

News & Views

February 2006; 24th Year

Issue 230



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
Venue: Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Avalon, Lower Hutt
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Co-ordinator: Sandra Greig
Secretary: Deb Beban
Treasurer: Dianne Fitzgerald
Membership: Dianne Fitzgerald
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

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

02 Feb: Evening Meeting - Suzanne Sutton-Cummings - Researching a Parallel Line
16 Feb: Morning Meeting - Rachel Brown - Beginning Genealogy
02 Mar: Evening Meeting - Brad Patterson - Long Term Project
16 Mar: Morning Meeting - Roger Beauchamp - Heritage
06Apr: Dr Stephen Hamilton - Archivist UH Library
20 Apr: June Orr - William Mein-Smith
04 May: Angela McCarthy - Scottish-Irish Migrants
18 May: Sharon Frederickson - Family History on Video
01Jun: Michael O'Brien - My family history
15 Jun: Judy Sears - Chapman-Taylor
06 Jul: Branch Members - Problem Solve / Brickwalls
20 Jul: Alison Underhill - 19th Century Clothing in NZ

2 FEB 06 - EVENING MEETING - SUZANNE SUTTON-CUMMINGS - A PARALLEL LINE

Many of the early settlers to New Zealand were illiterate and the best we can hope for is someone in the family or who were associated with them to have left written records mentioning them. Having a good look through the repositories can yield some surprises.

The Bevan/Prince families came via the Lady Nugent in 1841. The Bevans were rope makers and moved to Waikawa Otaki after the Maori disturbances and because flax became difficult to acquire in Te Aro. Amongst the interesting stories told by the Bevans and photographs are references to their relatives!

16 FEB: MORNING MEETING - RACHEL BROWN - BEGINNER GENEALOGY

Rachel will give a 'How to Begin' talk to those of you who have just started their family history research. If you have been researching for a while, this is not for you. She will be follow up with a shortish tour to the National Library to look at what is there at a date agreed by those who attend the morning meeting. If your appetite is whetted, Rachel is taking courses at Onslow College in terms 1 and 2 and Hutt Valley Community Education in term 2.

Leave no stone unturned -- tombstone, that is (Dollarhide)

SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP OF NZSG (www.scotgroup.tk/)

Scottish Research at the Porirua Library, Porirua
Corner Norrie & Parumoana Streets
Sunday 12th March 2006, 1-4 pm

Wee door charge \$2

We will have some CDs from the Scottish Interest Group in Auckland, our own folder resources for Scottish family history research, and all the genealogical resources of the Porirua Library will be available. If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along. Do label with your name.

All welcome.

Scottish Interest Sub-Group Of Greater Wellington

Contact: Pen Brown penbrown@globe.net.nz

NZSG CONFERENCE & AGM, HAMILTON, 2-5 JUNE 2006

Settling the Waikato and Beyond'

At Sacred Heart Girls' College, Clyde Street, Hamilton

Key note speakers are Christopher Pugsley from the UK and Richard Reid from Canberra, with 25 other speakers.

To read more about the speakers and lectures visit the NZSG website www.genealogy.org.nz under 'What's new', conference 2006. A registration form can be downloaded. Registration \$145.00 if paid before 28 Feb 2006.

EXHIBITION OF FAMILY HISTORY DISPLAYS

To be held at Sacred Heart Girls' College Hamilton East Friday 2nd – Monday 5th June 2006

NZSG Hamilton Branch will be hosting an Exhibition of Family Histories at Conference 2006. We invite members of NZSG Branches, Interest Groups and those attending conference to submit for display, an aspect of their family history.

There are four (4) categories:

- ✓ Stitched (Embroidery, Quilting, Cross-Stitch, Weaving)
- ✓ Hand-drawn (Charts, Trees, Calligraphy)
- ✓ Computer-generated (Books, Charts, Photographs)
- ✓ Mixed Media (Models, Metal Items, Paintings)

A brief written explanation of the genealogical and historical significance should accompany each exhibit - for the benefit of genealogists viewing the exhibition.

~ Join in the Display ~ Promote your Family ~ Find long lost Relatives~

If you are interested in submitting an exhibit please contact: Elizabeth Heaphy email: weheaphy@amcom.co.nz. An Application Form and the Conditions of Entry will be forwarded to you.

For further Conference 2006 details check NZSG Web page www.genealogy.org.nz

FROM THE FRIENDLY, HELPFUL TEAM AT KOWAI ARCHIVES, BALCAIRN, NTH CANTERBURY

We are a group of volunteers who collect, preserve and provide access to the documents that record the everyday lives of local people and organizations of the former Kowai County Council. This covers the area between the Ashley and Waipara Rivers, Mt Grey to the west and the sea to the east.

You can visit us or we will research, charging \$10 an hour and 50c a photocopy page.

If you have a quick query or wish to know if we have information you need, then I will be happy to send you an email.

Sandra Bedford, Kowai Archives" kowai.archives@hotmail.com

SPEAKER'S REVIEW - JAN GOW -COMPUTERS AND THEIR USE IN FAMILY HISTORIES

Please note these are the editor's notes and are subject to errors and omissions!

Jan's message was to 'Shout!' not just 'Soak'. Jan was encouraging people to publish - in this instance on the internet - publish your research interests and use books like the GRD, NZSG Family Research directory to help connect with other people who may be researching your line.

The following 4 'C' record types are like the sides of a picture which hangs on a picture hook - 'computers'.

- ✓ civil registration
- ✓ church registers
- ✓ cemetery records
- ✓ census returns

CIVIL REGISTRATION

freebdm.org.uk - this is work in progress so keep on checking

1837online.com - pay to view

ukbdm.org.uk - links to 324 websites

scotlandspeople.gov.uk - pay to view

familyrecords.co.uk - PDG links

bdm.nsw.gov.au - NSW BDMs

CHURCH RECORDS

Consists of parish registers, bishops transcripts

www.familysearch.org - FHC

www.genuki.uk

www.churchplansonline.org

www.ecclsoc.org/links.html - the ecclesiological society

www.outward.co.uk/ - England

www.from-ireland.net/gene/churchrecords.htm

www.germanychurchrecords.com

CEMETERY RECORDS

The NZSG have a collection of NZ cemetery records books fiche and some overseas records available to members

Libraries, museums and local NZSG branches are also worth checking out.

A local county will usually have cemetery records on microfiche.

FHCs have NZ and overseas collections

SOG – extensive UK and elsewhere collections

The following are just a sample of the websites available for finding cemetery records:

www.genuki.co.uk

www.interment.net

www.cityofdunedin.com

www.farmland.prop.blueyonder.co.uk

www.genealogy.org.nz

www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz

www.aucklandlibraries.com

try a search – ‘cemetery’ + ‘zealand’ + ‘council’ (whichever local council the cemetery is in)

CENSUS RETURNS

1841 and every 10 years until 1901 is available

Ireland 1901, 1911

NZ 1845, 1849 Nelson

Australia 1828

Others USA 1790 and every 10 years to 1830

www.familysearch.org

www.ancestry.co.uk – user pay for 1851-1901

genuki.org.uk

COMPUTERS

Your own computer with a genealogy programme is essential for the serious genealogist!

www.genealogy.co.nz - the NZSG have research services and a website

www.genealogy.org.uk

www.libraries.org.nz

www.british-history.ac.uk

<http://lists.webjunction.org/libweb/>

www.beehivebooks.co.nz

www.legacyfamilytree.com

use “xx” + born and use different search engines

www.trovando.it – searches 32 different search engines

QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES

- Who are we looking for?
- When did they live?
- When did they live there?
- What did they do?
- Why did they do what they did?

Ancestors – don’t just look for these

Siblings – will give us more info

Descendants – these may lead to others who have info on our line

S

The internet has more and more information available everyday.

ANCESTRY QUICK TIP - THE LONGEVITY OF INKJET COLORS

Many inkjet printers still use dyes that fade quickly and do not have the longevity of more permanent pigmented inks. HP's black inks are always pigmented. By switching to coloured inks to printout genealogy data, you take the risk of it fading and not even being there to read, in a few years.

If you have one of the better inkjet printers, whose colours have passed the tests of longevity, then using colour is fine. Otherwise, stick to black. To review ink test results on a variety of desktop inkjet printers, go to www.wilhelm-research.com

Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died. (Dollarhide)

HINTS & TIPS: SEARCHING THE 1881 CENSUS (from <http://www.LostCousins.com>)

Have you ever really struggled to find a family on the census? Sometimes the names are mis-spelt, the ages are out, and even the birthplace is shown incorrectly. How can you possibly cope in a situation like that? Here are some tips that you may find useful.

TIP #1: Enter the minimum of information when you're searching - just one small difference could stop you finding the record you're looking for.

TIP #2: Look for the youngest children - because their ages are most likely to be shown accurately. But be wary of searching for children who were under one year old at the time of the census, because 6 weeks or 6 months is sometimes transcribed as 6 years.

TIP #3: Focus on the less common forenames. Names such as Walter and David are not rare, but they are a lot less common than John, William or Mary.

TIP #4: Search for names that are less likely to have been shortened, mis-spelt, or replaced by a nickname. For example, Frances might appear as Francis, Fannie, or Fanny.

TIP #5: Have a map to hand so that you can see which villages and towns are close together; often the name of the village where someone was born appears on an early census, but the nearest town on a later one. For contemporary maps visit <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>

TIP #6: When you search the 1881 Census at Ancestry.co.uk you can often find someone who is proving elusive by specifying their occupation in the 'Keywords' box, and omitting their surname.

TIP #7: You can use the '*' symbol as a wildcard when searching at Ancestry - but you must specify at least the first three letters. Don't just use wildcards when entering names - you can use them for places too.

TIP #8: The rules whether middle names and initials should be shown varied from census to census, but most enumerators seem to have ignored them anyway. It's usually best not to specify a middle names or initial when searching, but it can be a handy pointer when you're sifting through the results.

TIP #9: When searching the 1881 Census at FamilySearch site it's rarely a good idea to tick the 'Use exact spelling' box.

TIP #10: At FamilySearch you can search for two people - the head of the household and one other. Sometimes you can find a badly transcribed entry by searching for two forenames and leaving the surname box completely blank.

OLD FAMILY SLIDES SCANNED ON THE INTERNET by Maureen MacDonald

Last year had been a disaster for me not getting any research done and not attending any of the Hutt Group meetings which I had fully attended doing – until a few weeks ago when a second cousin who had found me via a website gave me a link to a page where one of his family had pasted some of the 300 old slides which he had recently scanned and was making available to family and friends to see if any could be identified.

Our family have not had much contact with his over recent years and it was just wonderful to find a photo of my family (parents, brothers, sister and my father's parents) taken about 1960. We had no idea it existed. The sad side to this was that my Dad died just four weeks ago not ever having seen this photo – we don't have very many of our family.

It is great that old slides can also be scanned as well as photos and being able to circulate these on a web page etc. Those you cannot identify after a family member has died is a wonderful idea. However one always has to be aware of any privacy issues.

Dollarhide's Rules For Genealogy

When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live -- the funeral director will give you anything you ask for if he thinks you may be a customer soon.

WEBSITES

- ✓ Wiltshire Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths - <http://www.wiltshirebmd.org.uk/>
- ✓ Surname Mapping - Surname Profiler website allows you to see how the distribution of your surname across Britain changed between 1881 and 1998. The study, carried out by a team led by two professors from University College London, shows that most of the migration to London after 1881 came from Scotland, Norfolk, the North West, and South East. It would be interesting to extend the study back further to discern earlier patterns. <http://www.surnameprofiler.org>
- ✓ Just beginning the hunt for your family? - <http://www.rader.org/beginning.htm> This section is recommended to people who are just trying to figure out how to use their computer and the internet to find their ancestors.
- ✓ ScotlandsPeople - <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> Customers can now access, online, records from the Statutory Register of Births for 1905, the Statutory Register of Marriages for 1930, and the Statutory Register of Deaths for 1955.
- ✓ <http://www.UKVillages.co.uk> - this could be a good site for those needing to see the village and churches etc of their ancestors
- ✓ http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/db/hawke_search_help.htm#search - a good link for any who went to Canada
- ✓ Public Information Films - "Coughs and sneezes spread diseases" is a phrase that most of us have come across, usually at a tender age - but did you know that it originated in a public information film from the 1940s?
At the National Archives website there are now 22 short public information films that you can watch online completely free of charge. As ever, it's better if you have a broadband connection, but there are special versions for those of us still with steam-powered connections:
<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/films/>
- ✓ UK Historical Directories Website - A challenge for members in 2006: To search the historical directories website for all pre-1920 UK and Welsh families. Why? "The Historical Directories project came to the end of its funding on 31st October 2004. No new material was added after this date. The site will remain freely available for the next 3 years." The real value of the site lies in its excellent search facilities. Select a relevant directory, after choosing a period or area, enter a surname or place, and scroll through the pages looking for the word highlighted in yellow. Note that the first and last pages don't contain relevant entries - they just bookend the pages within.
<http://www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/index.asp>
- ✓ Googling genealogy style - 12 Google Search Tips for Genealogists - In just 3 short years, Google has become the search engine of choice for millions of savvy Internet searchers. It is a special favorite among many of the genealogists, due to its ability to return relevant search results for genealogy and surname queries. Google is much more than just a tool for finding Web sites, however, and most people surfing for information on their ancestors barely scratch the surface of its full potential. If you know what you are doing, you can use Google to search within Web sites, locate photos of your ancestors, bring back dead sites, and track down missing relatives. Learn how to Google as you've never Googled before. (see also below)
<http://genealogy.about.com/library/weekly/aa052902a.htm>

FAMILY HISTORY SEARCHES USING GOOGLE - (From <http://www.LostCousins.com>)

There are so many great family history websites that it's easy to forget that Google can search through information from millions of websites, and might just pick up something that you've missed. Google is particularly useful if you're looking for a very rare name, and typing in the name of a husband and wife can sometimes reap dividends even when the two names are individually not so rare. Did you know that as well as Google.com there's also Google.co.uk, (and Google.co.nz) and if you use the UK site you can choose to search globally, or just in the UK? (There are also local Googles in many other countries). Use quotation marks to find words only when they appear next to each other, but remember that often names are stored surname first. So it's usually worth searching for "Smith John" as well as "John Smith".

FREE BDM (from <http://www.LostCousins.com>)

<http://www.FreeBMD.org.uk>

Although the information held at FreeBMD is incomplete, because it has been transcribed it is easy to search - and since all the transcription work is being done by volunteers, it's completely free.

For the best of both worlds you need to go to the FamilyRelatives site where every single birth, marriage, and death registered in England & Wales between 1866-1920 has been fully transcribed. FamilyRelatives isn't free.

How might you use the BMD indexes? Here are just a few suggestions - we're sure you can come up with many more:

- ✓ finding the index entry for a birth will give a much more accurate birth of date than using the ages shown in the censuses; you may also find out about a middle name
- ✓ after 1865 the age at death is shown in the death indexes, so you can often determine when a relative died without ordering the certificate
- ✓ finding a marriage entry will often enable you to find out the name of the spouse (and from 1912 onwards the spouse's surname is actually shown in the index)
- ✓ you can often find out quite easily whether a particular relative ever married and if so when (but it's usually impracticable unless the records have been transcribed, as at FreeBMD or FamilyRelatives)
- ✓ if all the children in a family were registered in the same district, then searching the indexes may enable you to find a son or daughter who isn't recorded on any of the censuses (usually as a result of early death)

It makes sense to use free resources when you can - but because FreeBMD is an incomplete index (how complete differs from year to year and quarter to quarter - see the graphs at the FreeBMD site), you can't be certain that an event didn't occur just because you don't find it. That's when the complete indexes at FamilyRelatives, which have been fully transcribed from 1866-1920, really come into their own - and the great thing is, you don't have to pay for searches that turn up no results!

A BLACKSHEEP, WHITENED - from the internet

Lets say that your great-great uncle Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in good character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889.

A cousin has supplied you with the only known photograph of Remus, showing him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture are the words: Remus Starr: Horse thief, sent to Montana Territorial Prison, 1885. Escaped 1887, robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton Detectives, convicted and hanged, 1889.

Pretty grim situation, right? But let's revise things a bit. We simply crop the picture, scan in an enlargement and edit it with image processing software so that all that is seen is a head shot.

Next, we rewrite the text: Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renown Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Uncle Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honour when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed.

Now we give Uncle Remus a distinguished place inside the family tree, not hanging from it!

With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write... and may have left something written about themselves. (Dollarhide)

TWELVE STEPS FOR RECOVERING GENEALOGISTS (NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS)

1. I admit that I am powerless over my gedcom and that my life has become unmanageable.
 2. I believe that there is a greater power other than genealogy and that it will restore sanity to my life.
 3. I have made a decision to turn my life over to non-genealogists and hope that they will understand me.
 4. I have admitted to myself and other genealogists that I am addicted to my obituary files.
 5. I vow to no longer discuss "dead people" with my few remaining friends in hopes that they will remain my friends.
 6. I promise to take photographs of things other than tombstones.
 7. My only source of reading material will no longer be census, wills, death certificates and obituaries.
 8. I will not spend family holidays in libraries and archives.
 9. Family picnics will no longer be held in cemeteries.
 10. My family will no longer be referred to as "the live ones."
 11. My time spent on the Internet will be limited to sites other than Rootsweb.com, Ancestry.com and MyGenealogy.com and Cyndi's.
 12. I will carry these messages to other genealogists and practice these principles every day.
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HAPPY NEW YEAR!