons. - Croesus

The Kiwi – By official WW2 artist Peter McIntyre from http://warart.archives.govt.nz/

BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN EVERY MONDAY 9AM - 1PM FOR RESEARCH