

# News & Views

July 2006; 24<sup>th</sup> Year

Issue 236



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

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Evening Meeting 7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, February to December  
Day Meeting: 9.30am, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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

06 Jul: Joe & Stefania Zawada - Polish refugee children to NZ during WW2

20 Jul: Alison Underhill - 19th Century Clothing

03 Aug: Joan McCracken - ATL Pictorial Collection

17 Aug: Branch Members - Quiz Time (with prizes for the best team)

07 Sep: Branch Members - Quiz Time (with prizes for the best team)

21 Sep: Dr David Collingwood - Old King Cole

05 Oct: Linda Evans (ATL) - Oral History

19 Oct: RGO

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### 06 JUL - EVENING MEETING - JOE & STEFANIA ZAWADA - POLISH REFUGEE CHILDREN TO NZ DURING WW2

During WW2, the Polish were treated harshly by both the Germans and the Russians. A lot of blue eyed, blond haired 'Arian' children were taken from their families and adopted into German families - some never being told of their origins. Many other children ended up in New Zealand, some with a parent and many without. The Polish in New Zealand became a very close-knit community.

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### 20 JULY - MORNING MEETING - ALISON UNDERHILL - 19TH CENTURY CLOTHING

What did our ancestors wear and why? Knowing a bit about nineteenth century fashion is an excellent way to gain more clues to identifying those old photos and learning about how they lived.

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QUESTION BOX NOW AT EACH MEETING - please bring your genealogy questions each month and we will try and answer them either at the next meeting or via the next newsletter.

TEAS AND COFFEES - will now be available a half hour before the meetings. Gold coin please for your cuppa and cookie.

RAFFLES - at each of the meetings. Tickets will be 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.

OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOKS - now \$1.00 per month!

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## HUTT VALLEY BRANCH MEMBER INTERESTS

It is time to update the member's interests again! I will be reprinting the Members Interest details at the end of July.

Could you please have any additional or deletions sent to Carol Ann by 31 July 2006 by either emailing me at [ca\\_mason@yahoo.com](mailto:ca_mason@yahoo.com) to request a form or complete a Members Interest form held in the blue Members Interest folder.

If you have any questions about this please let me know.

Carol Ann

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS - Tony Reade and Nancy Gardiner

## 1881 ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND WALES CENSUS INDEX LOOKUP SERVICE

If you want to look up the 1881 census CDs or have a search you want search undertaken on your behalf, please see Lois Bartlett at the Hutt Valley Branch. Please supply the names (also any surname variants), possible date of birth (or range), birthplace (if known) and possible place of residence.

## HUTT VALLEY RESEARCH DAY

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 10am -4pm. Topics suggested for Research Day as follows:

- ✓ 'How to' groups
- ✓ Internet access
- ✓ Video and DVDs
- ✓ ... (your ideas please)

## NEW ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY

- ✓ Update of the Homedale Methodist Cemetery Records in Wainuiomata
  - ✓ An index of Family History CD Roms held at the Auckland Library
  - ✓ Finding your Family on the Internet - an NZ guide by Ross Henry (donated by Deb Beban)
  - ✓ Dominion Post Births and Deaths from Feb 1 2005 to 12 June 2006 (Betty Pyne has collated these 2 volumes)
  - ✓ G.R.D. 2006
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## SCOTTISH INTEREST GROUP OF GREATER WELLINGTON

- ✓ Thur 6 - Sat 8 Jul 06 - "Scots Abroad - The New Zealand Scots in International Perspective" at the Hunter Council Chamber, Victoria University of Wellington. For more information: Megan Simpson, Administrator/ Researcher, Phone: (04) 463 6439 Irish-Scottish Studies Programme, Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington
- ✓ Sun 13th Aug 06, 1- 4 pm - "Afternoon research", using our own usual resources plus a selection of resources from Auckland, and an emphasis on available records of deaths, burials, cemeteries, headstone inscriptions, a mortcloth list, and obituaries. If you have some useful Scottish material to share with others, do bring this along, and do label with your name. Please note new location: upstairs in the Thomson Block at St. Orans College, 550 High Street, Lower Hutt, and there is plenty of off-street parking. Door charge \$5. All welcome.
- ✓ Sat 30 Sep 06, 9:30am - 4:00pm " Tracing your Scottish Ancestors", with the Kapiti Branch, NZSG, planned morning presentations by Margaret Pool and an afternoon of hands-on/Q&A researching activity, with something for everybody. At Kapiti Community Centre, 15 Ngahina Street, Paraparaumu. There will be a door charge to cover costs. As numbers may be limited you are advised to contact the Kapiti Branch or Derek Griffis 04 293 1092.
- ✓ Sun 5 Nov 06 1 - 4 pm - "Afternoon research and AGM" with the Scottish Interest Group of Greater Wellington at St Giles Church Lounge, corner Kilbirnie Crescent and Vallance Street, Kilbirnie, Wellington. Door charge \$2.

Contact: Pen Brown [penbrown@globe.net.nz](mailto:penbrown@globe.net.nz)

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KAPITI NZ LEGACY USERS GROUP - is an "informal" one for anyone with an interest in the Legacy programme. There is a small door charge of \$3.00, rather than subscriptions, to cover the cost of the hire of the hall, tea/coffee etc.

The next meeting of the group is August 26th and in December a workshop with Jan Gow is planned. Contact [gero@ihug.co.nz](mailto:gero@ihug.co.nz) for further information or see our notice board for further details

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THE NZSG FIRST FAMILIES COLLECTION will be closed from July 19 to Aug 2

Other meetings in the region .... latest newsletters in the library.

PORIRUA BRANCH - Pataka Meeting Room, Porirua Public Library, Norrie Street, Porirua  
Wed 12 July 7:25pm

KILBIRNIE BRANCH - Kilbirnie Library  
Mon 19 July

KAPITI BRANCH - Research Room Paraparaumu Library  
Mon 10 July, 7:30pm - Computer SIG Help with your Research.  
Sat 24 Jun, 1pm Legacy (SIG) Sources and backing up your files  
Tue 27 Jun - The future of NZSG - Peter Nash

WELLINGTON BRANCH - Connolly Hall, Guildford Tce, Thorndon  
Wed 19 July am, - Research Day - Library, Fiche & CDs, Q & A  
Wed 26 July 7:30pm - Lynly Goldsmith - Shipping into New Zealand

WAIRARAPA BRANCH - 79 Queen Street, Masterton (next to Wairarapa Archives)  
Mon 16 July - Sherwood Young - Police Archives

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LDS FAMILY TOTARA PARK HISTORY CENTRE - now have Ancestry on their computers!

Phone # 526 4259. Opening hours are:-

WED: 10am-2pm & 6-9pm, THUR: 10am-2pm & 6-9pm, SAT: 8.30am-12.30pm

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### OUSEY FAMILY BIBLE

I have found the existence of the Ousey Family Bible. This male member married into the Hosie / Wright's in the Hutt Valley I know some one was searching for this 15 to 20 years ago.

Please pass this info on, within your network. Regards Rex Hemi

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### CONFERENCE HAMILTON 2006

The conference had a very military theme. Christopher Pugsley, a retired soldier, showed footage of War films not seen by many. He had a live pianist playing while he talked over him about what we were seeing. Later on he showed slides of Gallipoli about the real horrors of the war with the Turks - and they really did *hate* each other! Gallipoli looks a bit like the Paekakariki Hill with thick bush and a view of the coastline below. He is sure many of the men though it looked like home.

He is also familiar with the layout and history of the Maori Wars and is saddened to see the land being used for grapevines and fruit trees covering the old trenches and NZ's own War history.

Richard Reid talked about his native Ireland and I learnt some Irish! - Donegal (dunny-GAWL) and Tyrone (t'-RONE).

Others like Jock Phillips talked about the migrants up to about 1900. He had studied where they came from, where they settled, their place of birth and their religion. He came to the conclusion that Auckland is, or was, the country's most English city!

The organising committee for the 2007 conference did their presentation which went off very well and so it is our turn next year!

The 2006 Conference Proceedings are in the library and are very interesting reading.

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## SPEAKERS' REVIEW - MICHAEL O'BRIEN - O'BRIEN OF EARLY WAIMATE

Michael O'Brien has done a lot of research on his O'Brien family who originated in Ireland and settled in Waimate. He has many interesting photos of the houses his ancestors lived in and an especially drawn up map to show where the various branches of the family lived and worked on their various farms in South Canterbury. Unfortunately, none of the houses the family owned now survive except a couple as ruins.

Michael is also his family name as his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had the given name Michael as does his son and grandson - even if only as middle names. He has at least 6 generations of Michael O'Briens.

He has found out the why's in his family history. Why did they migrate to New Zealand?

The earliest record he has is of a Michael O'Brien who married Helen Dempsey in April 1798. They came from Woodlands, Castledermot, co. Kildare, Ireland. After they married, they moved a few miles away to Lisnavagh, co. Carlow, where they soon found themselves in between the 2 sides of the Wicklow Rebellion and it was a very bloody affair. There were problems with food shortages, chorea epidemics and the 1845 great famine and so after 60 years of strife, the family decided it was time to look for greener grass.

Australia was just past being a penal colony. The USA had a civil war brewing. England was over crowded and it was not possible to buy land there. New Zealand then, was the logical choice!

Michael and Ann (nee Doyle) arrived in Lyttelton in 1859 on the 'Cresswell'. They were the 'path finders' and many others followed them over the next 25 years.

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## SPEAKERS' REVIEW - CAROLYN LYON / NEIL COUP - HUTT LIBRARY

Carolyn Lyon and Neil Coup are both librarians at Hutt Library. Neil works in the Local Studies room (on the 1st floor) at the Hutt Library. It covers everything a Kiwi researcher would need including photos. The Hutt Library has the following to offer:

- ✓ Local newspapers - The first newspaper in NZ was printed in the Hutt, the New Zealand Gazette of 18 April 1840
- ✓ Genealogy - local cemetery records, shipping, aliens naturalised in NZ, sheep-owner records, biographical clippings, World War Expeditionary Forces, NZ Census reports, microfiche etc.
- ✓ Hutt Valley Histories - a long list of books available

For those who can't make it to the National Library, have a look through the Hutt City Library, you might be pleasantly surprised!

It is also possible to get one-on-one internet tuition for \$3 per hour. [libraries@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:libraries@huttcity.govt.nz) Phone 570-2713.

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## HUTT CITY ARCHIVE - taken from notes provided by Alison Scott, their Archivist, when she talked at Wellington branch in May

Tonight I'm going to talk to you a bit about what an archive is, with apologies to those who are well acquainted with them but I find it helps if people are fore-warned about the differences between an archive and a library for example. I'll then go on to tell you about some of the more obvious sources for genealogy held in the archives.

First of all though a bit of background about myself and the archives. The first archivist was appointed in 1996 and I've been in the post since 2003. I qualified as an archivist in the UK having done a degree in history and a postgraduate degree in archive administration. When I first came to NZ in 1999 you couldn't do an archive qualification but fortunately that is changing with Victoria University and the Open Polytech now offering courses. I've worked at Archives New Zealand and the Turnbull Library so I'm well placed to direct people elsewhere if I'm not able to help them myself.

The archival holdings of Hutt City go back to the 1860s – although properly from 1880s - and include not only the records of the present authority but those of its predecessors i.e. Eastbourne Borough, Petone borough, Wainuiomata District Council and Hutt County Council. Problem of division of Hutt County records. As well as those we have the records of other authorities such as the Hutt River Board, the Hutt Valley Drainage Board, the Hutt Valley and Bays Milk Authority and so on and on

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and on! As you can imagine not all of those authorities kept their records in the same way, for example Petone kept really good property files but Lower Hutt's committee minutes are much more detailed. But that aside safe to say that if it happened in the Valley then there's a good chance we'll have something on it.

So I said I'd start by explaining what an archive is. Those of you who use archives a lot will be surprised to learn of the number of misconceptions that still exist. Archives are way down the list when it comes to public awareness. When I tell people I'm an archivist I'm used to responses like "you're an alchemist?" or "you're an anarchist?" A lot of people have no idea or if they do they think we exist in dusty basements and never see the light of day! Well I'm here to say that that's not entirely true! We may have to deal with quite a bit of dust but we also have to deal with the modern age and I'll talk a bit more about the website at the end.

The main difference between archives and a library is that a library holds printed books but an archive holds unique material, usually unindexed and voluminous; papers generated by the Council in the course of its business without necessarily thinking about how the information might be used in the future and certainly not with the thought of keeping it in nice neat subject areas.

An example I like to use is someone wanting to know a bit about the Hutt River. In a library you could point them to the dewey number for rivers or perhaps local studies information if there was any. In an archive things aren't arranged by subject – in fact shouldn't be arranged by subject - so you might get material on the Hutt River in the files of the Environmental Inspectors if its about pollution, or Park Services if its about landscaping the banks, or Economic Development if its about its commercial exploitation. You have to be prepared to dig around a bit – think laterally. Unfortunately, its not just a matter of pressing a button and all the information you need on a particular topic comes up. As yet there is still no substitute for actually reading the material. We do have a computer database which is searchable on keywords but that will still only point you to possibilities. There are 219 files which mention the Hutt River for example! It would then be up to you to sort out the gems from the red herrings. So using Archives does perhaps require a bit more effort than say using a library. People can find this off-putting especially if they think they have to be doing "proper" research to come into the archives in the first place. As far as I'm concerned anyone with an enquiry is doing "proper" research and I like to give the hard sell that the fact that you have to put a bit of effort in can make a successful result all the more satisfying particularly when you know that no one has done any work on those records before you!! Example of Gas power and people.

What are the resources that can help the genealogist? They fall into 3 main categories: property records, burial records and school records.

1. PROPERTY RECORDS are by far the most varied not surprisingly given the kind of responsibilities that councils have.

We have the building permit registers for Lower Hutt from 1901-1988 and Petone from 1905-1989. These give the name of the person applying to get work done, the address and the value of the work. And much more importantly they have been painstakingly card indexed by volunteers from the Hutt Valley branch of the Genealogical Society. Each card gives the name of the applicant, the permit number, date, and address. As you can imagine this is an invaluable tool to anyone tracing a family in the valley and the extra information on properties owned is a bonus.

Also related to property are the rate books. These are a good example of a record that was created for one purpose and is now used for a different one. Obviously they were originally kept to keep tabs on the ratable value of properties but because they are alphabetical within each volume they are very easy to use for name searches. They get used quite a lot by people wanting to find out how long someone was at a particular address. The earlier ones only give the legal description of a property rather than a street address but it is sometimes possible to work with that. Only a few have survived for Petone but we have a very good set for Lower Hutt from 1880 onwards. The only drawback is that they are huge volumes so when I get an enquiry asking me just to "quickly" check 20 years worth my heart sinks!

Talking of addresses, if you know the address of the person or family you are interested in (for example if you've been able to find that out from the last two sources I mentioned) then there are two further possibilities: the valuation field books and the property files themselves. The field books are a great resource as not only do they list all the owners of a property over the years

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from 1945-1986 but they also include a little floor plan and details such as when it was built, when building permits were applied for and so on. Again these have been indexed by address by the volunteers so although there are 596 volumes they are completely searchable on the database.

As for property files we have very good sets for Eastbourne, Petone and Wainuiomata and fairly good coverage for Lower Hutt. The file will include, if you're lucky, and there was just as much bad record-keeping in the past as there is now unfortunately: plans of the property which might show how it used to look; building application forms which will say who built it and who the first owner was; and possibly correspondence about compliance issues.

2. BURIAL RECORDS We hold all the records of Taita Cemetery from 1892 to the present and I get a lot of enquiries from people wanting to find out plot locations or just trying to find out if their relative was buried there. The register entries vary as to the information they give but you can be lucky and find out not only the full name of the deceased, but their occupation, their address and age when they died and a next of kin. The other big cemetery in the Hutt Valley is at Akatarawa and is administered by Upper Hutt City Council but as many of you will know they have an on-line database of the burials there. There are no plans that I know of to do this for Taita unfortunately – it would make my life a lot easier!
3. SCHOOL RECORDS. We have records for Hutt Valley High School, Sacred Heart College, Hutt Central School, Hutt District High School, Petone District High School, Petone West School, Petone Central School and Petone College. Although the types of records we have for each school vary a lot, the most useful for family historians are attendance registers. We have a good set of these for Hutt Central School going back to 1921. I've brought one for the Infant department for 1921-1927. Another good resource are the school magazines as you might be lucky enough to find a photograph of the person you are looking for or an example of their creative writing! As well as records created by the schools themselves we also have files in other series that relate to schools, for example property files, valuation files etc.

So much for the main categories. There are of course a whole range of other resources you could mine if you have the time and patience. For example we have the records of a number of social clubs if you are looking for people with a particular interest. These range from the Hutt Valley Scottish Society to the social club of the Hutt Valley Energy Board (which includes a lot of photographs) and the Lower Hutt Floral Arrangement Group. We also have a wonderful series of Town Clerk's correspondence books going back to the 1880s which the volunteers have also tried to index. They were précising each letter rather than indexing by correspondent but a lot of the correspondence is with private individuals so you could find out how often grandfather wrote and complained about his rates demand!

As a supplement to the unpublished material we have a series of 88 newspaper clippings books from 1905-1994. These are mostly from the Hutt News but also from The Dominion and Evening Post. Most of the books are general but some are specifically for items to do with the utility boards (Hutt River Board, Milk Board etc) or official council notices. Although I wouldn't suggest ploughing through them in the off-chance of finding someone you're looking for they are good if you know the date of an event as well as adding local colour and of course photographs.

And talking of photographs we do of course hold a lot of these but a lot are on council topics such as sewer construction and road maintenance. Couldn't be duller you would be forgiven for thinking but they do sometimes inadvertently give extra information. For example if you are looking for photographs of a particular street then the a set taken perhaps to show the storm water drain being laid might also show the house you're looking for. A classic case of the archival use of a resource being different from the one it was originally intended for. We do have other photographic collections though. We have a great set that was taken in 1966 for the Lower Hutt's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee.

ALL THE BEST ALISON. WE WISH YOU WELL AS YOU RETURN HOME TO SCOTLAND.

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## WEBSITES

- ✓ NEW ZEALAND CEMETERIES - from NZSG Hamilton News [nzsghamiltonnews@ihug.co.nz](mailto:nzsghamiltonnews@ihug.co.nz) A tip for when you're trying to locate cemeteries - find the local council's web site and see what that says about cemeteries. Local Government Online is at <http://www.localgovt.co.nz/> and has a handy locator on its home page for the city, district and regional councils in NZ. Details given include each council's web site, so you can click on that link then search the web site for mention of "cemetery" or "cemeteries" if it isn't obvious on their home page
- ✓ OTAGO NEW ZEALAND GENWEB SITE - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nzlotago/>
- ✓ FAMILY HISTORY INTERVIEW QUESTIONS - <http://genealogy.about.com/cs/oralhistory/a/interview.htm>
- ✓ ROOTSWEB - for an easier way to access the list archives <http://archiver.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/search> - this search engine is currently being tested, over 29 million messages are indexed.
- ✓ ONLINE PARISH CLERKS - also known as OPCs - are volunteers who collect, collate, and transcribe records for specific parishes in the United Kingdom. A list and links to these OPCs are available on Cyndi's List and currently include: Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire. <http://www.cyndislist.com/volreg.htm#OPCs>
- ✓ E JERNINGHAM WAKEFIELD'S JOURNAL OF HIS OVERLAND JOURNEY FROM BRITANNIA (WELLINGTON) TO WANGANUI IN 1840 - Just a quick note to let you know that I've just finished transcribing these journals. Check it out in the Diary / Pen Impression section of the Wellington Provincial page of New Zealand Yesteryears. Also, don't forget the rest of the content... 466 ships (many with photographs) and more added daily 11 Shipboard Diaries Over 1000 passenger lists (and growing) and much more... Regards, Corey Woodward Webmaster of New Zealand Yesteryears <http://www.yesteryears.co.nz>

COMMERCIAL DATA WEBSITES - from Peter Christian's 101 Best Websites - It is possible to find a lot on these websites without paying a cent!

- ✓ 1837 ONLINE [www.1837online.com](http://www.1837online.com) images of the GRO indexes, images of 1861 census
- ✓ 1901 CENSUS [www.1901censusonline.com](http://www.1901censusonline.com) provides links to images of the original records
- ✓ ANCESTRY [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) indexes and images of census, parish and probate records
- ✓ DOCUMENTSONLINE [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline) - includes wills, military and naval records - each digitised document costs £3.50.
- ✓ BURKE'S PEERAGE & GENTRY [www.burkes-peerage.net](http://www.burkes-peerage.net) includes articles to non-subscribers in an A to Z guide
- ✓ FAMILYHISTORYONLINE [www.familyhistoryonline.net](http://www.familyhistoryonline.net) includes national burial index, material from parish registers and a number of census indexes.
- ✓ FAMILY RELATIVES [www.familyrelatives.org](http://www.familyrelatives.org) pay-per-view site between the GRO indexes.
- ✓ NATIONAL ARCHIVIST [www.nationalarchivist.com](http://www.nationalarchivist.com) records drawn from printed works such as army lists and professional directories
- ✓ ORIGINS [www.origins.net](http://www.origins.net) British and Irish records incl. apprenticeship records and wills
- ✓ OTHERDAYS [www.otherdays.com](http://www.otherdays.com) Includes Griffith's valuation. Some free maps and prints
- ✓ SCOTLANDSPEOPLE [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) all the main Scottish records
- ✓ THE GENEALOGIST [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk) GRO indexes for individual counties

**Not every Stuart is a cousin of the King - Scottish proverb**

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### JOKE OF THE MONTH

On a train from London to Manchester, an American was telling off the Englishman sitting across from him in the compartment.

'You English are too stuffy. You set yourselves apart too much. Look at me .... In me, I have Italian blood, French blood, a little Indian blood, and some Swedish blood. What do you say to that?'

The Englishman replied, 'Very sporting of your mother.'

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### OUR CITIES FACE THE SEA

Jack came from Cornwall, and Pat from Donegal,  
'arry came from London, the first place of all,  
Sandy came from Aberdeen, and Tom's native born,  
But they're all mates together in the land of the morn.

Pulling, pulling on the rope together,  
Bringing up the future with a golden tether,  
Cousin Jack and Cockney, Irishman and Scot,  
And the native is a brother to the whole blooming lot.

from Wisps of Tussock Published 1900 by balladeer, David McKee Wright

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