



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists

Evening Meeting: 7.30pm 2nd Thursday, February to December
Day Meeting: 10.00am 3rd Thursday, February to November
Venue: Petone Community Centre, 7-11 Britannia Street
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt 5040
Website: www.huttvalleygenealogy.org.nz
Convenor: Alistair Hardy
Secretary: Terry Stock HuttValley@genealogy.org.nz
Editor: Suzanne Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS (subject to change)

08 Dec: Christmas Party & Displaying your Family Tree – Members
09 Feb: Hutt Biographical Index Project – Lynly Yates
16 Feb: Hutt Biographical Index Project – Lynly Yates

Evening meeting doors open 7 pm notices begin 7.30 pm speakers begin about 8 pm
(approx 1 hour)

Day meeting doors open 9.30am notices begin 10am speaker begins about 10.30am
(approx 1 hour). Please note the library does not open until 10am.

THIS MONTH'S EVENT

Evening Meeting

Bring along your family tree in whatever shape and form you have it.
Supper will be organised by the committee.

CD COLLECTION

At each of the branch meetings, Lynly Yates will discuss one of the CDs from our collection, showing how best to access relevant information.

GENEALOGY/FAMILY HISTORY HELPERS AVAILABLE AT PETONE LIBRARY

This service will not now be available until February 2012. If there is anyone interested in helping next year please contact Marie Perham

RESEARCH DAY 2012

- is booked for Saturday 31 March at the Petone Community Centre
-

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER

For those who couldn't make it last month and/or who would like to read a summary of Kathy Callaghan's interesting talk on finding her family in Norway, her story can be found in two editions of *The New Zealand Genealogist*: March/April 2010 and September/October 2010.

NZSG NEWS - www.genealogy.org.nz

- The reconvened AGM is now to be held on 21 January 2012 in Panmure. Details and the agenda and proxy forms are in the November/December issue of *The New Zealand Genealogist* and also on the NZSG website.
 - There will be no Family History Fair at Hamilton in 2012. NZSG Council decided recently to hold off on 2012 in order to analyse results, costs and revenues etc. For more details see page 260 of the latest *New Zealand Genealogist*.
 - There is a vacancy for editor of *The New Zealand Genealogist*.
 - There is a new project started to locate where schools in New Zealand were/are.
 - The 2012 Conference will be held in Taupo at the Wairakei Resort. The theme is 'Volcanic Taupo – Steaming Ahead. It will be during Queens Birthday week-end 1-4 June 2012.
-

'THE CROFT', NORMANDALE by Suzanne Sutton-Cummings

After World War 1, my great uncle, Stanley Sutton purchased leasehold land in Normandale and ran a poultry farm on the property. His wife, my grandfather, their mother and sister also lived there. The address on correspondence we have to my family in Normandale simply said, *The Croft, Normandale*.

The first information I found on this land is in Rosemary McLennan's¹ book. There is a map of the original sections and a list of who owned or had a leasehold on them and when.

His land was *Section 77, Block VIII., Belmont S.D., Normandale Settlement*. This lies between Pekanga Road and Belmont Road (now Normandale Road). The land consisted of 5 acres, 2 roods and 20 perches. Stanley bought the leasehold on May 6th 1919.

I have studied the photos in the book and found a few that show bits of his land.

After World War 1, the Government were buying up large blocks of land in Normandale and dividing it up for returned soldiers. Stanley's land was not part of this scheme.

Rosemary has inadvertently omitted the date Stanley sold the land. However the next owner had the lease transfer in mortgage by Supreme Court 8 June 1925.

Searching the <http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz> website I found an advertisement for tenders for the leasee's interest in Section 77. (Evening Post 7th & 9th of November 1925). Buildings on the land consisted of a dwelling and washhouse, dairy, trapshed, feed-room, cowbail, and four fowlhouses! It also stated that it was land previously used as a poultry farm.

I also looked on the www.googleearth.com and www.googlemaps.com websites to pinpoint exactly where the land is and how it looks now. It is easy, even now to see where the original boundaries were.

I rung the Hutt City Archives and told the archivist what I was looking for. When I went, there was everything set out on the table to do with this land along with a few printouts for me to take home. Wendy had also worked out that section 77 is now Christina Grove. A huge aerial photo taken in 1951 appears to have been taken in the late evening. I took photos of that. In the photo, the evening sun cast long shadows of the very tall trees on the property darkening, and maybe even hiding, some of the buildings. By now there were two houses on the property and not so many fowlhouses.

In 1960, a Mr P Petterson applied to subdivide the land and the Hutt City Archives has a proposed plan of the street showing two wooden houses, two fowlhouses and a garage under the coloured plan of Christina Grove (named after Christina Petterson, his wife). Hutt City Archives also have the approved plan of the street showing a piece taken for the road and strips now used as part of the reserve. The proposed plan showed more sections and less reserve land. For \$2 I purchased an A3 printout of the proposed subdivision in colour.

A look at the electoral roles reveals Mr and Mrs Petterson continued to live in 12 Christina Grove in one of the original wooden houses. The modern day house on that site with its low roof gives the appearance of having been completely rebuilt. The house on the site of the other wooden house on Pekanga Road also looks too modern to be what was there in 1960.

Needless to say, there is more that I can find out. Rosemary states in her book, that she got the information on the titles to the land from Land Information New Zealand but I am told that closed registers are now in Archives New Zealand.

Any information on current properties can now only be obtained via the the Land Information New Zealand website: www.linz.govt.nz

¹*Glimpses Into Early Normandale*, by Rosemary McLennan, Normandale Progressive Association. Published 1993 by Wright & Carman Ltd, Upper Hutt. (a copy of this book is in the branch library)

LAND RECORDS AT THE WELLINGTON OFFICE OF ARCHIVES NEW ZEALAND

In the November/December 2011 issue of the New Zealand Genealogist, Heidi Kuglin has written an article on Land Transfer Deed records that can be found in the Wellington office. The Wellington Office now hold these records for the Wellington and Taranaki Land Districts formerly held by Land Information New Zealand. Heidi outlines the history of land purchases in New Zealand, and how to search for land records held by the Wellington office.

INFORMATION WANTED

This is a photo taken of Joan Meane around about the First World War.

She lived in Petone with Richard and Elizabeth Thornton at 191 Esplanade.

She had brothers that lived elsewhere in Petone.

Anyone with information on her family or the Thorntons, please contact the editor.



WEBSITES by Anita West

- **Lincs to the Past** - <http://www.lincstothePast.com>

Lincs to the Past is a site that contains hundreds of thousands of records covering items held in Lincolnshire's Historic Environment Record, Archives, Libraries, Museums and Tennyson Research Centre.

If, like me, you have family links back to Lincolnshire this site will be a marvellous find, as it holds over 200,000 images of individual pages of Lincolnshire Parish registers for the following periods: baptisms 1538-1911, burials 1538 onwards, and marriages 1538-1837. The events (baptisms, burials and marriages) and dates are all searchable, as are

many surnames, and they are all FREE. Higher quality and resolution images are available for purchase, but the free access will show you what you need to know about an entry.

To search these Parish Register images, use the “Advanced Search” feature, select “images” at the foot of the search screen, and use the other search fields as usual. Useful search options to try are “parish” and either “baptism”, “marriage” or “burial” as appropriate, along with the year. Once you find the appropriate register for one year, it’s easy to then scroll through years either side. It’s also worth trying to search by surname, although this will only work for pages that have been indexed (and that’s definitely not all of them).

Through this site I have been able to break through one of my family history brick walls! My third great grandparents’ marriage had been indexed as Samuel Dale marrying Mary Asher in Leadenham, Lincolnshire in July 1829. For some time I had been searching for the birth, parents and family of Mary Asher, to no avail. Through Lincs to the Past, I was able to view the original marriage register entry. It gave me two vital clues. One was that Mary’s parish was Wellingore (also in Lincolnshire), and the second was that while her surname looked to be ASHER, you couldn’t be entirely sure about that. Both the letters ‘s’ and ‘h’ were unclear.

Lincs to the Past also had parish register images online for Wellingore baptisms, so I looked through these for the most likely years and found a baptism of one Mary ARKER. On re-examining the marriage certificate, I could see that the ‘s’ and ‘h’ were as likely to be ‘r’ and ‘k’, especially if I thought more carefully about 19th century handwriting! However the plot thickened, as I didn’t make much more progress searching for the ARKER family.

So again, using Lincs to the Past parish register images, I scanned through the baptisms, marriages and burials in Wellingore during surrounding years and began to notice reference to many people called HARKER. This was my breakthrough. I could just hear Mary’s parents dropping the ‘h’ as they told the local curate their name in a broad Lincolnshire accent!

When I searched the 1841 and 1851 English Censuses using HARKER instead of ASHER, they all popped up beautifully and I was able to piece this branch of my family together finally. Fortuitously, at census time various members had grandchildren, nephews and nieces staying with them so this gave me extra confidence that I had the right people linked together.

As one of the lesser experienced genealogists amongst us, this experience stressed the importance of two things for me. Firstly, whenever possible I will make sure that I sight original records or images of them, rather than relying on index entries. Secondly, I’ll think about how a name may have sounded, and therefore may have been written down, and search more broadly along those lines.

● **The British Newspaper Archive (launched 29 November)**

Up to 4 million pages of historical newspapers now searchable online at www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk

Reminder...(Free access via NZSG website for members ‘Gale Newspapers’)

- Unparalleled access to a treasure trove of stories
- Up to 4 million pages from the British Library’s newspaper collections
- Will transform family history research

The British Library and online publisher brightsolid launched a website on 29 November that will transform the way that people use historical newspapers to find out about the past. The British Newspaper Archive website will offer access to up to 4 million fully searchable pages, featuring more than 200 newspaper titles from every part of the UK and Ireland. The newspapers – which mainly date from the 19th century, but which include runs

dating back to the first half of the 18th century – cover every aspect of local, regional and national news.

To date the project has concentrated on out-of-copyright material pre-dating 1900, but brightsolid is negotiating with a number of rightsholders to obtain permission to digitise a range of more recent newspaper runs from the early to mid-20th century. The site will continue to grow as newly-scanned pages are uploaded.

The British Newspaper Archive is the result of a ten-year partnership between the British Library and brightsolid, announced in May 2010. Over the past 12 months, brightsolid's digitisation team, based at the British Library Newspaper Library at Colindale, has been digitising up to 8,000 pages of historic newspapers every working day. The project is expected to scan up to 40 million newspaper pages over the next ten years.

CLOSURES OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY BREAK

- Family History Centre Upper Hutt – Last day this year will be Wednesday 16th December, reopening on Wednesday 1st of February.
 - Petone Library – Closed 24-27, 31 December and 1-3 January. Also opening hours shorter between Christmas and New Year.
 - Upper Hutt Libraries – Closed statutory holidays only - Otherwise, normal hours.
 - Wellington Central Library – Closed statutory holidays only.
 - Archives New Zealand – Closes midday 23rd December, reopens 4 January.
 - National Library and ATL – Closes 23 December, reopens 9 January.
 - Hutt City Archives (by appointment only) – Closes Friday 23rd December, reopens 9th January.
-



**SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ALL MEMBERS
FROM THE COMMITTEE.**

SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY 2012